

CLOSING WORSHIP

A HYMN or SONG may be included here

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the fruit of the Holy Spirit that you want to cultivate in us. As we consider the example of Christ, we bring before you one area of our lives which we feel should be more Christ-like. As we focus on this, give us the will to be changed into the likeness of Christ from one degree of glory to another, through the Holy Spirit working in us. Amen.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
we have seen his glory, the glory as of a Father's only son,
full of grace and truth.
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
You are full of grace and truth,
You are the radiance of the glory of God.
May we come to know your love
and be completely filled with the very nature of God.**

Now to him, who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of:
**to God be the glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus for all time,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Diocese of York

Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples

Five Marks of Growing Churches

**Worship Material
for
Session One**

Christ-likeness

OPENING WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth:
Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come into his presence with singing:
Enter his gates with thanksgiving.

Enter and his courts with praise:
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

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BIBLE READING

2 Corinthians 3.7-18 (New Living Bible)

The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

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CONCLUSION

Lord Jesus, as we gather in your name:
Inspire us and guide us by your Spirit.

May all that we think and do and say:
Bring glory to your holy name.

May blessing and honour and glory and power:
Be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.