

# Blessing the Backpacks Worship Service

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness.**

**We begin in God's name.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Song:**

**We confess:**

**All:** Jesus, we confess that we do not follow You in all we do. We love with conditions. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of healing. Forgive us, we pray and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

**Leader:** Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting and because of the surpassing grace in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! Alleluia! Amen

**Song of praise:**

Let us pray:

Dear Lord and Father of all, thank you for today. Thank you for the ways in which you provide for us all. For Your love and protection, we thank You. Guide us as we discover more about the world around us that You have made. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

**God speaks to us:**

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

## **2 Timothy 1:3, 5-7; 13-14**

<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

<sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

<sup>13</sup> What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

## **Matthew 19:13-15**

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

## **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,  
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## Children's Chat

### Message

#### Offering song:

**We thank God for his gifts:**

Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts to us,  
and for giving us the privilege of serving you.  
Help us to serve you faithfully and do your will.  
In Jesus name

**Amen.**

#### **Blessing the Backpacks & students**

**Pastor:** I invite all students: - kindy, primary, secondary and adults who are studying to come to the front. If you have brought your school bag you can bring it with you. Parents you can also come with your children.

**Pastor:** This week school is commencing for 2023. Today we have gathered together to ask for God's blessing for these students. We especially acknowledge those who are beginning school or kindy for the first time. We offer prayers and blessings in support of them.

**Pastor:** I invite you to join in at the appropriate time with the following: -

As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

**Adults: *Learning takes place in school, in church, in our family, in our community, and in the world.***

**Kids: *Learning is a gift from God.***

We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully engage in God's gift of learning.

**Adults: *We ask God to bless our schools and teachers.***

**Kids: *We ask God to bless our classmates and friends.***

**Adults: *We ask God to bless our principals, counsellors, librarians and other school staff.***

We ask God to bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

**Adults: *We give thanks to God for books and computers and all the tools that help***

***us learn.***

**Kids: *We give thanks to God for the gift of learning!***

**Reader:**

We hear in Matthew 19 –

“Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted Him to place His hands on the children and pray for them. But the disciples told the people to stop. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them.”

**Pastor:** Children, you have brought your back packs / school bags today to be blessed. I invite you to place them here before me.

**Let us pray together:**

Lord Jesus, please bless these backpacks and the children who use them. Let them not be scared or worried, but to always know that You love and care for them and are with them always. Keep them safe, give them good friends, and help them learn well. Help their parents as they love and guide them. AMEN

**BLESSING THE CHILDREN**

*(The children are blessed individually with these words)*

God protect you, help you and take care of you each day.

Leader:

We now will present the children with a keyring they can place on their backpacks as a reminder of God’s love and of our support and prayers.

Let us pray for all students: (Student)

Holy Spirit be with every student this year. Give your light and knowledge to them, so they may see the order you bring into creation and find joy in the beautiful world you have made. Help them to discover and develop the gifts you have given them. As they grow in knowledge, help them to also grow in kindness and compassion, learning respect for themselves and others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

*(The pastor says these words of blessing)*

**Pastor:** The Holy Spirit bless you, giving you wisdom and understanding in your learning.

(Children go back to their seats)

**BLESSING TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF**

*(All early childhood, preschool, primary & secondary teachers are invited to stand for a prayer and blessing)*

Let us pray: (Teacher)

Father, let teachers and school staff be honoured and respected by their students. Give them wisdom and insight to meet the needs of those they teach and strengthen them so they can care individually for each student. Let their faith in You be clearly seen in their words and actions. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Pastor:** God the Father guide and bless you to use your role as teacher or school staff with care and insight. May He give you joy in your service. Amen

**BLESSING PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & CAREGIVERS** (Invite them to stand)

Let us pray: (Parent)

Heavenly Father we ask for Your blessing on parents, grandparents and all who care for the young. Strengthen them and give them what they need to surround their children with encouragement, support, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Pastor:** May you be given wisdom and strength to care for your families with patience and tenderness.

*We pray the Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Blessing*

May you go out today with confidence that you are a child of God, created in His wonderful image and assured that He goes with you into this new year.

*Amen*

**Song:**