

## Closing Worship

*Based on material from 'Into Deep and Turbulent Waters,' a service organised by the Revd Ben Kautzer at St Nicolas, Earley.*

We have come together before God, the maker of all people, who loves the world He has made. In awe and wonder that one so mighty still cares for humankind and in gratitude for the gift of salvation, we say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,  
who created all things:  
**for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,  
who was slain:  
**for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
**the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!**

*cf Revelation 4.8, 11; 5.9; 22.17, 20*

**Amen.**

As we offer our gathered prayers in this box, a reminder of your enfolding love, we gather together all our concerns in these intercessions:

Grant, Almighty God, that as we join together in prayer, we remember your word, which bids us to "love the stranger who dwells among you for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt."

Loving God,  
**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

We confess that the scale and the complexity of our world can leave us feeling overwhelmed. When we look at the issues facing refugees, we are scared to admit that there will be no shortcuts or simple solutions. Have mercy on us. In our uncertainty, we pray for the moral courage to discern truth from falsehood, to challenge prejudice with openness, and to face the suffering of others with the compassion of Jesus Christ.

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

We pray for all those who flee oppression and persecution in their homeland only to find desperation and loneliness in a foreign land.

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

We pray for all host countries, working to accommodate people's human need. We pray for all who stand against the kind of fear and prejudice which provokes aggression and scapegoating violence against the vulnerable. We pray for strong leadership in guiding the nations of Europe to welcome and integrate our brothers and sisters from across the globe.

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

We pray for churches, as well as other faith-based and secular organizations who work tirelessly to support the strangers in our midst. [Please name organisations for which to pray]

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

We pray that the communities of which we are a part of will continue to embrace and support those 'on the outside'

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

We pray for those who have been victims of any kind of human trafficking, and for human traffickers themselves, asking that you would break the bonds of oppression, create within them new hearts and spirits, and remove their hearts of stone.

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We remember especially those known to us: [please add your own petitions, aloud or in silence]

Loving God,

**help us to welcome the strangers in our midst.**

And we say together:

**Almighty God, make us instruments of your peace. Help us to create welcoming and hospitable communities in your kingdom. In all times of fear and dread, grant that we may so cast our burdens upon you, that you may bear us on the holy wings of the Spirit to the stronghold of your peace. We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.**