

Lead Me to Hope

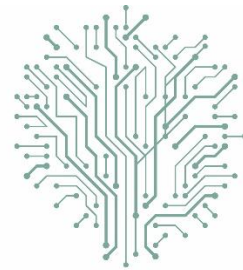
Lead me to hope, oh lead me to hope
Lead me to hope I pray
So I can live and work for your day
Lead me to hope I pray.
When I am numb with my despair
When I'm too numb to care
Lead me to hope, oh lead me to hope
Lead me to hope I pray.

Lead me to love, oh lead me to love
Lead me to love I pray
So I can live and work for your day
Lead me to love I pray.
When I am cold within myself
When I'm too cold to care
Lead me to love, oh lead me to love
Lead me to love I pray.

Lead me to faith, oh lead me to faith
Lead me to faith I pray
So I can live and work for your day
Lead me to faith I pray.
When I am lost in the maze of time
When I'm too tired to care
Lead me to faith, oh lead me to faith
Lead me to faith I pray

Lead us to peace, oh lead us to peace
Lead us to peace we pray
So we can live, not fear for the day
Lead us to peace we pray.
When we are unjust, too scared to trust
As we prepare for war
Lead us to peace, oh lead us to peace
Lead us to peace we pray.
Lead us to peace we pray.
Lead us to hope we pray.

Words and music by Peter Kearney



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 12:1-8
Bodies of Worship

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others

Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, anoint us with your mercy and compassion and the beauty of your love.
Speak into our lives your hope and justice.
Touch our hearts with your eternal grace.
Fill our senses with the abundance of your presence.
May your love for us be returned in the way we show our love towards others and to all you have created. That our bodies may be vessels of worship. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Song:

Lead me to Hope by Peter Kearney
<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/59-lead-me-to-hope>

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

The Word around the Bush

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- What are your thoughts or feelings around Mary's lavish expression of love? How is your body an act or vessel of worship?
- In what ways does your church show extravagant love? What are some other ways your church could lavish love?

Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Don't worry too much if your mind is filled with other thoughts, allow them to drift away like a feather on the wind.

It may help to have repeat a mantra, like 'Maranatha' or something from today's message, "Love, a beautiful thing."

Prayers for Others

Gracious God, may we look at each other with your eyes of love and understanding, gently affirming the gifts of each person and open to receive new ideas.

Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.

(pause)

We pray that we will see people as your beloved children and listen to your guidance on how best to be in relationship for the enhancing of all lives.

Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.

(pause)

May we discern your ways in the communities in which we find ourselves. Seeking to walk alongside those who do your will for the sake of justice and compassion.

Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.

(pause)

Invite us into the sacred spaces of your creation that we may know how to restore, nurture and protect all you have called 'good'

Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you the prayers of hearts.

Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen. 1.

Music for Reflection:

Prayer by Mary Saunders Brizard

<https://marybrizard1.bandcamp.com/track/prayer>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, journey with the One who walks with you and calls you to a deeper truth.

Go with open hearts and minds, knowing the Spirit of God is with you.

And may you be voices of wisdom, your actions standing for justice and peace as you point to the God of Beauty, Grace, Abundance and Love.

May you be bodies of worship.

In the name of Christ.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**