

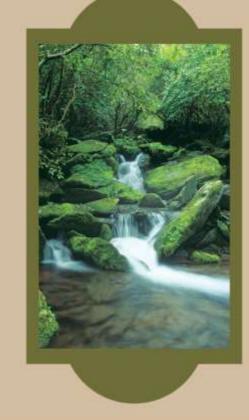


Corner Coal and Watkins Sts. Howard Services every Sunday at 9:30am All are welcome

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I Thessalonians 5:18



Give Thanks

Always in Everything

In every situation, give thanks. It's a powerful reminder to appreciate life's blessings, big and small.

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Howard's 140th Anniversary Service Service of Thanksgiving 8th September 2024

WELCOME (WILLEM SMIT)

Welcome to Howard Uniting Church.

Welcome to this very special service of worship, celebrating 140 years of worship, witness and service.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (WILLEM SMIT)

This Land is God's Land and God's Spirit dwells here. We ask God's blessing on all those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and Her Communities.

CALL TO WORSHIP (WILLEM SMIT)

For the past 140 years the community of Howard has gathered to worship God in this space. Let us Worship the God of all time with all those who have been worshipping here, are worshipping here, and will be worshipping in this space.

Let us worship God.

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HYMN OF PRAISE: HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD ENDING WITH CHORUS OF "THEN SINGS MY SOUL" (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

Verse 1

The splendor of the King Clothed in majesty Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice He wraps Himself in light And darkness tries to hide And trembles at His voice And trembles at His voice

Chorus

<u>o</u>o oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

How great is our God Sing with me How great is our God And all will see how great How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands And time is in His hands Beginning and the End Beginning and the End The Godhead three in one Father Spirit Son The Lion and the Lamb The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus

How great is our God Sing with me How great is our God And all will see how great How great is our God

Bridge

Name above all names Worthy of all praise My heart will sing How great is our God Name above all names Worthy of all praise My heart will sing How great is our God

Chorus

How great is our God Sing with me How great is our God And all will see how great How great is our God How great is our God Sing with me How great is our God And all will see how great How great is our God

Chorus (Of How great Thou art)

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee How great Thou art How great Thou art Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee How great Thou art how great Thou art



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PRAYERS (DAWN REED)

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Lord, our God, how exceedingly great you are. We adore you and bow before you because you are great, and worthy of all praise!

All we need to do is look around us to see your greatness displayed. Creation shows us your wonderful work, your power and beauty in all things.

Sometimes, God, in our busyness we don't see your beauty in creation and we forget to care for people because we are wrapped up in our own lives, so we toss people aside particularly – the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us.

Not only our busyness makes us behave uncaring, but it can also be our selfimportance that make us turn our backs, it can be that we feel uncomfortable, we feel guilty, we are holding on to anger, or we worry about what others will say and how it will look so we don't take the steps to help.

We are in such desperate need of your forgiveness.

We need to be forgiven for our sins, for our mistakes, for mistaking what the world values with what you, our God values.

Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to care more thoroughly.

Thank you, God, for the life you have blessed us with and for this church.

Thank you for the opportunities that we have been given and for the strength to make the most of them.

Thank you for guiding us through difficult times and giving us the courage to face whatever comes our way.

Most of all, thank you for your unconditional love and support, which has seen us through every challenge and kept us going.

You are an ever-present source of comfort and hope, and we are deeply grateful for all that you have done for us, our little church in Howard and the wider community.

Loving God, we pray that we maybe strengthen by You through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We ask that Christ will dwell in our hearts.

We pray that your love will open our hearts, so that the love shown to us by Jesus will shine through us.

The love of Christ is greater than any love man knows, it is a love that surpasses all knowledge, and brings us closer to you.

May the Grace of your love bring us peace until the end of times.

Amen

SCRIPTURE READING: ECCLESIASTES 3:1 – 14 (TONY CONYERS) Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 NRSV

(1) For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

(2) a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

(3) a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

(4) a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

(5) a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

(6) a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

(7) a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

(8) a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

(9) What gain have the workers from their toil?

(10) I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

(11) He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

(12) I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live;

(13) moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

(14) I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

THE BYRDS INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURE READING: TURN, TURN, TURN



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

e for everything in the

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HYMN FROM 1884: O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

Verse 1 O Love that wilt not let me go I rest my weary soul in Thee I give Thee back the life I owe That in Thine ocean depths its flow May richer fuller be Verse 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain I cannot close my heart to Thee	Verse 4 O Cross that liftest up my head I dare not ask to fly from Thee I lay in dust life's glory dead And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be
O Joy that seekest me through pain	

STORIES OF GRACE 1884 – 1923 (GREG WALKER)

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My story of God's Grace starts just of few years after this beautiful little church was built. Sadly, it was when my Great-Great Grandfather, Sea Captain Matthew Walker, a pioneer in Howard passed away. He had been in Howard since the mid-1800s and was the first of five generations of Walkers to live on the banks of the Burrum River. It certainly made sense for Matthew to live on a river as it was where he parked his ships, one of which he had sailed out from Whitby, England. He was supposed to take over the family shipping business there but he had other ideas. He was an adventurer and longed to see the world.

The Walker family in Whitby were Quakers, which dates back to the 17th century, so they had a strong faith in God and believed in pacifism, integrity, equality, stewardship of the earth and living a simple life. In fact, they strived to emulate Jesus. It was from sheer hard work, being at the right place at the right time and the many blessings of our Lord, the Captain, his wife and four children, not only survived in Howard, in what was a fairly tough and isolated environment to live in the 1800s, but they thrived. When he passed away Matthew was reported as being "one of the oldest residents of the Burrum District".

It wasn't that many years later that war (WWI) broke out across the globe. Both my grandfathers joined up quickly and went off to Europe to fight. Both were seriously wounded on The Somme, France, fixed up and sent back to the Western Front. By the grace of God, they both survived the "War to end all Wars" and returned home to raise their families and live a long and happy life. I loved both my Granddads dearly, they were the most gentle and loveable men you would ever meet. This is despite the horrors that they would have witnessed fighting on the front line in Europe.

Of course it wasn't the end of wars, WWII followed and my dad, also named Matthew, joined up as soon as he could. He was in Darwin during the bombing of that city and was wounded when his anti-aircraft gun position was hit by a bomb. However, he survived the war and returned to Howard to raise seven healthy children. Of course, with some help from my beautiful mum.

My Great-Great, Great and Grandfather and my dad were all coal miners, retiring with every one of their fingers and toes. However, after spending one day in an underground mine with my dad when I was about nine, I was cured of all notion of following in their footsteps. It was far too dangerous for me, so as soon as I was old enough, I joined the Army. It wasn't long before I was off overseas, speaking of dangerous; come to think of it, might have been safer down that mine. During the next 40 years I travelled the world for my country and retired fairly well unscathed. By the grace of God.

I would like to say a quick prayer: Heavenly Father, by Your grace I am here today. You have blessed my family in so many ways. The blessings you have bestowed upon my life are beyond my comprehension. As a skinny kid growing up in Howard running around that hall next door during Youth Fellowship, I could never imagined that I would be so blessed. Most of all I thank you for this wonderful church, where every Sunday I am surrounded by people who look out for me and love me. Lord, I try very hard not to take your blessings for granted. But sometimes I don't thank You enough for all that you have done. Lord, please show me how I can share your many blessings with others, in Jesus' name Amen.



HYMN FROM 1924: MAKE ME A BLESSING (TO BE READ – INSTRUMENTAL BACKGROUND) (LINDY SWANSON)

Out in the highways and byways of life Many are weary and sad Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife	Make me a blessing make me a blessing Out of my life may Jesus shine Make me a blessing O Savior I pray Make me a blessing to someone
Making the sorrowing glad	today
Make me a blessing make me a blessing Out of my life may Jesus shine Make me a blessing O Savior I pray Make me a blessing to someone today Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love Tell of His power to forgive Others will trust Him if only you prove True every moment you live	Give as it was given to you in your need Love as the Master loved you Be to the helpless a helper indeed Unto your mission be true Make me a blessing make me a blessing Out of my life may Jesus shine Make me a blessing O Savior I pray Make me a blessing to someone today

STORIES OF GRACE 1924 – 1983 (BARRY WHITBY TO BE READ BY KYLIE WHITBY) Notes of John Barrington (Barry) Whitby born 1935

I can't recall my first memories of the Church because in our family the Church was part of our life from day one. I probably went to Church or Sunday School before I could remember anything at all.

I realised what a strict primitive Methodist my father Jack was when my uncles (mother Gerties brothers) took me to watch them play cricket at Burrum after Sunday School and I copped a hiding with the old razor strop that night.

Dad changed his views slightly over the years. As I grew up I played rugby league on Sundays and then my sister Jan married a man of Catholic Faith, a real gentleman John Patterson.

There are wonderful memories of Sunday School picnics held at Shaw's Citrus Orchard. Jim Shaw was a World War 1 veteran, not a church goer but certainly a Christian, and his wife Dorrie was a willing worker for the church as was her sister-inlaw Gertie Shaw whose husband George was also a World War 1 veteran, who was chairman at Burrum Shire Council for years.

The Howard Uniting Church ministers are too numerous to try and remember from my early days, but they were always made welcome at our house. I will mention one of them because he was a classmate at Maryborough High School in 1948 & 1949 that

is Bernard (Bill) Cowan who still attends our services fairly regularly. Bill is in better shape than I am these days because he became a preacher and I became a publican.

Church organists from wayback are easier to remember. I think before I was born the organist was Flo Lewis as she was mentioned a lot in my early days. Then there was the long serving Lizzie Barker who was a member of one of the founding church families. Mum Gertie Whitby followed Miss Barker in about 1952 and was still teaching kids to play keyboards almost until she died in 1997. In Mum's latter days a lovely Asian lady named Fey played at the church services. Our current organist Jeanette Stocks is a real gem.

It's funny isn't it when you sit down to write your mind goes blank but at other times memories of Grandfather Joe ringing the church bell every Saturday evening and Sunday morning, the efforts of men of the church erecting and dismantling the stage for Sunday School Anniversaries, the number of adults and children attending church etc. come back to you.

I was off the track for some part of my life and I was glad I got back on the narrow path with my wife Lorraine. Thankful we are part of Howard Uniting Church congregation.

God bless,

Barry Whitby





Above: This organ dates from the 1890s and may have been what the first organ at the church looked like.

Above: John J Stokold from Cliff College, was the Methodist Minister in 1926 – 1927. As indicated in the Centenary booklet.

During his time in Howard, John lived with Joesph and Edith Whitby (two of their sons were Jack and Charles). On his return to England John corresponded with Edith and Joseph wherein he addressed them as Mum

HYMN FROM 1984: AS THE DEER PANTS AND THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

Verse

As the deer pants for the water So my soul longs after You You alone are my heart's desire And I long to worship You.

Chorus

You alone are my strength my shield To You alone may my spirit yield You alone are my heart's desire And I long to worship You. And I long to worship You.

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

Verse 1

When I feel afraid And I think I've lost my way Still You're there right beside me Nothing will I fear As long as You are near Please be near me to the end

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

Verse 2

I will not forget Your love for me and yet My heart forever is wandering Jesus be my guide And hold me to Your side I will love You to the end

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path



Stories of Grace 1984 - 2024 and into the future (Karen Davison read by Glynis Welsh)

A lot has happened at Howard Uniting Church since the 100-year centenary and now we are at 140 years of continued worship for this very special meeting place every Sunday. The current parishioners gather here each week to glorify God and to continue in the footsteps of our past members, who set an example and enabled us to enjoy this special church.

When researching information for this report I noted a piece written by Jack Whitby in 1984 "Let's take a peep into our second century of church activity in this area.... It now takes in Howard, Burrum, Burrum Heads, Toogoom, Torbanlea & Takura. These townships show steady development and growth. Can you visualise this area becoming an autonomous in a few years from now? Unless we become Missionaries in our local communities, our church won't be there to celebrate the first quarter of its second century."

Well, we are now in the next part of the second century and because of the dedication and service these members gave to this church & the community, we are continuing to grow and offer a meeting place of worship each week, as well as the Sunday school hall is used for activities and meetings for community groups.

We are blessed with members who reach out to the needy in our area and we seek to make sure the sick & lonely are attended to.

A sad part of our Church growth is that the Sunday School no longer exists. The church did have a very strong attendance of young children during 1980's 1990's & early 2000.

Since 1984 improvements have been made within the church and hall. Health and government regulations are maintained. Seating has been improved; technology is now part of the church with our service being displayed on a TV screen on the wall. Microphones and a Sound system operates our audio. The organ has been replaced with an electronic keyboard. This has been a huge adjustment for our older members as technology was not part of their growing up.

We all look forward and pray for the future of Howard Uniting Church and through the love of God for His people, this church will be a beacon of hope and a sanctuary for future generations who come to know Christ Jesus. Amen

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HYMN FROM 2024: HIS GLORY AND MY GOOD (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

Verse 1

I have seen my Father's glory Revealed in Jesus Christ And the more that I behold Him The more He satisfies When I gaze upon His beauty When I see Him as I should Then my eyes are lifted upward For His glory and my good

Verse 2

There is hope in every trial For I can trust the Lord He will turn my heart towards Him And help me bear the thorn So in faith I follow Jesus On the road not understood For I know that He is working For His glory and my good

Chorus 1

To our God be the glory To our God be praise He alone the name above all names I will boast ever only in the Lord my God For I know His glory is my good

Verse 3

See the open arms of Jesus Upon the cross that day What they understood as weakness Deserves my every praise For the charge that was against me It was nailed into the wood Yes I know that He has saved me For His glory and my good

Chorus 1

To our God be the glory To our God be praise He alone the name above all names I will boast ever only in the Lord my God For I know His glory is my good

Verse 4

Would I gladly be made nothing That Christ would be made more Would I seek the only kingdom That far outweighs them all I will stand before my Father Where the faithful saints have stood And with joy my heart shall praise Him For His glory and my good And with joy my heart shall praise Him For His glory and my good

Chorus 1

To our God be the glory To our God be praise He alone the name above all names I will boast ever only in the Lord my God For I know His glory is my good

Chorus 1

To our God be the glory To our God be praise He alone the name above all names I will boast ever only in the Lord my God For I know His glory is my good For I know His glory is my good



OFFERING

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Blessed are You, Lord God our Father; through Your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for Your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Amen.

 $\label{eq:multiplicative} Musical interlude (Christi-Mari Smit) \ \text{while offering is taken up}$





PRAYERS THANKSGIVING FOR CREATION (CORAL DEETH) RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Creator God, author of the Universe, every creature, every created thing, every sight, every sound speaks to us of your power, your providence, your peace and your love. Our hearts are overflowing with boundless gratitude for your abundant generosity in creation, where every creature has a purpose and a place.

Creator God, we stand in awe of your magnificent handiwork.

00 00 00

The rugged, majestic mountain peaks, the glistening sands, the lush rain forests, the deep gullies and the arid deserts. Yet, we also see your creation in the soft petals of tiny flowers and plants in dark crevasses.

Creator God, give us eyes to see, to observe and to appreciate and love your handiwork.

The cascading waterfalls, the rumble of thunder, the mighty ocean waves, the songs of the birds, the sounds of the bush, the lonely cry of an owl at night.

Creator God, give us ears to hear that we may enjoy these, your gifts to us.

In the midst of our busy lives and the turmoil we see around us, help us to be still and to absorb the beauty of silent things.

The glory of sunrise, the vivid colours of a sunset, the wonder of the stars and the clouds, the journey of the sun by day, the moon by night, the treasures under the earth.

Creator God, slow us down and grant a stillness in our hearts, that we may be aware of and give thanks for silent things.

Scientists in every field of endeavour by their patient work and God-given gifts and abilities, help us to understand not only the greatness of your creation but also the harmony of its rich tapestry.

Creator God, open our minds to the wonders of your universe with its intricate plan revealed in amazing inventions and discoveries.

Yes, Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, our land is alive with the glory of God. And we are bold to say.

Our Creator surrounds and upholds us, Christ Jesus walks beside and before us, The Spirit moves within and between us, Blessed be our God, our wonder and our delight. Amen



PRAYERS THANKSGIVING FOR THE PAST (REV. PETER ELLIOT) RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Eternal and loving God, today we give thanks to you for your goodness through all the years of worship and witness in this place.

For your grace in calling us to be your people; for your love revealed to us in Christ your Son; for your gift of the Spirit and the joy of salvation: **We give you our thanks, O God.**

For those who established the church here: for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities: **We give you our thanks, O God.**

For all who have been members of this church; for those who have given freely of their time and money; for those whose wisdom guided our congregation: **We give you our thanks, O God.**

For all who have preached and taught here; for all who have confessed here that Jesus is Lord; for all who today lead in worship, witness, and service: **We give you our thanks, O God.**

In loving remembrance of all who have run the race and finished their course; in thanksgiving for all who keep the faith and in communion with all your people on earth: **We give you our thanks, O God.**

In your mercy, O Lord our God, give us, as you give to all the faithful, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Amen.



PRAYERS THANKSGIVING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF HOWARD (Rev. BILL COWAN) Introduction to the prayers for the community of Howard

In 1884, Howard was a community of over 1000 souls. Long before that, there were hundreds of Jesus people, of faith, here.

Some who's grandparents had known John Wesley

Some came out of the Great Welsh revival.

00 00 00

Some were driven out of Ireland – but with the roots of a Catholic faith.

The Danes had come with their reformation memories.

From England, come had grandparents who had been murdered-Protester.

Luther's men and women, others fighting to be Baptists.

Long before 1884, Howard community was a community of faith. Sunday Schools in loungerooms – prayer gatherings under a tree, "Rock of ages" was a song for the whole community.

When Christian family had a fire that burned their house to the ground – The Howard community built them a new home at no cost to them.

Three families said – Let us build a meeting place – for the ecclesia

And for 140 years the community of Howard has been different because of the community of faith that was there first.

Prayer

Good morning, Father God, Good morning, Jesus, Good morning Holy Spirit. Please bless the modern Howard Community which is so different in 2024 Please bless the many communities of faith that are in Howard today. Lord Jesus, teach us how to live, loving one and other. Holy Spirit, stand against the evil one who would harm Howard people. As the pioneers built a Church in 1884, in obedience to your. Help us who are here today to fulfill the task that is before us. To be your lights in the world. Amen

A SONG FOR ALL WHO REMEMBER IT. (from Sunday School)

"Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for Him each day, In every way try to please Him, at home , at work, at play A sunbeam, a sunbeam, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, A sunbeam, a sunbeam, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, To shine for Him each day'"



PRAYERS FOR THE FUTURE (MICKENZI PLATE)

Lord of all creation, this world is in turmoil.

Your churches are empty.

We have raped and pillaged the land for the resources that you have provided and have left the land permanently changed.

There are wars raging, rumours of wars and there is violence in homes.

People have lost relationship with you and with each other.

Life is being lived through social media, so people are not living life to the fullest and this is creating social isolation.

Your people do not know how to communicate with one another. They have trouble building deep lifelong relationships. Our world has walked away from communicating with you.

We live in a world that is directed by self wants, not giving thought to others as it is all about themselves.

People in their emptiness are suffering.

It is common to see people, with lack of respect for others and themselves.

Greed, is running our lives, and others suffer because of it.

Poverty and homelessness are on the rise.

There is injustice and inequality.

Hatred and anger seem to be commonplace.

O God may the world know your peace, even in chaos.

Lord our God, we pray for a future that is bright.

May we respect your creation, that you called good. By respecting the land and nature, we are respecting you.

May your churches everywhere be filled with people seeking a relationship with You. Through that relationship, it will help us to be better at connecting with each other.

Lord God, through the power of your Holy Spirit, may we have a future of; respect and tolerance, of caring and sharing.

May the future fill the emptiness and remove the suffering.

May greed be a thing of the past, replaced by love, and generosity.

May poverty and homelessness become a sad memory of an ill society.

That justice and equality become the norm.

May Hatred become love and anger become determination that creates open debate and discussion. That we learn to accept, that others may have views different to us and that is OK.

We pray that you will guide us to a better, brighter community, that is covered by your love and grace. In the name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN

HYMN: GOD GIVES US A FUTURE (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

Verse 1

God gives us a future Daring us to go Into dreams and dangers On a path unknown We will face tomorrow In the Spirit's power We will let God change us For new life starts now

Verse 2

We must leave behind us Sins of yesterday For God's new beginning Is a better way Fear and doubt and habit Must not hold us back God gives hope and insight And the strength we lack

Verse 3

Holy Spirit teach us How to read the signs How to meet the challenge Of our troubled times Love us into action Stir us into prayer Till we choose God's life and Find our future there



BLESSING (WILLEM SMIT) 2 Corinthians 13:13 GNB

(13) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

DISMISSAL (WILLEM SMIT)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION HYMN: CHRIST BEFORE US (TUNE JOYFUL, JOYFUL) (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

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lay



HYMN AS WE EXIT: WHERE LOVE COMES TO LIFE (CHRISTI-MARI SMIT AND GRAHAM HUTH)

Verse 1

God is perfect in love Breathing his life in us Sustaining life by a Word Calling us to love his world Lord increase our faith Make us the place

Chorus

<u>o</u>o oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

Where love comes to life Jesus' church in the world Where love comes to life At home at work at play We are the place People of grace Where love comes to life

Verse 2

Shock of water and word Disarms our hate and sin Holy meal of love God's life now within Lord increase our hope Make us the place

Chorus

Where love comes to life Jesus' church in the world Where love comes to life At home at work at play We are the place People of grace Where love comes to life

Verse 3

Now Lord Jesus Christ Increase your love in us So your love overflows To all tribes skins and tongues Lord increase our love Make us the place

Chorus

Where love comes to life Jesus' church in the world Where love comes to life At home at work at play We are the place People of grace Where love comes to life





we are glad you could be part of this Special service



you are welcome to join us any time. Our services are on Sundays @ 9:30am

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