A reading from the Hebrew testament and the writings of the prophet Isaiah.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of our God,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that God may teach us the ways
and that we may walk in God's paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of God from Jerusalem.

God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

## **PAUSE**

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Isaiah 65:17-25, NRSV

A reading from the Covenant testament and Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Saviour and Redeemer.

## **PAUSE**

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

People And also with you.

Gospeller The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to

Matthew.

People Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. And you are my friends, if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God. It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you. This command I give you: that you love one another.

## **PAUSE**

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.