



# Deep Roots | New Branches

## Praise for God's Presence and Rule in All the Earth

### Opening Prayer

Song of Praise: "From the Ends of the Earth" *Sing! a New Creation*, #47  
or "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," *Psalter Hymnal* #253

Scripture: Psalm 29 read with sung refrain  
"The voice of God goes out to all the world."  
*Sing! A New Creation*, #127

### Hearing Christ's Call to Bear Fruit (based on John 15)

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,  
because apart from me you can do nothing."

People: **We praise you, O Christ, for being the vine,  
and for your Father's tender love in caring for us, your branches.  
Our sharing of the gospel, our giving, our preaching,  
remain shallow and rootless unless Jesus Christ  
is our source of life.**

**Without you, O Christ, living and breathing in us,  
we can do nothing to bring about your kingdom in this world.  
Fertilize and nourish every dream, every work  
that cultivates the growth of your Church.**

Leader: Jesus said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,  
ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.  
My Father is glorified by this,  
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

People: **As your disciples, loved by you and loving you,  
we pray for new branches on the vine  
so that more people might become your disciples.  
May the Scriptures root us  
in the same vision and passion of our Father—  
that all may know Christ as Lord and Savior.**

**May our churches bear fruit  
through mentoring and supporting church planters,  
equipping members to share the gospel,  
and building relationships with people  
who are not attached to Christ, the Vine.**

Leader: Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;  
abide in my love.  
If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.  
This is my commandment,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
You are my friends if you do what I command you."

People: **We praise God for his love to us through his Son Jesus Christ.  
We want to be faithful friends of Christ  
and we long for others to be Christ's friends.  
Forgive us for pretending to be the friends of Christ  
when we fail to do as Christ commands,  
when we fail to love one another as Christ loves us.  
Through the power of your strong love, O Christ,  
take away our fear, our hesitations, our reluctance, our busyness.**

Leader: Jesus said, "I have called you friends,  
because I have made known to you  
everything that I have heard from my Father.  
You did not choose me but I chose you.  
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,  
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.  
I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

People: **In the name of Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we ask the Father to make our churches eternal fruit producers. In  
faith, we dare to ask because this mission and calling comes from  
Christ, the Vine, to us, his branches. Through Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen.**

Video: "Deep Roots/New Branches"

Song: "If You and I Believe in Christ," *Sing! a New Creation*, 274

Sharing the call:  
Local/classis supported church planter shares one of the stories of  
changed lives from their ministry.

### Sending in the Name of Christ through the Power of the Holy Spirit:

Jesus came and said to his disciples: "All authority in  
heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make  
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything  
that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to  
the end of the age."

### Sung and spoken prayer

"Send Me, Jesus," *Sing! a New Creation* #280  
prayer about willingness to be sent  
*sing vs. 1, "Send me, Jesus"*  
prayer asking for Christ's leading  
*sing vs. 2, "Lead me, Jesus"*  
prayer asking for Jesus to fill us with his Spirit  
*sing vs. 3, "Fill me, Lord"*

Blessing: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit  
of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. **Amen.**