

(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)

# We Have Come, God's Living Temple

TUNE: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (CWM RHONDDA)

Psalm 122:1; John 2:19-22; 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-16

♩ = 88

F B♭ F/A F/G F C/G F/A Gm7/B♭ F/C C F F/A B♭ Gm7

1. We have come, God's liv - ing tem - ple, In the joy of  
 2. Set a - side all vain dis - trac-tions. Lay your needs be -  
 3. Christ is God's e - ter - nal tem - ple, All His ho - ly  
 4. Go and shine with God's own pres-ence! Live the love of

F/C C7 F F B♭ F/A F/G F C/G F/A Gm7/B♭ F/C C

Christ the Son. Here the Fa - ther's word is spo - ken.  
 fore His throne. Give your hands, a ho - ly of - f'ring.  
 pres - ence here. By His Spir - it, we His bod - y  
 Christ the Son. By your words let Him be spo - ken,

F B♭/D F/A B♭ F/C C F C7 F/C C7 Gm7/D C/E F C7 F F/A E/A

Here His gra - cious work is done. Breathe His Spir - it! Drink His good-ness!  
 You are His and not your own. All your spir - it praise His Spir - it!  
 Live to make His pres-ence clear, Lov - ing, learn - ing, giv - ing, grow - ing  
 By your hands His work be done. Breathe His Spir - it, share his good-ness

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: John Hughes

CWM RHONDDA  
8.7.8.7.8.7.

F C7 F C Dm7 C C C C F C7 F Bb F C F  
 A G E Bb E G Bb A G F C C F

Heav - en's life is here be - gun.      Heav - en's life is here be - gun.  
 Turn your tho'ts to Him a - lone.      Turn your tho'ts to Him a - lone.  
 Till our Lord Him - self ap - pear,      Till our Lord Him - self ap - pear.  
 Till His glo - rious King - dom come,      Till His glo - rious King - dom come!

TOPICS: Church; God's Presence; Praise & Worship

LEAD-IN: *I was glad when they said to me,  
 "Let us go to the house of the Lord."* (Psalm 122:1, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## Greater Than the Temple

In Christ, God's temple became more than anyone imagined it could be.

The temple was a building, designed as a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7). It was a place of joy where people could talk with God, learn of Him, worship Him, and be assured of His care (Isaiah 2:2-5). In a sense, the temple made God's presence tangible.

Jesus began coming to the temple when He had to be carried (Luke 2:21-39). There His parents presented the infant Jesus to His true Father and dedicated Him to His service.

Virtually all that we know about Jesus' childhood is His devotion to His Father and to the temple (Luke 2:41-52). Even at age twelve, He thought of the temple as His Father's house. His desire to be about His Father's work drew Him there to a degree that confounded even His parents.

As an adult, Jesus continued to think of the temple as His Father's house. Thus He came to it in a unique capacity, as the Son of God (Matthew 17:24-27). He seemed to come at every opportunity. There He spoke the Father's words and did the Father's works. People who came to Jesus in the temple met their God face-to-face. He spent time with them, rubbed shoulders with them, taught them, and healed them.

They also experienced the Son's all-consuming zeal for His Father's house. They sensed His passion as, with sovereign authority, He cleansed it of all that distracted from God Himself (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-16; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:14-22).

Yet Jesus also lifted people's sights beyond the temple buildings. He taught the Samaritan woman that true worship transcended the temple. Life could be engulfed in worship that flowed directly from our spirits to His, unencumbered by time and place (John 4:20-24). Referring to Himself, He told the Pharisees that "*something greater than the temple is here*" (Matthew 12:6, NASB). He proclaimed His own body as the true temple of God. The magnificent temple structures, which had taken forty-six years to build, would soon be completely leveled (Matthew 24:2). But when His bodily temple was destroyed, it would rise again in only three days (John 2:19).

The Spirit of Christ drew the early Church to the temple almost continually (Luke 24:52-53; Acts 2:46). Through Paul, the Spirit taught the Church that they themselves were God's living temple, His holy presence on earth (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:1; Ephesians 2:19-22). The New Testament closes with the promise that soon, life will be so completely engulfed in God that a temple will be unnecessary (Revelation 21:22).

In Jesus' zeal for the temple, we glimpse the Son's deep love for His Father, and the Father's burning desire to be forever one with His children.

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