

Call to Worship

For the Beauty of the Earth

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| <p>1 For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn
of grateful praise.</p> | <p>2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn
of grateful praise.</p> |
| <p>3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn
of grateful praise</p> | <p>4 For Thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn
of grateful praise!</p> |

Responsive Reading

From Psalm 139, John 15

Leader

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

Response

O LORD, You know me so well that there is no way I can hide anything from You.

Leader

You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

Response

You watch over my every action. You understand my hopes and dreams.

Leader

For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

Response

I cannot even speak a word without You knowing about it and hearing it.

Leader

You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

Response

You protect me from all sides even to the point that You place Yourself between me and harm.

Unison

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Friendly

What does it mean for us to be “friendly”? In the Book of Proverbs it is written

A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

What does it mean when it says “must himself be friendly”? And when it says “sticks closer than a brother”? I always look to the example that Jesus was to find answers to questions like these.

In the Gospel According to Luke it says that Jesus did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. (That's in Luke 9:56). Who did Jesus save? *Sinners*. We are all sinners. That is to say, none of us is perfect. But Jesus came along side people, and helped them – He saved them. He does this with us. He who is perfect (Jesus) guides along life's path. Coaching us and encouraging us to be better people and helping us with our struggles.

We can follow the example of Jesus. When you see your brother (fellow Scout) struggling with any thing from putting up a tent or making a choice that may affect the rest of his life – like a choice over right from wrong – stand beside him, coach and encourage him to be a better man. Hold the stakes and poles for him.

And when he occasionally messes up – remember that you occasionally mess up, and think of the way you would want a friend to help you if you were in the shoes of the person needing help. And if God has given you the means then give that help!

What are some examples?

Someone new shows up at school – invite them to join you and your friends at the lunch table.

One of the younger guys is struggling to prepare the meal for the patrol – don't let them be overwhelmed by the task. Provide assistance – but let them still be the ones to prepare the meal *and* to get the credit for it.

I am sure you can think of many other opportunities. So, remember -

A friend loves at all times

Proverbs 17:17a

Benediction

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. *In Jesus's name, Amen.*

From **Psalm 139:23-24**