



St Andrew's with Castle Gate
United Reformed Church, Nottingham

Intergenerational Service

Come Closer — A Family of Faith

Based on Genesis 45:1–15, Psalm 133, and Matthew 15:21–28

**Gathering all ages to draw nearer to God
and to one another**

Worship on 16 August 2026, led by Mark Hodgson



Gathering

Hymn – Let us build a house (CH4 198)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

"Let us build a house where love can dwell" by **Marty Haugen**
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Prayers of approach, confession and the Lord's Prayer

Reading 1: Genesis 45:1–15 (read by a number of people of
differing ages)

Song – Build a bigger table (Tune: *Noël nouvelet* at R&S 243)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

"Build a longer table" by David D. Bjorlin (1984-)
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Response to Genesis

Psalms 133: 1 & response

Reading 2: Matthew 15:21–28 (read by a narrator, "Jesus" and
a woman)

All age talk (Crumbs from the table)

Hymn - Let there be love shared among us R&S 477

Offering, paper crumbs and prayer

Hymn - Brother, Sister, let me serve you – R&S 474

Activity – come closer circles

Prayers of Intercession

Response

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

Hymn - For the healing of the nations – R&S 620

Sending (spoken amen)