



Elizabeth Smith

God speaks to us, through creation, music & art, other people, worship and prayer; but especially through Scripture, and always pointing us to Jesus. Hebrews 1 which we read during Advent says:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Song

You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice
Let the skies declare Your glory
Let the land and seas rejoice

You're the author of creation
You're the Lord of ev'ry man
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands

Yet You left the gaze of angels
Came to seek and save the lost
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross
With a prayer You fed the hungry
With a word You stilled the sea
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free

With a shout You rose victorious
Wresting victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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Teaching part 1

Read Isaiah 1:1-20

Teaching part 2

Confession

As we're thinking about God speaking to us and our need to act on it – one way God does that is to convict us of where we've sinned. But he also speaks words of mercy to us. Let's remind ourselves of those word pictures Isaiah used:

Though your sins are like scarlet; they shall be as white as snow.

Though they are red as crimson; they shall be like wool.

Pause for a moment – reflect on how you've fallen short of God's standards today, this week....

Come to God in repentance

Reflect on the forgiveness he offers through Jesus death on the cross

Speak these words:

*You speak to us in many ways,
through rushing wind
or still small voice,
in Scripture's Word
or through your grace*

*And we in turn find many ways,
to hear the world's insistent voice
break through the silence,
and take your place.
Forgive our sin.*

*Help us hear your voice
above the clamour of this world,
recognise the difference,
and follow only you.
Amen*

Song

Such love pure as the whitest snow
Such love weeps for the shame I know
Such love paying the debt I owe
O Jesus such love

Such love stilling my restlessness
Such love filling my emptiness
Such love showing me holiness
O Jesus such love

Such love springs from eternity
Such love streaming through history
Such love fountain of life to me
O Jesus such love

Graham Kendrick

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Communion

We invite you to share communion.



May God's Word be in your heart.
May God's Word be on your lips.
May God's Word be in your touch.
May God's Word direct your feet.
On this day and all your days to come
May God's Word be the life you live.

Prayers

Our Father, who is in heaven, praised and glorified be your name.

Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

As you provide all we need and extend your grace and mercy to us which we pass on to those who have wounded us, show us the way to live that we might, with your help, avoid evil.

It is your kingdom, your power and your glory that lives forever so we ask that you will encourage and inspire us to pray for those we love as well as those we don't know in ways that reach up to you and out to them.

Amen.

Song

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere

We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright from sea to sea
Transform, revive and heal society

Before all things in him all things were made
Inspiring culture media and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive and heal society

Peace truth and justice reigning everywhere
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive and heal society

Forgive us Lord when we have not engaged
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page
Make us again what we were made to be
Transform, revive and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive and heal society

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