

SINGING REDEMPTION

**Theme Resource Pack
November 2025
(2-29 Nov)**

Introduction



Redemption — that solace we can come home to, that place we can belong, regardless of who we are or what we've done — is not something we can earn or buy. Rather it is something *sung* to us. A song as old as the universe, a cosmic lullaby that tells us that all will be well and all manner of things will be well. Just as infants begin to recognise songs long before they can grasp the meaning of words — so the work of our redemption was begun long before we could grasp it.

This month we explore the power of song to both teach us about and immerse us in our redemption — the central story of our faith — that we are found, recognised, and named and that we belong with God and one another. Through lyric, rhythm, melody, harmony, percussion, timing, and phrasing songs don't only tell us that we are redeemed, they show us how it *feels* to be redeemed.

Redemption is an ongoing story we learn to live into that zigzags across the spectrum of human emotion. Songs and poetry are often uniquely able to offer us insights into what it means and what it feels like to live as a person who is being continually redeemed.

Weekly Overview

- Live and unplugged! — *Songwriting as a way of sharing authentic experience*
- Praise be! — *Communal worship as a way of restoring, challenging and shaping*
- Punk prophecy! — *Songwriting that give us a glimpse of another world*
- Vagabond Hymns! — *A concept album of the hymns of a wandering, wondering people*

Format

Every month we have a God-given theme delving into different aspects and areas of faith. Over the course of 2025 these themes connect and take us on a faith journey out into the wonders of life with Jesus. Our themes shape our Daily Worship, live streams and all sorts of other creative things we get up to! Each week runs Sunday - Saturday and each has a series of daily Bible readings and prompts for reflection.

Live and unplugged — *Songwriting as a way of sharing authentic experience* (Week 1, 2 November)

Introduction: Authentic songwriting from our heart to God's heart creates a space — a nook — where people can find a resting place, a hiding place, or even a springboard, for the soul. Lyrics and melody create perches where people can not only see but also hear and feel the story of redemption... a story that is both deeply personal and deeply universal. Songs can be lifelines, invaluable points of connection that help to remember ourselves back to ourselves. This week we think about the power of songwriting to create nooks for the soul, where we can draw breath, and catch the breath of heaven.

Setting the scene: Live acoustic unplugged set at an open mic night.

Seeds to sow: What are some of your favourite memories of hearing live music?

1. **Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4** **Songwriters stationed all along the watchtower!** Songwriters have their eyes to the skies ready to witness and sing God's works. What helps them to make the vision plain?
2. **Psalms 119:137-144** **Give me understanding that I may live!** The understanding, the insight, a song gives can be that life-giving, life-preserving pocket that helps us understand our lives so that we might live more fully. The psalms themselves are such songs!
3. **Isaiah 1:10-18** **Making offerings that mean something!** A challenge to worship leaders! Is our praise empty, just window dressing for a window shopping worship? Or are we creating real places for people to meet and draw closer to God's heart; a heart that breaks for poor and dispossessed people.
4. **Psalms 32:1-7** **Songs creating hiding place for people...** Sometimes we just need a place where our souls can hide a while. It's often in songs we find that respite. What lyrics or melodies have provided hiding places for the soul?
5. **2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12** **Growing in faith** Authentic shared worship expressed with one another builds up community!
6. **Luke 19: 1-10** **Making trees for Zacheaus.** Do some of our songs plant trees that grow into perches where a contemporary Zacheaus can climb and see for themselves?
7. **James 5: 13** **Bringing our honest selves to God.** As this verse urges — songs can help us bring our honest selves to God — unvarnished, uninhibited, unabashed!

Praise be! *Communal worship as a way of restoring, challenging and shaping* (Week 2, 9 November)

Introduction: Recounting redemption resoundingly! Exploring how worship restores, challenges and shapes communities as they expressed themselves authentically to God.

Setting the scene: A music shop basement filled with every instrument you could think of.

Seeds to sow: What songs help restore you? What songs help build you up?

1. **Haggai 1:15b-2:9** **Resetting on redemption.** How can our worship help us press 'the reset button', like God is doing with Haggai in this passage. How can our worship help us take courage?
2. **Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21** **Recounting the splendour of majesty and meditating on wondrous works.** A pretty good mission statement for worship! Let's reflect on worship as a formative process that teaches, guides and shapes us as we spend time meditating on God.
3. **Psalm 98** **Singing to the Lord a new song!** What new songs are we singing? And what old songs are we singing in a new way? Worship is not about re-enactment — it is always meant to be a genuine new experience, not a performance of one.
4. **Job 19:23-27a** **Anyone got an iron pen?** Considering the legacy of the songs that outlast us and the challenge they contain for ongoing generations.
5. **Psalm 17: 1-9** **The apple of your eye.** Exploring how communal worship can still affirm our individual status as the apple of God's eye.
6. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17** **Standing firm, holding fast.** How does our worship root and ground our communities?
7. **Ephesians 5: 15-20** **Sharing lifegiving music together!** Harmonising a community together.

Punk prophecy! — *Songwriting that give us a glimpse of another world* (Week 3, 16 November)

Introduction: Prophets, punks and poets have given us glimpses of another world for thousands of years. Music helps us to see the world around us differently and stirs us; galvanising us to act. The heavenly reality of the kingdom is sometimes most clearly caught through song.

Setting the scene: DIY posters, pin badges, pamphlets, zines and graffiti — declaring the Kingdom.

Seeds to sow: What songs challenge you? And what songs have shaped how you see the world?

1. **Isaiah 65:17-25 Visions of redemption** This prophecy is a striking vision of restoration and transformed relationships.
2. **Isaiah 12 Making known his deeds among the nations.** What are the punk proclamations we are making through our worship today?
3. **Malachi 4: 1-2 Hope and warning, healing and reckoning.** Unpacking the punk 1-2 punch of these verses!
4. **2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 Prophetic punk pressure.** Not wearying in doing what is right
5. **Luke 21: 5-19 You ready punk?** Jesus will give us the words to say and the wisdom we need and by our endurance we will gain our souls.
6. **Psalm 146 Punk psalm.** This is a punk psalm because it 1) it critiques the establishment, 2) it is full of passion and 3) it's short and bolshy!
7. **Matthew 5: 1-12 Singing the beatitudes.** How do we go about singing the radical, counter-cultural, gutsy, beatitudes in our churches today?

Vagabond hymns (Week 4, 23 November)

Introduction: We close our theme on songwriting and redemption with a kind of concept album. An art form pioneered by the likes of the Beatles and the Beach Boys in the 1960s and carried on to this day where songs are linked not just sonically but thematically and perhaps even narratively. This week we are lacing up our vagabond shoes and singing some vagabond hymns as we follow Christ on the open road.

Setting the scene: Jesus, guitar on his back, walking down a dirt road, a skip in his step.

Seeds to sow: What are that catchiest songs that just stay in your head?

1. **Jeremiah 23: 1-6** **A shepherd's hymn** Our opening track is a shepherd's hymn, but not *that* one we always sing, this is a different one, and it's got some edge!
2. **Luke 1: 68-79** **A hymn of redemption.** Guest vocals from Zechariah as our album sets out its stall: It's all about redemption!
3. **Psalms 46** **A hymn of refuge.** In this 'track' we take time to be still and know God is God, a refuge for us all.
4. **Colossians 1:11-20** **A hymn of reconciliation.** The heart of our album, right in the middle, that Christ is reconciling all things. Our personal redemption is part of an entire cosmic process of redemption!
5. **Luke 21: 29-33** **A thief's hymn.** We stop now to listen to the Taizé hymn, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."
6. **Matthew 8: 18-20** **A hymn to a Vagabond Christ.** Christ is God among us, willing to walk the open roads in search of us, who left the security of heaven to breathe our air and walk our steps.
7. **Psalms 71** **A hymn of the redeemed.** Our worship is a redeemed soul — audible!