

All Age Worship Service

(AAW015)

**“I am the Way and
the Truth and the
Life”**

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“I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE”

Service Aim:

To unpack what Jesus meant when He said: *“I am the way and the truth and the life.”*

Biblical Reference(s):

John 14:1-6, Matthew 4:18-19a, Matthew 9:9, Luke 9:59, John 1:43

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	“Who can tell me the way to.....?”
Reading:	John 14:1-6
Link:	Jesus is The Way.
Memory verse:	John 14:6 using Footprints
Song:	<u>A song about Jesus being The Way</u> (See Appendix 1)
Readings 2:	A selection of Bible readings with the words, “Follow me”
Talk 1:	Jesus called disciples to follow Him, not simply around Palestine, but into all eternity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus calls us to follow Him too because He is The Way.
Drama:	“Interviewing travellers en route to the heavenly city”
Response:	Challenge to read the Bible
Song:	<u>A song about Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory verse:	John 14:6 using Footprints
Quiz:	“Would I lie to you?”
Talk 2:	Jesus is The Truth so we can trust Him. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is The Life not an “add-on”
Response:	Who will you choose to follow?
Songs:	<u>Song/s about choosing to follow Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory Verse:	John 14:6 from memory
Prayers:	Using responses
Lord’s prayer	
Summary:	Summarize the main teaching points of the service.
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the sixth of Jesus' seven "I am" statements that are recorded in John's Gospel; "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer or
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together.
- Alternatively you could a prayer like:

**Lord we are here to worship you.
Please speak to us,
move amongst us,
and touch our hearts afresh with your love,
that your name may be glorified here today.
Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm up:

You will need a functioning Satnav for this short interactive talk or a programme like "Google Maps" on a mobile phone. It would also help to Power Point the pictures.

Does anyone know where Prince William and Kate live when they are in London?

(Project a picture of Prince William and Kate)

That's right – it is Kensington Palace *(Project a picture of Kensington Palace)*

Who can tell me the way to Kensington Palace from the church?

- I want exact directions because I don't want to get lost!
- I don't think that any of us here could give completely accurate directions could we?

How about if we use a Satnav?

- Let's type in "Kensington Palace" into my satnav and see what happens? *(Type in Kensington Palace)*
- OK....so my satnav says that the journey will take x minutes *(x = minutes from your church)*
- And the first direction is*(read out the 1st direction from the church)*

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
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So if we follow the directions that the Satnav gives us,

- we should end up at Kensington Palace.....

Satnavs can be very good at helping us to get to the places where we want to go, but sometimes they aren't always the most reliable guides.

- This poor woman followed her Satnav and it led her straight into a lake (*Project picture in Appendix 2*)

Even better than having a Satnav leading us to Kensington Palace, would be having someone sitting in our car who knew the way well; giving us directions.

Now if instead of asking you the question, "Who can tell me the way to Kensington Palace,"

- I asked you the question: "Who can tell me the way to heaven?".....I wonder how you would reply.
- You see I want exact directions because I don't want to get lost!

Let's see what happens when we put "heaven" into the Satnav and see what directions it gives us. (*Type in Heaven*)

- The only heaven that is coming up on my satnav is for a restaurant called "Heaven," and not the place where God dwells.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was someone who could actually show us the way to heaven?

- Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was someone who would be willing to walk with us each day so that we don't get lost?
- Listen to this Bible reading and see if you can discover who might show us the way to heaven?

Reading:

The reading is John 14:1-6 and can be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

Link:

Who, according to our Bible reading, can show us the way to our Father's house, in other words, heaven? (*Receive answers*)

- That's right....Jesus can show us the way to our Father's house.
- But Jesus didn't say, "I can show you the way".....he said, "I am the way...."
- If we want to get to our Father's house then we need to go with Jesus.

Memory Verse:

The memory verse is John 14:6. You could present the memory verse using Footprints (template in Appendix 3) to which are attached the words of the memory verse as below:

- Footprint 1: "I am
- Footprint 2: the way
- Footprint 3: and the truth
- Footprint 4: and the life.
- Footprint 5: No-one comes to the Father
- Footprint 6: except through me."
- Footprint 7: John chapter 14, verse 6

Once the congregation have said the memory verse a couple of times, remove some of the words and repeat.

Song:

A song about Jesus being the way as per Appendix 1

Readings 2:

These very short readings (found in Appendix 4) could be read by different members of the congregation standing up where they are and reading them out, as loud as possible. They could be introduced by saying the following:

When Jesus first came to earth and began his ministry around Palestine, he called a number of different people.

- Listen to what He said to them:

Talk 1:

This talk would benefit from illustrating each key point with Power Point.

So what two words did Jesus say to the people He called?

- “Follow me”
- “FOLLOW ME”

Jesus didn't call people to simply listen to Him speak as He told them the good news about God's kingdom.

- He didn't call people to simply watch what He did as He healed the sick and set people free.
- Jesus called people to follow Him.....**to be with Him**, as they journeyed through life.

And the reason that Jesus called people to follow Him is that He is the only way to heaven,

- the place where our Heavenly Father dwells.
- If we follow Jesus and walk with Him, He will lead us to heaven.

But the wonderful thing is that Jesus isn't simply the way for us to know Father God one day in the future.

- Jesus is the way for us to know Father God today and to become part of God's family.

Now there are people who will argue that there are many ways to come to know God our Father, and get to our final destination of heaven,

- but the Bible makes it very clear as we have heard in our memory verse today that Jesus has said that there is only one way,
- and that way is Him.
- Watch this.

Drama:

The drama is called “Interviewing travellers en route to the heavenly city,” and can be found in Appendix 5. It explores some of the different ways that people think that they can reach heaven.

Response:

If Jesus is “The Way” to relationship with Father God both now and in the future, it makes sense to listen to what Jesus says and then to obey Him doesn’t it?

One of the main ways that we listen to Jesus is by reading what He has said to us in our Bibles.

- The most important thing that we can all do each day is to pick up our Bibles, read what Jesus says, talk with Him about it, and then to obey Him.

Can I encourage you, if you don’t already do this, to make time to read a few verses from your Bible each day?

- It is one thing to know that Jesus is The Way.
- It is another thing altogether to follow Him and walk with Him each day.
- Let’s worship Him.

Song:

A song about Jesus as per Appendix 1

Memory verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 14:6 a couple of times using the Footprints to show the words.

Quiz: “Would I lie to you?”

The quiz is in the format of the television programme “Would I lie to you?” Prearrange with three members of the congregation to be part of this quiz. Before the service, ask each one of the three people to give you one very true and unusual fact about them self. Choose the best true fact and write it out on a piece of card. Then write a complete lie on two other pieces of card.

Invite the three members of the congregation to come to the front of church and to stand in a line. As they come forward you might like to play the opening music from the television programme “Would I lie to you?”² Give one person the card with the unusual fact that they told you and give the other two people the cards with the lies written on them. Explain to the congregation that two people will read out a lie about themselves whilst the third person will read out a truth. It is the job of the congregation to work out who is telling the truth.

Once the three people have read what is written on their cards, question them a little about their answers then invite the congregation to vote on who is telling the truth.

You could introduce the quiz by saying something like:

- Not only did Jesus say that He is the Way,
- but he also said that He is the truth.

² The theme music for “Would I lie to you?” can be found on You Tube at www.youtube.com and by putting “Would I Lie To You? S07E01” into the search bar

If we are going to put our trust in someone and follow them, we need to know that they will always tell us the truth don't we?

- I wonder if you can work out today who is telling you the truth.

Talk 2:

It is hard sometimes isn't it to know if someone is telling you the truth or not,

- but it is really important to know that they are telling the truth if we are going to follow them.

Jesus said that He is the truth.....

- He didn't say that He tells the truth all the time, which of course He does,
- but He said that He is the truth.

That seems like a very odd thing for a man to say doesn't it,

- unless Jesus is more than a man!

On a number of different occasions Jesus actually claimed to be God...(John 8:58)

- and His claim to be The Truth was proved to be true when He rose from the dead. (Romans 1:4)

So if we want to know what truth is, we look at Jesus.

- His words are the words we can trust and build our lives upon,
- and His words are written down for us in the Bible.

Not only did Jesus say that He is The Way and The Truth, but He also said that He is The Life.

- Jesus isn't an add-on to our lives.....someone to fit into a few minutes each day, or into an hour on Sunday.
- Jesus is our life.

Relationship with God is what we have been created for.

- Jesus is the Way to having that relationship.
- Jesus is the Truth and so we can trust what He says
- Jesus is the Life and so following Him each day will bring us life to the full now and then on into all eternity.

Response: Who will we choose to follow?

For the response you will need a long roll of lining paper with footprints drawn all along it. At the start of the lining paper, write out the words: "Jesus says, "FOLLOW ME."" Lay the lining paper along the front of church or down the centre aisle if you have one. Alongside the lining paper lay out some large felt tip pens. You might put part of the lining paper roll up onto tables to allow those who can't bend down to join in.

Today we have been thinking about Jesus being The Way, The Truth and The Life.

- Jesus calls each one of us to follow Him as He is The Way to heaven and to Life eternal.....
- and we have said that we can trust Him because He is the Truth.

Each one of us has to choose how we will respond to Jesus' invitation to follow Him.

- His call to follow Him is not a call to an easy life,
- but to a satisfying life of relationship with God that has meaning and purpose.

So if you would like to choose to follow Him today,

- perhaps for the first time,
- or to recommit to following Him,
- then can I invite you to come and write your name on one of the footprints.

Once people have finished writing their names on the paper lead them in a simple prayer like the following:

**Lord Jesus,
Thank you for calling us to follow You.
We believe that You are The Way, The Truth and The Life.
Today we choose to put our trust in You,
Help us to walk closely with You each day.
Thank You for making it possible for us to have eternal life.
Amen.**

Songs:

Song/s about choosing to follow Jesus as per Appendix 1

Memory verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 14:6 a couple of times from memory.

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family or by a Sunday school group etc. You could lead the prayers in the following way:

- 1) Project pictures of the local area and pray for where members of the congregation live. End with the refrain:
You are the Way, the Truth and the life. Help us to follow You.
- 2) Project pictures of schools, colleges and places of work and pray for members of the congregation who attend those places. End with the refrain:
You are the Way, the Truth and the life. Help us to follow You.
- 3) Project pictures of hospitals and nursing homes and pray for members of the congregation who are staying there. End with the refrain:
You are the Way, the Truth and the life. Help us to follow You.

End the time of prayer with the Lord's prayer.

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

Jesus said that He is The Way and The Truth and The Life.

- Jesus is the only Way to relationship with Father God both now and one day in heaven.
- Jesus is the Truth so we can trust Him
- Jesus is the Life not an "add-on" to our lives.
- Jesus calls us to follow Him.

Final Song:

Lead into the final songs as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Jesus, You are The Way, The Truth and The Life.

Keep us following you day by day as you lead us to the place where we will meet you face to face.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of opening songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Come people of the risen King (Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend © 2007 Thankyou Music)
- Everyone's coming to praise (Nick & Becky Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- In the name of the Father (Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown © 2007 Leadworship Songs)
- Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1990 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash © 2004 Sixsteps Music)

ii) A Song about Jesus being The Way. Ideas include:

- God in my living (Tim Hughes © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Good or bad, right or wrong (Capt. Alan Price © 1990 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- I was nowhere (The way) (Ben Cantelon, Nick Herbert & Tim Hughes © 2014 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus be the centre (Michael Frye © 1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
- My name is written on your hands (Tim Hughes, Nick Herbert & Ben Cantelon © 2011 Thankyou Music)

iii) A song/s about Jesus. Ideas include:

- All my days (Stuart Townend © 1998 Thankyou Music)
- I am the way (Chris Jackson © 1991 Powerpack/Learning Curve Music)
- Jesus lover of my soul (Paul Oakley © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- Who O Lord could save themselves (Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin © 2009 Thankyou Music)
- Will you come and follow me? (Graham Maule & John L. Bell © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community)

iv) Song/s about choosing to follow Jesus. Ideas include:

- From heaven you came (Graham Kendrick © 1983 Thankyou Music)
- I give you my life (Brett Younker, Daniel Carson, Jason Ingram, Kristian Stanfill © 2014 Open Hands Music)
- I will offer up my life (Matt Redman © 1994 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus is greater than the greatest heroes (Gill Hutchinson © Sea Dream Music)
- O Jesus I have promised (John E. Bode)

v) Final song. Ideas include:

- Be thou my vision (Mary E. Byrne & Eleanor H. Hull)
- I lay my life down (One Way) (Joel Houston & Jonathon Douglass © 2003 Hillsong Publishing)
- There is a higher throne (Kristyn Lennox & Keith Getty © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- There's a place where the streets shine (Paul Oakley © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- We want to see Jesus lifted high (Doug Horley © 1993 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – Picture for “Warm-up”

Satnav leads woman straight into a lake³



³ Picture from the website “Trusted reviews” at: <http://www.trustedreviews.com/>
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Appendix 3 – Footprint picture for Memory verse



Appendix 4 – Readings 2

- Reader 1: As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “**Come, follow me,**” Jesus said. (Matthew 4:18-19a)
- Reader 2: As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. “**Follow me,**” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (Matthew 9:9)
- Reader 3: Jesus said to another man, “**Follow me.**” (Luke 9:59)
- Reader 4: The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “**Follow me.**” (John 1:43)

Appendix 5 – “Interviewing travellers en route to the heavenly city” Drama

Cast: Reporter (female), 6 travellers

Props: Bibles for person 5 and person 6

Staging: The script for the reporter could be attached to a clipboard

.....
(Enter Reporter, who stands at the front of the church)

Reporter: Good morning everyone. I’m Fiona Truce reporting for the BBC. Today I’m going to interview some travellers who are just about to embark on a very interesting journey.

(Enter 6 people chatting together. Persons 1-4 form one group on one side of the reporter and Persons 5-6 form another group on the other side of the reporter)

Reporter: Ah, there they are. Hello there. I’m a reporter from the BBC and I wondered if I could ask you a question: “Where are you all going?”

Person 1: We’re heading to the Heavenly City,

Person 2: to the place where God lives with His people,

Person 3: where it is reported that there is no death

Person 4: and where there is no pain or suffering or crying.

Person 5: It’s the most beautiful place full of lovely things

Person 6: I can’t wait to get there.

Reporter: Sounds good, sounds good. What country is this Heavenly city in? I don’t think that I’ve been there.

Person1: Oh this place is quite unlike any ordinary place.

Person2: You see you have to die before you can finally reach it.

Reporter: Oh that does sound strange. Are there lots of ways to get there?

Persons 1-4: Oh yes, lots of different ways.

Persons 5: Oh no, that’s not true.

Person 6: God has given us a book that explains THE way.

(Argument breaks out amongst the people)

Reporter: Ah, it seems like we have a bit of a difference of opinion here. This could be interesting. Makes good TV you know when there’s a bit of a fight.
(Turns to the people)

Calm down, calm down, perhaps it would be good if I could speak to you individually and find out a little more about how you plan to get to this amazing place that you have been talking about.

(Takes person 1 onto one side while other people freeze.)

Well madam, you were one of those who said that there are lots of ways to get to the Heavenly City. Can you tell me how you are going to get there?

Person 1: Sure. I think that as long as I live a good life, don't do anything really wrong, keep my nose clean, do a bit of voluntary work, then I am guaranteed entry into the Heavenly city.

Reporter: Is that what it says in the book?

Person 1: Oh no...I don't bother with the book. I believe that if you do enough good things, you can earn your way into the Heavenly City.

Reporter: Thank you very much for speaking to me. I won't hold you up any longer. All the best on your path of **"good works"**. I hope you find your way to the Heavenly City.

(Person 1 walks off down the centre aisle and reporter turns to person 2.)

Can you tell me how you are going to get to the Heavenly City?

Person2: Well I'm quite a spiritual person you know. I like to read my horoscopes, and I go to yoga classes every week. I enjoy meditating and emptying my mind, so that's how I'm going to get there.

Reporter: Is that what it says in the book?

Person 2: Oh no...I don't bother with the book. I believe that all spiritual paths will lead to the Heavenly city.

Reporter: Thank you very much for speaking to me. All the best on your path of **"pick and mix spirituality."** I hope you find your way to the Heavenly City.

(Person 2 walks off down the centre aisle and reporter turns to person 3.)

Can you tell me how you are going to get to the Heavenly City?

Person 3: Sure. I'm just going to do what I want to do through my life.....you know whatever feels best. I reckon that when I die God will just let me into His Heavenly City. It's as simple as that.

Reporter: Is that what it says in the book?

Person 3: Oh no...I don't bother with the book. I believe that God is loving, and so he'll let us all into the Heavenly city whatever we do.

Reporter: Thank you very much for speaking to me. All the best on your path of **"I'll do it my way."** I hope you find your way to the Heavenly City.

(Person 3 walks off down the centre aisle and reporter turns to person 4.)

Can you tell me how you are going to get to the Heavenly City?

Person 4: Well I'm not really sure. I'll do it the same way as my friends do it. I'll follow them, and what they think....that way we'll all get in together.

Reporter: Is that what it says in the book?

Person 4: Oh no...I don't bother with the book. I believe what my friends say.

Reporter: Thank you very much for speaking to me. All the best on your path of **"I'll follow the crowd."** I hope you find your way to the Heavenly City.

(Person 4 walks off down the centre aisle and reporter turns to persons 5 and 6.)

Reporter: Can you tell me how you are going to get to the Heavenly City?

Person 5: Yes of course. The One who created the Heavenly City gave us this book that tells us the truth of how to get there, so we're going to follow its instructions.

Reporter: That sounds very sensible. What is the book called?

Person 6: It's called the Holy Bible and in it we discover that Jesus has said that HE is the way and the truth and the life. We are going to follow what Jesus says....it is all written down in this book.

Reporter: Well all the best on your path of **"we'll follow Jesus."** I have a feeling that you will find your way to the Heavenly City.

(Persons 5 & 6 walk off down the side aisle and reporter turns to the congregation.)

So.... some differences of opinion herebut the big question of the day seems to be....can we make up our own path to the Heavenly City, or is the Truth in the book?

Fiona Truce in [*name of your town*], reporting for the BBC.

(Exit all)