

# **WELCOME HOME!**

A Service of Celebration and Praise for a Safe Return

## **Welcome and Greeting:**

### **A Call to Worship and Invocation:** (Psalm 95:1-7 ESV)

**Leader:** O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**People:** **LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION!**

**Leader:** Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving

**People:** **LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE!**

**Leader:** For the Lord is a great God,

**People:** **AND A GREAT KING ABOVE ALL GODS.**

**Leader:** In His hand are the depths of the earth;

**People:** **THE HEIGHTS OF THE MOUNTAINS ARE HIS ALSO.**

**Leader:** The sea is His, for He made it,

**People:** **AND HIS HANDS FORMED THE DRY LAND.**

**Leader:** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**People:** **LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD, OUR MAKER!**

**Leader:** For He is our God,

**People:** **AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE, AND THE SHEEP OF HIS HAND.**

**Leader:** Glory and praise be to You O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **AMEN.**

**A Song of Praise:** (Chose any appropriate hymn/song of praise. Some possibilities may be: "A Mighty Fortress" (LW297/298), "Praise To the Lord the Almighty" (LW444))

### **A Word from God:**

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 2:39-40

**(Here additional songs of praise or patriotic songs could be included)**

## **A Devotional Thought:**

**Words of Welcome and Thanksgiving:** (This would be a time for family and friends and the service member to share some thoughts)

## **A Time of Reflection and Prayer:** (based on Psalm 91)

Leader: Whoever goes to the Most High for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to the Lord,

People: YOU ARE MY DEFENDER AND PROTECTOR!  
YOU ARE MY GOD; IN YOU I TRUST.

Leader: He will surely keep you safe from all hidden dangers, and from all deadly diseases.

People: HE WILL COVER YOU WITH HIS WINGS; YOU  
WILL BE SAFE UNDER HIS CARE; HIS  
FAITHFULNESS WILL PROTECT AND DEFEND  
YOU.

Leader: You will not be afraid of dangers at night, or of sudden attacks during the day, of the plagues that strike in the dark, or of the evils that kill in daylight.

People: A THOUSAND MAY FALL BESIDE YOU, TEN  
THOUSAND ALL AROUND YOU, BUT YOU WILL  
NOT BE HARMED.

Leader: Because you made the Lord your defender, the Most High your protector, no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near your home.

People: GOD WILL PUT HIS ANGELS IN CHARGE OF YOU  
TO PROTECT YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

Leader: God says, "I will save those who love Me, and protect those who know Me.

People: WHEN THEY CALL TO ME, I WILL ANSWER  
THEM; WHEN THEY ARE IN TROUBLE, I WILL BE  
WITH THEM. I WILL RESCUE THEM AND HONOR  
THEM, I WILL SURELY SAVE THEM."

Leader: (Here special petitions may be included, followed by the Lord's Prayer)

People: AMEN

**A Song of Thanksgiving:** ("Our God Our Help in Ages Past" LW 180, or some other hymn/song of thanksgiving or patriotic songs)

## **Receive God's Benediction and Blessing:**

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You might want to consider this song simply entitled; "A Song of Peace". It is attributed to Lloyd Stone and is sung to the tune, Finlandia, by Jean Sibelius.

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace, for lands afar and mine;  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:  
But other hearts in other lands are beating,  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine:  
O, hear my song, Thou God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.