

**RESOURCES FOR THE
FOURTH ORDER OF SERVICE**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The minister may use one of the following:

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad.
Let the sea roar and all that fills it;
Let the fields exult, and everything in it.
Then shall the trees of the wood, sing for joy before the Lord,
For he comes to judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with his truth.

(Silence)

The work of God surrounds us

We respond with praise.

The love of God is visible,

We respond in faith.

The word of God is calling,

We respond in hope.

The wind of the Spirit is blowing,

We respond with joy.

OR

The world belongs to God,

The earth and all its people.

How good and how lovely it is,

To live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,

Justice and peace join hands.

If the Lord's disciples keep silent,

These stones would shout aloud.

Lord open our lips,

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

OR

Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in your midst!

Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and strength.

We place ourselves before our God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God's spirit.

OR

In mystery and grandeur:

We see the face of God,

In earthiness and the ordinary:

We know the love of Christ.

In heights and depths and life and death:

The spirit of God is moving among us.

Let us praise God.

A hymn or lyric or bhajan may be sung.

ADORATION

The minister may use one of the following:

O God, our creator, redeemer and comforter, come to us and be among us; come as the wind to inspire us; come as the fire to cleanse us; come as the dew to refresh us.

Come, O Triune God, unite us your people: people from different traditions and cultures; ethnic groups and heritages, experiences and teachings.

Come, O Triune God, unite us your people: the differently abled, the dalits, the marginalized, women, men, children, youth and elderly.

Come, O Triune God, unite us your people: that we might together discern your will, and respond to your call to be the Church today. **AMEN**

OR

You are holy, Lord, the only God, and your deeds are wonderful.

You are strong, you are great, you are the most high, You are three in one, Lord God, all good.

You are good, all good, supreme good, Lord God, living and true.
You are love, you are wisdom. You are humility, you are endurance.
You are rest, you are peace.
You are joy and gladness, you are justice and moderation.
You are all our riches, and you *suffice* for us.
You are beauty, you are gentleness.
You are our protector; you are our guardian and defender.
You are courage; you are our haven and hope.
You are our faith, our great consolation.
You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord,
God almighty, merciful Saviour, blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and
thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto you, forever and
ever. **AMEN**

OR

O praise God in his holy place,
praise God in the sky our tent,
praise God in the earth our mother; Praise
God for his mighty works, praise God for his
marvellous power. Praise God with the
beating of drums, praise God with the flute
and cymbals; Praise God in the rhythm of
the dance, praise God in the clapping of the
hands; Praise God in the stamping of the
feet, praise God in the singing of the chant.
Praise God with the gushing of our great rivers,
praise God with the music of the wind;
Praise God with the swaying of tall trees,
praise God with the singing of the sea.
Praise God, the one on whom we lean and do not fall;
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. **AMEN**

OR

You are God and we praise you,
you are the Lord and we acclaim you;
you are the eternal, all creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
cherubim and seraphim sing in endless praise,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise you, the
noble fellowship of prophets praise you, the
white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout
the world the holy Church acclaims you,
God of majesty unbounded;
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. **AMEN**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The minister may use one of the following:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sins to God.

OR

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

OR

Jesus said: "Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open ourselves to God's forgiving presence, and confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become ministers of grace for each other.

OR

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathise with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and find grace and help in the time of need. Let us confess our sins.

CONFESSION

The minister may use one of the following:

Merciful God, we confess that we have forgotten the purpose of being created in your image, to make *shalom* on the earth, in our respective places and in our responsibilities.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Gracious God, we confess that we have been the peace breakers instead of peace makers with our fellow human beings and with our brothers and sisters in our home, church and in society.

Forgive us, o Lord.

Saviour God, we confess that many times we did not live united together. We have discriminated ourselves from others in many ways, in the name of race, gender, colour, creed and caste. We have forgotten that you have come to this world to establish a just and egalitarian society; instead we have become the destroyers of peace, love and justice.

Together we ask for your forgiveness and mercy. Fill us with your grace and enable us to experience your forgiveness. AMEN

OR

Almighty God, we have turned away from you and our neighbour in fear, in shame and in arrogance. In turning away from the pale, downtrodden, weak and the weary we have spurned opportunities to encounter your countenance; and in turning away from your inviting presence at the depth of our being we have rejected the privilege of being set free for the fullness of our own life and the life of the world. We seek your forgiveness and healing. Give us your Spirit to be open to you in the world and to the world in you. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our model, friend and Saviour. AMEN

O Lord our God, You see us, examine us, understand us and offer us another chance to experience the depth of your pain and the vastness of your love. We have recollected things that we would rather forget and ignore. We are surrounded by images of violence, misery and pain. We have contributed to

this violence, misery and pain. We are truly sorry for what we have done, we regret situations where we could have intervened, but chose to look the other way, we are ashamed of our lack of self-control and our anger. We do not mean what we say and we do not practice what we proclaim. Look upon us with mercy, O Lord, and create a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us on the path of life and light. This we pray in the name of the one who loved us so much that he offered himself to the agony of the cross in order that we might live, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

OR

Thus says the Lord: "Look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. You indulge in unrighteousness and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my name, and say, We are safe, safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching!"

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Thus says the Lord: Your leaders judge for a bribe, your priests teach for a price, and your prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they lean upon the Lord and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No disaster will come upon us."

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

Thus says the Lord: You who rejoice over nothingness say, "Have we not done great things ourselves by our own strength?" And there is no upright person among you. All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; each of them hunts the other with a net. Their hands are skilled to do evil; the powerful dictate what they desire, they all conspire together.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

All: **Why have you forgotten us completely? Why have you forsaken us these many days? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old.**

ABSOLUTION

The minister may use one of the following:

Like rain falling gently on parched earth; like the wind blowing through a still forest, like a river flowing through a barren desert, God has poured out mercy, love and compassion on us all. Let us be assured that the Almighty God has granted us forgiveness for all our sins and has gifted us the companionship of

the Holy Spirit. "On this day the Lord has acted, we will rejoice and be glad in it." **AMEN**

OR

Thus says the Lord: He has told you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you. but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness O Lord!

OR

Hear the good news: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." In baptism you were buried with Christ. In baptism also you were raised to life with him through faith in the power of God who raised Christ from the dead. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **AMEN**

Hear the good news: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. May the God of mercy forgive you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, keep you in eternal life and give you peace. **AMEN**

THANKSGIVING

The minister may use one of the following:

Come let us praise God joyfully;

Let us come to the Lord with thanksgiving.

For the good world, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendours;

We thank you, Lord.

For human life, for all the joys, hardships and hopes shared; for the inspiration, challenges and encouragement it brings;

We thank you, Lord.

For our families, for the sacredness of love shared; for the mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;

We thank you, Lord.

For our children, for their energy, curiosity, and frankness; for the young, for their aspirations, and search for knowledge and freedom; for the aged, for their wisdom, and maturity;

We thank you, Lord.

For our health and preservation, for our work and the satisfaction; for our friends with whom we talk, think and move together; for your help in times of need, doubt and sorrow, bringing healing and wholeness;

We thank you, Lord.

For the Church into which we have been called; for the good news we received by word and sacrament; for our life together in the Lord, for the mission, which has been entrusted to us;

We thank you, Lord.

OR

Let us thank God:

For the church and for the good news of Jesus Christ which she proclaims;

We praise your name, O Lord

For the light of this good news declared unto every nation, tongue and people;

We praise your name, O Lord

You have redeemed us and called us with a high calling in Jesus Christ. You have given us the fellowship of your Spirit and enabled us to be as your Church in this land.

We praise your name, O Lord

In darkness you have been our light; in adversity and temptation, a rock of strength; in our joys, the very crown of joy; in our labours, all sufficient reward. For all your long suffering and the abundance of your grace;

We praise your name, O Lord

For the Church of South India, which you have called to be a movement towards unity of the churches and unity of all humankind;

We praise your name, O Lord

For the opportunities you have provided to each one of our Church members, to be partners in your mission.

We praise your name, O Lord

For the gift of the good news which challenges and transforms our social, economic, political and cultural structures and institutions;

We praise your name, O Lord.

OR

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the earth our home, and for the gift of life. We thank you for all your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that sustains us, your discipline that seeks to corrects us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that redeems us. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts; serve you and delight in doing your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

Let us praise and thank our God in gladness and humility for all great and simple joys

For all your gifts to us and to all your children:

We thank you, O Lord.

For health, recreation and refreshment:

We thank you, O Lord.

For the gift of wonder, and the joy of discovery, and for the constant newness of life:

We thank you, O Lord.

For all duties and trusts committed to us; for success in our endeavours for you, and for lessons learnt in failure:

We thank you, O Lord.

For children and the joy of innocence; for the sanctity of family life; for all that our friendships bring to us:

We thank you, O Lord.

For humble lives of service; for all who minister to our daily needs; for all who are responsible for our training; and for one another:

We thank you, O Lord.

For those whom we have known and loved, who have passed from this earthly fellowship and now rest in Christ; for the mercy of their life and example, and for the sure hope of meeting them hereafter:

We thank you, O Lord. AMEN

COLLECTS

The minister may use one or two of the following or the collect appointed for the day:

O God, our Master, we come to you, not because we are strong, but because we are weak; not because we have any merits of our own, but because we

need mercy and help. Give us grace always to seek your will, and accept your guidance; always to obey your word and walk in your paths of righteousness; to be pure in heart, that we may see you. Help us through your mercy and make our ignorance wise with your wisdom. Make our weakness strong with your strength, so that our brief life may be clothed with your eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

O God, our helper, we are helpless without your help. Unless you help us, we can see the ideal, but we cannot reach it; we can know the right, but we cannot do it; we can recognise our duty, but we cannot perform it; we can seek the truth, but we can never wholly find it. Help us to discern the difference between what we ought to do, and what in fact we can do. By your Holy Spirit, enlighten our minds, purify our hearts and strengthen our wills. O God, this day we rest our weakness in your strength and our insufficiency in your completeness. Take us, and do for us, what we cannot do; make us what we cannot be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

Gracious God, in you we live, have our existence, without you we are nothing. The people who turn towards you experience renewal, restoration and new life. In you we experience the joy of liberation, and you make us instruments of your mission. Give us a new vision, strengthen us and equip us so that we may be able to be the channels and instruments of your peace.

AMEN

OR

Our God, who is our salvation and consolation for evermore, send down upon us your Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, the spirit of grace to establish us in the faith, the spirit of prayer to keep us in communion with you, the spirit of power to strengthen us for the good fight, the spirit of peace and hope to preserve our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life eternal.

AMEN

For Evening Service

The minister may use one of the following or the collect appointed for the day:

Eternal and everlasting God, in the growing quietness of the evening and the deepening shadows of the night, grant us sleep and rest. With the stilling of the day's doings, and the end of coming and going about us, make us to be sleepy with heavy eyes and tired limbs. As your creatures are lying down in the wood, as the bird is quiet in its nest and the burrowing animal in its hole,

as the stream is still in its bed reflecting the great expanse of stars above, may we in our sleep reflect our confidence in you, and our assurance in your constant peace. In our sleep give us that deeper communion of our souls with you who restores us to health. For your name's sake. **AMEN**

OR

God our shepherd, you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm our souls, and refresh us with your peace. Keep us close to Christ and draw us closer to one another in the bonds of his wondrous love. We pray through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

Almighty and eternal God, in your divine mercy, you cover the earth with a curtain of darkness that all the weary may rest; grant to all people rest in you this night. Let your grace comfort and support all who are to spend it in sorrow, in anxiety or in affliction. We commend into your hands all our relations, friends and neighbours. Strengthen and confirm your faithful people, guide the perplexed, convert the wicked, arouse the careless, recover the fallen, relieve the sick, give peace to the dying, and remove all hindrances to the advancement of your truth, that your holy name may be glorified in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **AMEN**

OR

O God our Creator, by whose mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we give into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only these things which you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all for whom we have prayed, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson is read from the Old Testament

The Psalm or Psalms for the Day may be said or sung.

The Second Lesson is read from the New Testament

One of the Songs, from the Second Order may be said or sung. Or another hymn or lyric may be sung.

A children's address may be given here, or a sermon may be preached.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **AMEN**

OR

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **AMEN**

OR

We affirm our faith in one God -

source of all life, greater than all names and forms, source of our being, closer than any. Upon this one God we depend for all we are and for all that ever will be.

And we affirm our faith in Christ -

who has shown us the way to true life. By breaking the chain of human bondage, through his self-giving life and death and by his rising again, he has given us hope for a new humanity, hope for the healing of earth's life.

And we affirm our faith in the living Spirit of God -

through whom we awaken to God's purpose for the world, and share in the freedom, joy and peace of the children of God. For by his Spirit God's love has flooded our lives, shaping us into a community of forgiven and freely accepted brothers and sisters set apart for God's service, risen with Christ we share in his work for God's world of everlasting life, justice and peace. AMEN

OR

We believe in God who created all things out of love, who is great beyond our imagining and closer to us than breathing.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God with us, who came to this earth to share our lives, who lived, laughed and wept amongst us, and for our sake suffered and died that we might have life; through whom we are made daughters and sons of God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, empowering, strengthening and inspiring; through whom we are bound together and by whose grace we act for God in the world.

We believe in the one Church built on the redeeming love of God and seeking to serve God through witness and service, a Church which knows no boundaries of colour, caste or class, and which is called to be a force for change through communion with that same God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. AMEN

The announcements may be made, and a hymn may be sung.

If there is an offering of gifts, these may be collected either before the service begins, or now. One of the following offertory prayers and an appropriate prayer remembering those who have celebrated birthdays, marriage anniversaries and other happy occasions may be said.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, giver of all good gifts; receive and sanctify the offerings of your Church now offered to you. With this we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to you, dedicated to your service and pleasing to you. Accept and use us and these gifts for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Almighty and merciful God, all that is created is yours and everything that we can offer already belongs to you. Accept and use these offerings and us as it pleases you best. Through these offerings of praise we thank you for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting in your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

OR

What shall we return to the Lord for all his bounty to us? We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. By offering ourselves, teach us Lord to proclaim your salvation. Help us to serve you as you deserve; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to seek any reward; to give and not to count the cost, knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all God's benefits. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. Lord, you have given so much to us; help us to give ourselves to you; take our lives and let them be consecrated to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

INTERCESSION

(Here the minister prays briefly in his own words, mentioning special needs of the local church, the diocese or the Church in its wider fellowship or one of the following litanies may be used)

For all Christian churches throughout the world, that the love and peace shown in Christ Jesus may animate them and flow through them into the world, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, fill us with your power.

For all the people of different faiths and beliefs in the world, that they may be instruments of love, peace and unity among nations and a source of hope and strength for the suffering and oppressed, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, guide us.

For all those who have been marginalized in this world, those who have been deliberately and forcibly prevented from sharing in the goods of God's providence, that they may find hope and strength to transform God's creation, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, transform us.

For all the women of the world who have been made victims of unjust wages, overwork and various forms of harassment, that they may demand and attain the equality due to the children of God, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, comfort us.

For all those who are suffering from character assassination, psychological stress, painful and terminal illnesses, that they may find support and strength, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, heal us.

For all pastors and social workers, for those who study and teach theology, that their labours may be grounded in commitment to the unity of the churches, love of neighbour and concern for justice, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, encourage us.

For those areas of our world where conflict and warfare rage - especially - that those working for peace and justice may not lose heart, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, reconcile us.

For all martyrs, those who have laid down their lives for the sake of others and in a struggle for a new way of life in the service of peace, for those who have died due to indifference, apathy and corruption, that the dangerous memory of their deaths may inspire us to speak the truth in power, we pray:

Come, Spirit of love, inspire us.

To you, God, our parent, our source of life, we lift up these prayers and these hopes through him who has revealed the reality of divine love and the possibility of human love - Jesus our Lord, brother and friend. AMEN

OR

Let us pray for persons, communities and nations whose rights are being violated: those who are treated unjustly by legal systems, those who are denied freedom to express dissent, those who suffer from interference in their lives.

Heal us, O God, and give us hope.

Let us pray for those who are denied their national, ethnic, cultural or religious identity, those who are denied participation in decision making processes, those who are denied access to work, rest and leisure, adequate health care and education.

Heal us, O God, and give us hope.

Let us pray for those individuals, organisations, churches, and governments who challenge unjust structures and laws, advocate for those who are voiceless and those who have been silenced and offer relief, encouragement and hope to those who suffer.

Heal us, O God, and give us hope.

Let us pray for the minorities who are persecuted in different parts of the world and especially in our own country, that true healing might bring in genuine reconciliation and harmony.

Heal us, O God, and give us hope.

Let us pray for the healing of the nations, that enemies may be reconciled and barriers overcome, that the use of unjust force may cease and people live in peace.

Heal us, O God, and give us hope. AMEN

OR

Lord we remember the millions in our world who must go hungry today, all those who do not have even the basic necessities of life, and for whom life itself has become a burden.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord we remember all those who, because of their caste, creed or class, colour or sex, are exploited and marginalized; we recall the forces of oppression that trample on people and the unjust systems which break their spirit, and rob them of their rights and dignity.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, we bring before you the Churches and the Christian congregations around the world. Often we have remained silent, passing by on the other side; often we have been indifferent; often we have been part of the forces that destroy life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord we call to mind all authority that treats people as nobodies: military regimes and dictatorships, religious fundamentalists and extremists; we bring to mind lonely prisons and unjust laws, the war industry and political greed.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, we affirm with hope your presence in the world. You see the wounded and the broken and say, `these are my brothers and sisters.

Lord inspire us with your love, challenge us with your truth, empower us with your strength, to live for life in the midst of death. AMEN

OR

Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Send the wind and flame of your transforming life to lift up the church in this day. Give wisdom and faith that we may know the great hope to which we are called.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Giver of life, sustain our creation. Confront us with our greedy consuming of your gifts. Stand before us as we pillage and destroy. Call us forth into new harmonies of care for all that lives and breathes and has its being.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Spirit of truth, set us free to emerge as the children of God. Open our ears that we may hear the weeping of the world. Open our mouths that we may be a voice for the voiceless, open our eyes that we may see your vision of peace and justice. Make us alive with the courage and faith of your prophetic truth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Spirit of unity, reconcile your people. Give us the wisdom to hold to what we need to be your Church. Give us the grace to lay down those things that you can do without. Give us a vision of your breadth and length and height that will challenge our smallness of heart and bring us humbly together.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, transform and sanctify us as we take up this task in your name. Give us the gifts we need to be your Church in spirit and in truth.

Come, Holy Spirit. AMEN

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT *(Optional)*

The minister may use one of the following:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is discord, peace.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

May we ourselves seek not so much to be consoled, as to console:

To be understood, as to understand:

To be loved, as to love:

For it is in giving that we receive:

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned:

It is in dying that we are born to life eternal. AMEN

OR

Sisters and brothers, let us stand and affirm what we have discovered of God's will in the company of each other. That we worship one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in whose image we are made, to whose service we are summoned, by whose presence we are renewed.

This we believe.

That it is central to the mission of Christ to participate, by word and action, in the struggles of the poor for justice, to share justly the earth's land and resources, to rejoice in the diversity of human culture, to preserve human life in all its beauty and frailty, to witness to the love of God for all people of the earth, and to invite all to share in this experience.

This we believe.

That through the power of the Holy Spirit, the persecuted shall be lifted up and the wicked will fall, the hesitant prayers and hidden actions of God's people shall change the course of human history, the ancient words of the scripture shall startle us with fresh insight.

This we believe.

That God has called the church into being to be the servant of the kingdom, to be a sign of God's new order, to celebrate in the streets and fields of every land the liturgy of heaven.

This we believe.

That Christ, fully aware of our differences, prays that we might be one so that the world may believe.

This we believe, and to this we are committed for the love of God, in the way of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

OR

Deep in our hearts, the fire of justice burns; a vision of a world renewed through radical concern. As Christians we are called to set the captives free, to overthrow the evil powers and to end hypocrisy. This is our task today to build a world of peace; a world of justice, freedom, truth, where kindness will increase; a world free from hunger, a world where people share, where every person is of worth, and no one lives in fear. We take the step of faith, and leave the past behind and move into the future's world with open heart and mind. By grace we work with Christ as one community, to bring new hope and fuller life to all humanity. AMEN

OR

Lord, bless us and make us channels of your grace, keep us from yesterday's sins and from yesterday's failures and fears; grant that our hands may do for you true and honest service; direct our feet into the paths of holiness

and justice; may our tongues speak no evil, but may every word of ours have the savour of the gospel in it; stand with us when we meet other people; and in our solitude be our companion. Grant us this week to redeem the time and so to hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

BENEDICTION

The minister sends the people with a blessing; one of the following may be used:

Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. **AMEN**

OR

May the grace of God enfold you, love of Christ uphold you, and the Spirit of truth set you free. Go forward in faith. **AMEN**

OR

Go out into the world united and committed to ever be united. That in your unity, the brokenness of the world may be challenged. That in our unity you will proclaim the peace of oneness to all the world. God of the peace that surpasses all understanding is and will go with you. **AMEN**

OR

May the God of love who shared his love strengthen us in our love for others. May the Son who shared his life grant us grace that we might share our life. And may the Holy Spirit indwelling us empower us to be only and always for others. **AMEN**

OR

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all; **AMEN**

Closing hymn & Recession

A hymn or lyric may be sung and the ministers go out carrying with them the Bible, the gifts of the people.

The Minister then prays, people standing. Then says:

Minister: The Lord be with you
People: **And also with you**

Minister: Let us depart in peace
People: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

People may kneel, have silent prayer and quietly go out