

Liturgical Resources for Racial Justice Sunday

Contents

1. Introduction

2. Prayers and Additional Resources

Collect for Racial Justice Sunday

Additional Prayers

Prayers for use at a Eucharist

 Invitation to Confession

 Confession

 Kyrie Confession

 Gospel Acclamation

 Introduction to the Peace

 Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

 Preface

 Extended Preface

 Post Communion

 Blessing

Prayers of Intercession

Scripture

 Suggested Readings from Scripture

 Suggested Short Passages from Scripture

Act of Commitment to Racial Justice

Prayers for Racial Justice with the lighting of candles

3. Litanies for Racial Justice

 A Litany for Racial Justice

 A Litany of Repentance and Reconciliation

4. Services of the Word

 Morning Prayer (Contemporary)

 Evening Prayer (Contemporary)

5. Eucharist

6. Additional Materials

 School Assemblies/Collective Worship

 Bible Studies and Youth Resources

 Music Resources: Hymns and Worship Songs

 Other Resources: Annotated links

Liturgical Resources for Racial Justice Sunday

I. Introduction

“The central claim of Christianity is that Jesus offers full restoration of the image of God in humanity through his life, death and resurrection. To follow Christ, as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) implies a commitment to this quest for wholeness in humanity at personal and collective levels” (*From Lament to Action*, p.7).¹ Our worship of God draws together the personal and the collective. It is the place where, led by the Spirit, we are moved from lament to action, from repentance to healing and embrace, and where we gather around one table with all God’s children.

These resources are designed for use on Racial Justice Sunday. Racial Justice Sunday is an ecumenical observance which began in 1995 in Britain and Ireland. The catalyst for this observation was the murder of Stephen Lawrence, a Black teenager in South London, on 22 April 1993. In 2017, Racial Justice Sunday moved from September to the second Sunday of February.

Racial Justice Sunday is for all churches to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the gifts and beauty of human diversity, and to commit to end racism and acts of discrimination. It is, however, more than an annual reminder of the Church’s commitment to the task of anti-racism. In the words of Richard Reddie from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, this Sunday represents “a call for Christians to engage in the righteous struggle for racial justice because racial justice is everyone’s business”.²

The gospel calls all Christians continually to confront the idolatry of racism and the evils in our world and to proclaim justice and mercy as we seek to walk with our God (Micah 6:8). Our worship unites us to Christ, transforms us in Word and Sacrament, and sends us out into the world to uphold the dignity of all in Christ. Racism and racial discrimination are issues of justice because they deny basic human dignity to men and women made in God’s image. Wherever and whenever we treat another “as lesser, or other, our theology fails to celebrate the dramatic nature of our transformation as people who find their primary identity in Christ. In Christ, our differences are not simply erased but rather embraced, valuing the unique ways we each reflect the image of God” (*From Lament to Action*, p. 7–8).

The use of these resources and the worship and action they inspire may cause people be aware of their own vulnerability. There is a risk too that well-meaning worship leaders may unintentionally ‘other’ those whom they intend to serve. The use of these resources, and responses to the questions they may raise, should rely on the *Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together*. These principles were created as part of the Church of England’s *Living in Love and Faith* project. Designed for church communities to use to examine their life together, these principles “apply to all sorts of difference and diversity among God’s people.”³ The six pastoral principles call communities to:

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/FromLamentToAction-report.pdf>

² <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-13-february-2022/>

³ https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/COFE_03022_PastoralPrinciples_A5Booklet_fullweb.pdf and

- acknowledge prejudice
- speak into silence
- address ignorance
- name fear
- admit vulnerability
- pay attention to power
- commit to action.

Such principles help us learn and live together in difference and diversity. They confront the six 'pervading evils'—prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy, and power—which hinder our growth as Christians and stop our churches and communities from being places where all are truly welcome. Assuming that racism 'isn't our problem' derives directly from these evils and the Pastoral Principles are essential to help each and every Christian community and individual recognise them, confront them, lament, pray, and seek transformation of heart and of communities divided.

This is the second set of racial justice resources from the Church of England's Liturgical Commission Working Party on Racial Justice, the first being for Black History Month in October 2021. All of these resources will be collected together with additional material in one volume of liturgical resources for racial justice.

Liturgical resources cannot resolve and eradicate the sin of racism. But liturgy has the power to form and shape our values and attitudes and how we live our faith in every moment. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu reflected, "As much as the world has an instinct for evil and is a breeding ground for genocide, holocaust, slavery, racism, war, oppression, and injustice, the world has an even greater instinct for goodness, rebirth, mercy, beauty, truth, freedom and love." As we move in our worship from lament to action, from repentance to healing, may we be agents of God's goodness, rebirth, mercy, beauty, truth, freedom and love in our broken and hurting world.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/pastoral-advisory-group/pastoral-principles>

2. Prayers and Additional Resources

Collect for Racial Justice Sunday

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Additional Prayers

Prayer at the beginning of a meeting or Bible study

Ever present God,
you called us to be in relationship with one another
and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered.
In our community, we are many different people;
we come from many different places,
have many different cultures.
Open our hearts that we may be bold
in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us.
We pray in faith.

All Amen.

by the Revd Dr Martin Luther King Jr

O God,
you made us in your own image
and redeemed us through Jesus your Son.
Look with compassion on the whole human family,
take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts,
break down the walls that separate us,
unite us in bonds of love,
and, through our struggle and confusion,
work to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time,
all nations and peoples may live in harmony;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

*Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
'A prayer for the Human Family'*

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
you uphold the cause of the oppressed:
liberate those who are unjustly treated
and those imprisoned by their prejudices,
that there may be peace and goodwill among your people.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

O God of all nations,
you made all people in your own image:
open the eyes of our hearts,
that we may rejoice in the diversity among your children
and acknowledge the riches of your grace,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All Amen.

God of compassion,
who sent Jesus Christ
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions
to see your image in every person
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;
creating communities of human flourishing,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Almighty God,
you are love incarnate, fountain of mercy and justice:
in a world of inequity and pain,
may our actions be our prayer.
Let the river of justice and mercy flood our imperfect world,
quenching the thirst of parched souls and lands,
so that the world may have life in all its abundance,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All Amen.

*Adapted from the book Christian Aid book Rage & Hope:
75 Prayers for a Better World, Edited by Chine McDonald*

Prayers for use at a Eucharist

Invitation to Confession

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 8.22,23

Confession

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

Kyrie Confession

You made us to be one family,
yet we have divided humanity.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,
yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You rejoice in our differences,
yet we make them a cause of enmity.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

cf Matthew 4.4

All Alleluia.

Introduction to the Peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

(or)

God calls us to peace:

All in God's justice is our peace.

Christ calls us to be God's people:

All in Christ is our peace.

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

Preface

And now we give you thanks
that you are righteous and just,
and stir the hearts of your people
to be advocates of your justice
and instruments of your peace.

Extended Preface

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for you made us in your image
and redeemed us through your Son.
You taught us by your prophets
to work for that day when justice, mercy and peace will reign.
Let the day come quickly
when the walls that separate us are broken down,
and when suffering and oppression,

racism and discrimination will be no more.
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
keep us faithful in prayer and active in service,
until all your people rejoice with the angels in heaven, *saying*:

Post Communion

Blessed God,
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist,
to hunger and thirst for what is right;
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled;
help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven,
to strive for the cause of right
and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Blessing

The blessing of God the Father,
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;
of God the Son,
who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation;
and of God the Spirit,
who brings us together in unity,
be with you and remain with you always.

(or)

May God the Father bring us to the home
which his Son prepares for all who love him.

All Amen.

May God the Son give us the will to live for him each day in life eternal.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit give us the assurance
that our citizenship is in heaven with the blessed and beloved,
and the whole company of the redeemed.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: for [bishops] and for all ministers, lay and ordained, and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and courage to speak for those whose voices have been marginalised and to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: for peace and unity across barriers of language, colour, and creed, and for elected and appointed leaders, that they would work to free the oppressed and serve the common good. Inspire all people to speak out against hatred and actively to resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for this community: for our local leaders, our schools and markets, and our neighbours and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us a spirit of hospitality, especially towards those different from ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of mercy, we pray for those in any kind of need or trouble: for those who suffer from racial violence and prejudice; for those who are disadvantaged because of historic and ongoing structural injustice; for those who are lonely, and those who have been marginalised because of the colour of their skin. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit as we seek and serve Christ in all people.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of grace, we give thanks for those who have gone before us: for the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who have called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Holy God, hear our prayers and breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth. May barriers amongst us crumble and divisions cease. By your grace, may we share in your healing of our world that all may be united in bonds of love and trust, and live to the glory of your Name.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

(or)

God of all peoples, we pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination. Dispel the arrogance and animosity that shatter the unity of your Church and fill your faithful people with your truth and love.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world. Free us from division, disunity, and distrust in our common life. Awaken compassion and urgency in those in authority and give them a vision of your justice and peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of compassion, we pray for all who have lost hope. Pour your love on the lost, the least, and the suffering and bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness, and sorrow.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of eternity, we remember before you all who have died by acts of violence, war, and hatred, and honour the faithful in every generation who have worked tirelessly for justice and the equality of all peoples.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of love, we pray for ourselves. Awaken in us compassion and humility as we seek and serve Christ in all people. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation in our world and use us for the work of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Scripture

The following readings may be used at Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, Prayer During the Day, or Night Prayer; as part of a Prayer for the Day; or as part of a meeting, Bible study, or gathering.

Suggested Readings from Scripture

Genesis 12.1-7	The call of Abram; all the families of the earth shall be blessed
Leviticus 19.33-34	Love and do not oppress those who are aliens in your land
Isaiah 2.2-5	God will judge between nations; swords will be beaten into ploughshares
Isaiah 11.1-9	The shoot of Jesse brings peace and justice where none will hurt or destroy
Isaiah 58.1-14	God chooses to loose the bonds of injustice and to break every yoke
Micah 6.1-8	Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God
Amos 5.14-15; 21-24	Seek good, not evil; let justice roll down like waters
Psalm 85	Prayer for God's restoration
Psalm 89.46-52	How long, O Lord?
Psalm 103	The Lord works vindication and justice
Psalm 146.5-10	God executes justice for the oppressed
Matthew 5.1-12	The Beatitudes
Matthew 25.31-46	When did we see you hungry or thirsty, Lord?
Luke 4.16-21	The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
Romans 10.8-13	The Lord is Lord of all
2 Corinthians 5.16-6.10	God gives us the ministry of reconciliation
1 Peter 5.3-11	Be clothed with humility and stand in solidarity with the suffering

Suggested Short Passages of Scripture

You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.
Exodus 22.21

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 19.34

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe.
Deuteronomy 10.17

Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed.
Isaiah 1.16-17

But as for you, return to your God, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.
Hosea 12.6

Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?
Malachi 2.10

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Psalm 67.4

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

Romans 10.12

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12.21

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12.13

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Colossians 3.9-11

An Act of Commitment to Racial Justice

This Act of Commitment may be used as part of a Service of the Word, at the conclusion of a Eucharist, or as part of a meeting, Bible study, or gathering.

Dear people of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love and moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another. We are all called to the work and ministry of racial justice and reconciliation.

Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim the good news of reconciliation in both word and deed?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge and address the prejudices that keep you from loving all God's children?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, and value those with whom you disagree?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek to mend what is broken by human sin and greed?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to speak words that liberate and heal and break the bonds of silence?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek the perfect love which casts out all fear?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you work toward dismantling the sin of abuse of power?

All With the help of God, I will.

May almighty God empower *you* to continue his work of reconciliation, give *you* the courage to overcome fears and embody love, give *you* grace to grow in self-awareness and personal integrity, and strengthen *you* to seek the unity that is in Christ, that we may rejoice with all God's children as disciples of God's Son.

All Amen.

Prayers for Racial Justice with the lighting of candles

These Prayers for Racial Justice would work especially well in an all-age service, involving people from different generations in the lighting of candles and the prayers. They may also be used in a Eucharistic service, as indicated in Part 5 of these resources.

Introduction

Racial Justice Sunday has been observed by churches in Britain and Ireland since 1995 and aims to take deliberate action against racism in all its forms. As we pray, we give thanks to God for human diversity, we remember and lament all whose voices and stories are overlooked and marginalised because of race, and we encourage positive awareness and work to end racism, injustice, and ignorance.

A candle is lit

Let us light a candle to remember that God is love. There is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear. Let us celebrate the love that God has for all God's creation.

**All God of love,
you created all human beings in your image and likeness,
and you call on us to reflect
your goodness, justice, and love to all the world.
Remind us of our call to follow your Son
and to speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion.
As we come before you in prayer,
teach us to respect your image in all human beings,
and help us to defend your image in all human beings,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A candle is lit

Let us light a candle to give thanks to God for men and women in every generation who have contributed to the growth of this country even in the face of racism, discrimination, and oppression.

**All Gracious God,
We give you thanks for all who have built up this country
through their dedication, their witness and their faith in you.
We give you thanks for those who have inspired us
and challenged our way of life.
Grant us the power to be the people you want us to be
and to do what you want us to do,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A candle is lit

Let us light a candle to remember the ways we treat others based on the financial profit we can derive from them: the people who work in poor conditions and who are underpaid, the children who are forced to work and receive less than minimum wage, the migrant workers who are exploited.

**All Gracious God,
help us to regard all people as made in your image.
Create in us brave hearts
to acknowledge and address our prejudices.
Forgive the way we collude with silence
and imprison others in it.
Give us courage to speak words that liberate and heal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A candle is lit.

We light a candle of hope. Hope because God is still at work in our world. We believe that love is stronger than all the ills of the world. Racial injustice still exists in our world, and people *from different ethnicities* are still the recipients of racism and acts of discrimination. We are called to let the light of God's love shine in the world.

**All God of justice and compassion
let us commit ourselves to bear the light of the hope of our lives.
By the power of your Spirit,
you call us to be of one heart and mind
and to the work of lament and action.
From you comes power to give to others
the care we have ourselves received
so that we, and all who love your world,
may live in harmony and trust,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

2. Litanies for Racial Justice

One of the following Litanies may be used where other topical prayers are normally used at Morning or Evening Prayer (followed by the Collect, the Lord's Prayer, and the Grace), as part of a prayer meeting or Bible study, or in prayer with a PCC or leadership team.

A Litany for Racial Justice

Wise and loving God,
you have created a world rich with difference and diversity,
and you call all of your children to love one another as you have loved us.
We come to you in a spirit of penitence and faith.

All For all your gifts, we give you praise.

For historical acts of injustice and oppression
perpetuated against all those from minority ethnic groups,

All Forgive us, O God.

For the times we have failed to recognise racism
in ourselves, in our church, in our society,
and for the times we have recognised but failed to act,

All Forgive us, O God.

For complicity in systems of privilege and power
over those whose skin colour, culture, or creed
differ from our own,

All Forgive us, O God.

For courage to challenge racism in our midst,
to insist on equality of all persons and groups,
to stand up for ourselves when oppressed,
even at the risk of being unpopular or misunderstood,

All We beseech you, O God.

For patience to endure periods of non-action,
persistence to resist the evil of oppression,
and faithfulness to work toward racial justice
among your people in the church and the world:

All We beseech you, O God.

For humility and wisdom to discern
your Spirit in our midst,
to transform hearts and minds toward justice,

All We beseech you, O God.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*Adapted from Wehn-In Ng, from That All May Be One:
A Resource for Educating toward Racial Justice
(The United Church of Canada, 2004)*

A Litany of Repentance and Reconciliation

- From all pettiness and smallness of mind,
All Good Lord, deliver us.
- From every unkind remark and thoughtless word,
All Good Lord, deliver us.
- From shuttered eyes and hardened hearts,
All Good Lord, deliver us.
- Through the glorious diversity of creation,
All Lord, lead us to joy.
- Through the rich diversity of humanity,
All Lord, lead us to understanding.
- Through our desire to follow your Son
All Lord, lead us to peace and love.
- May the love of your Son so influence our relationships,
and direct all our actions,
that any evil that separates us from one another
may lose all power and significance
and be overcome by our oneness in you, O God.
- All Amen.**

4. Services of the Word

Morning Prayer (Contemporary)

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips.

All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let your justice roll down like a river, O God,

All and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

cf Amos 5.24

This canticle (of justice) may be said or another appropriate opening prayer, hymn or song.

1 God has taken his stand in the council of heaven; ♦
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:

2 'You were to judge the weak and the orphan, ♦
defend the right of the humble and needy;

3 Rescue the weak and the poor; ♦
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'

Psalm 82.1, 3-4

4 My very bones will say, 'Lord who is like you? ♦
You deliver the poor from those that are too strong for them,
the poor and needy from those who would despoil them.'

Psalm 35.10

5 The Lord shall endure for ever; ♦
he has made fast his throne for judgement.

6 For he shall rule the world with righteousness ♦
and govern the peoples with equity.

7 Then will the Lord be a refuge for the oppressed, ♦
a refuge in the time of trouble.

Psalm 9.7-9

8 Lord, you will hear the desire of the poor; ♦
you will incline your ear to the fullness of their heart,

9 To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, ♦
so that people are no longer driven in terror from the land.

Psalm 10.18-19

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody or the following psalm is said or sung

**All Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.**

- 1 O Lord my God, in you I take refuge; ♦
save me from all who pursue me, and deliver me,
- 2 Lest they rend me like a lion and tear me in pieces ♦
while there is no one to help me.
- 3 O Lord my God, if I have done these things: ♦
if there is any wickedness in my hands,
- 4 If I have repaid my friend with evil, ♦
or plundered my enemy without a cause,
- 5 Then let my enemy pursue me and overtake me, ♦
trample my life to the ground, and lay my honour in the dust.
- 6 Rise up, O Lord, in your wrath;
lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies. ♦
Awaken, my God, the judgement that you have commanded.
- 7 Let the assembly of the peoples gather round you; ♦
be seated high above them: O Lord, judge the nations.
- 8 Give judgement for me according to my righteousness, O Lord, ♦
and according to the innocence that is in me.
- 9 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,
but establish the righteous; ♦
for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.
- 10 God is my shield that is over me; ♦
he saves the true of heart.
- 11 God is a righteous judge; ♦
he is provoked all day long.
- 12 If they will not repent, God will whet his sword; ♦
he has bent his bow and made it ready.
- 13 He has prepared the weapons of death; ♦
he makes his arrows shafts of fire.

- 14 Behold those who are in labour with wickedness, ♦
who conceive evil and give birth to lies.
- 15 They dig a pit and make it deep ♦
and fall into the hole that they have made for others.
- 16 Their mischief rebounds on their own head; ♦
their violence falls on their own scalp.
- 17 I will give thanks to the Lord for his righteousness, ♦
and I will make music to the name of the Lord Most High.

Psalm 7

**All Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.**

Lord, your justice turns evil on itself:
move us to examine our hearts
and repent of all duplicity;
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and righteous Saviour.

If the psalm prayer is not used, the psalm may end with

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle. Readings may be taken from the lectionary or from the Scripture Readings in Additional Resources.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence

Ephraim herds the wind, and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a treaty with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.

The Lord has an indictment against Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways, and repay him according to his deeds. In the womb he tried to supplant his brother, and in his manhood he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed, he wept and sought his favour; he met him at Bethel, and there he spoke with him. The Lord the God of hosts, the Lord is his name! But as for you, return to your God, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.

A trader, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress. Ephraim has said, 'Ah, I am rich, I have gained wealth for myself; in all of my gain no offence has been found in me that would be sin.' I am the Lord your God from the land of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as on the days of the appointed festival.

I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets I will

bring destruction. In Gilead there is iniquity, they shall surely come to nothing. In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls, so their altars shall be like stone heaps on the furrows of the field. Jacob fled to the land of Aram; there Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep. By a prophet the Lord brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet he was guarded. Ephraim has given bitter offence, so his Lord will bring his crimes down on him and pay him back for his insults.

Hosea 12

Canticle

A Song of Anselm, or another suitable canticle, may follow

**All Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.**

- 1 Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; ♦
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
- 2 Often you weep over our sins and our pride, ♦
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
- 3 You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, ♦
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
- 4 Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; ♦
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
- 5 Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; ♦
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
- 6 Your warmth gives life to the dead, ♦
your touch makes sinners righteous.
- 7 Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; ♦
in your love and tenderness remake us.
- 8 In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, ♦
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

From Anselm of Canterbury

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.**

Scripture Reading

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in

us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17.18-23

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in these or other forms, may follow

A Song of God's Love

**All God's love was revealed among us
so that we might live through Jesus.**

- 1 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; ♦
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 2 Whoever does not love does not know God, ♦
for God is love.
- 3 In this the love of God was revealed among us, ♦
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.
- 4 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us, ♦
and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.
- 5 Beloved, since God loved us so much, ♦
we ought to love one another.
- 6 For if we love one another, God abides in us, ♦
and God's love will be perfected in us.

1 John 4.7-11, 12b

**All God's love was revealed among us
so that we might live through Jesus.**

(or)

The Lord gives you a new commandment,
All that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you,
All love one another.

Everyone will know that you are the Lord's disciples,
All if you love one another.

John 13.34-3

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said

**All You promised, O God, to give knowledge of salvation,
by the forgiveness of all our sins.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68–79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All You promised, O God, to give knowledge of salvation,
by the forgiveness of all our sins.**

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for repentance for the sin of racism and acts of discrimination*

¶ *for reconciliation and racial justice*

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
All Lord, graciously hear us.

Or this form may be used or a litany may be said in place of the prayers (see Part 3)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church. For [bishops] and for all ministers, lay and ordained, and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and courage to speak for those whose voices have been marginalised and to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world. For peace and unity across barriers of language, colour, and creed, and for elected and appointed leaders, that they would work to free the oppressed and serve the common good. Inspire all people to speak out against hatred and actively to resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for this community. For our local leaders, our schools and markets, and our neighbours and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us a spirit of hospitality, especially towards those different from ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

God of mercy, we pray for those in any kind of need or trouble. For those who suffer from racial violence and prejudice; for those who are disadvantaged because of historic and ongoing structural injustice; for those who are lonely, and those who have been marginalised because of the colour of their skin. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit as we seek and serve Christ in all people.

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

God of grace, we give thanks for those who have gone before us. For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who have called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Holy God, hear our prayers and breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth. May barriers amongst us crumble and divisions cease. By your grace, may we share in your healing of our world that all may be united in bonds of love and trust, and live to the glory of your Name.

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day, or one of the following is said

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

(or)

God of compassion,
who sent Jesus Christ
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions
to see your image in every person
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;
creating communities of human flourishing,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer (Contemporary)

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.
All O Lord, make haste to help us.

This canticle (of Ezekiel) may be said or another suitable opening prayer, hymn or song

- 1 I will take you from the nations, ♦
and gather you from all the countries.
- 2 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, ♦
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.
- 3 A new heart I will give you, ♦
and put a new spirit within you.
- 4 And I will remove from your body the heart of stone ♦
and give you a heart of flesh.
- 5 You shall be my people, ♦
and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36.24-26, 28b

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

This opening prayer may be said

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody or the following psalm is said or sung

All **Show us your mercy, O Lord.**

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

- 2 You forgave the offence of your people ♦
and covered all their sins.
- 3 You laid aside all your fury ♦
and turned from your wrathful indignation.
- 4 Restore us again, O God our Saviour, ♦
and let your anger cease from us.
- 5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? ♦
Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?
- 6 Will you not give us life again, ♦
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your mercy, O Lord, ♦
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

Psalm 85

All Show us your mercy and justice, O Lord.

*Most holy God,
when we come to you fearing that truth condemns us,
show us that truth is one with love
in your Word made flesh
our Saviour Jesus Christ.. Amen.*

If the psalm prayer is not used, the psalm may end with

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle. Readings may be taken from the lectionary or from the Scripture Readings in Additional Resources.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, 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?

Micah 6.1-8

Canticle

Saviour of the World, or another suitable canticle, may be said

All Hear our prayer and be with us always.

- 1 Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy: ♦
we look to you to save and help us.
- 2 By your cross and your life laid down, you set your people free: ♦
we look to you to save and help us.
- 3 When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples: ♦
we look to you to come to our help.
- 4 In the greatness of your mercy, look us from our chains, ♦
forgive the sins of all your people.
- 5 Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer; ♦
save and help us that we may praise you.
- 6 Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus: ♦
hear our prayer and be with us always.
- 7 And when you come in your glory: ♦
make us to be one with you and to share the life of your kingdom.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All **Hear our prayer
and be with us always.**

Scripture Reading

Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5.3-11

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

This is the fast that I choose:
All **to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free.**

To undo the bonds and break every yoke,
All **this is the fast that I choose.**

To share bread with the hungry and bring in the homeless,
All **this is the fast that I choose.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
All **This is the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free.**

Isaiah 58

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said, or A Song of the Blessed (CW Daily Prayer) may be said

All **You have scattered the proud in their conceit,
and lifted up the lowly.**

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46–55

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All **You have scattered the proud in their conceit,
and lifted up the lowly.**

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for repentance for the sin of racism and acts of discrimination*

¶ *for reconciliation and racial justice*

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Or this form may be used or a litany may be said in place of the prayers (see Part 3)

Let us pray to God, our heavenly Father.
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Sovereign Lord,
your Son has revealed you as our heavenly Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

You have made your Church a spiritual family,
a household of faith.
Through baptism we are reborn as the brothers and sisters of Christ.
Deepen our unity and fellowship in him.
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

You sent your Son to give his life
as a ransom for the whole human family.
Give justice, peace and racial harmony to the
world he died to save.
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son drew around him a company of friends.
Bring love and joy to all who are alone.
Help us all to find in the brothers and sisters of Christ
a loving family.
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

You are the God of the dead as well as of the living.
In confidence we remember those of the household of
faith who have gone before us.
Bring us with them to the joy of your home in heaven.
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day, or one of the following is said

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

(or)

O God of all nations,
you made all people in your own image:
open the eyes of our hearts,
that we may rejoice in the diversity among your children
and acknowledge the riches of your grace,
through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

5. Eucharist

The Gathering

At the entry of the ministers a hymn (suggestions in Part 6) may be sung.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

We stand before the throne of God with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.
All **Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Prayers of Penitence

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 8.22,23

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
All **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
All **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
All **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:
All **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Gloria in excelsis may be used

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading(s)

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

Alleluia, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

cf Matthew 4.4

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

On Sundays and Principal Holy Days an authorized translation of the Nicene Creed is used

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers for Racial Justice with the Lighting of Candles (see Part 2) may be used here. Or, this form may be used.

Almighty God, you command us through your Son Jesus Christ to love one another, to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of every human being. We

pray for ourselves, our church, and our world as we seek to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church. For [bishops] and for all ministers, lay and ordained, and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and courage to speak for those whose voices have been marginalised and to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world. For peace and unity across barriers of language, colour, and creed, and for elected and appointed leaders, that they would work to free the oppressed and serve the common good. Inspire all people to speak out against hatred and actively to resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for this community. For our local leaders, our schools and markets, and our neighbours and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us a spirit of hospitality, especially towards those different from ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of mercy, we pray for those in any kind of need or trouble. For those who suffer from racial violence and prejudice; for those who are disadvantaged because of historic and ongoing structural injustice; for those who are lonely, and those who have been marginalised due to the colour of their skin. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit as we seek and serve Christ in all people.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

God of grace, we give thanks for those who have gone before us. For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who have called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Holy God, hear our prayers and breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth. May barriers amongst us crumble and divisions cease. By your grace, may we share in your healing of our world that all may be united in bonds of love and trust, and live to the glory of your Name.

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers

**for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

(or)

God calls us to peace:

All in God's justice is our peace.

Christ calls us to be God's people:

All in Christ is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A hymn may be sung.

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

This prayer at the preparation of the table may be said.

The president takes the bread and wine.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,

so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer F)⁴

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and *saying*:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.]**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love

⁴ An alternative Eucharistic Prayer may be used. Proper Prefaces for Racial Justice Sunday to use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B, and E may be found in Part 2 of these resources.

made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with [N and] all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,

for ever and ever.
All Amen.

Silence is kept

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken

All Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The president and people receive communion.

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies **Amen**.*

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Blessed God,
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist,
to hunger and thirst for what is right;
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled;
help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven,
to strive for the cause of right
and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All may say

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

The Dismissal

A hymn may be sung.

An Act of Commitment for Racial Justice may be used here.

The president may use this, or another suitable blessing

The blessing of God the Father,
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;
of God the Son,
who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation;
and of God the Spirit,
who brings us together in unity,
be with you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

(or)

May God the Father bring us to the home
which his Son prepares for all who love him.

All Amen.

May God the Son give us the will to live for him each day in life eternal.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit give us the assurance
that our citizenship is in heaven with the blessed and beloved,
and the whole company of the redeemed.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

6. Additional Materials

School Assemblies/Collective Worship

Collective worship on Racial Injustice for Primary Schools

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/collective-worship-primary-schools-racial-injustice-s3e1>

Bible Studies and Youth Resources

Bible Studies: Tearfund's 'Guide to Help You Respond to Racial Injustice':

<https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/files/main-site/about-us/blm-guide.pdf> (p7-12)

Tearfund's 'Seeking Peace: Pilgrimage through God's word in God's world with

God's people' by René August: [https://learn.tearfund.org/-](https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/tools-and-guides/2018-the-warehouse-tearfund-seeking-peace-en-new.pdf)

[/media/learn/resources/tools-and-guides/2018-the-warehouse-tearfund-seeking-peace-en-new.pdf](https://learn.tearfund.org/-/media/learn/resources/tools-and-guides/2018-the-warehouse-tearfund-seeking-peace-en-new.pdf)

Music Resources: Hymns and Worship Songs

It's easy to surrender

It's easy to surrender to half-acknowledged fear,
to urges and emotions we sense are always there.
It's hard to let the Gospel then question what we feel,
restructuring commitments, transforming, keeping real.

It's deep within our nature to stand up for our own,
defend from threats and dangers, whatever we call 'home',
but surely Jesus challenged the limits we'd maintain,
for all, to Him, are fam'ly; our walls are built in vain.

Each age finds fresh excuses to speak of 'us' and 'them';
migrations, wars and famines come back, and back again,
yet, always, God of migrants, You summon us to care;
we much not limit welcome but learn to love and share.

So, now, whatever dangers or threats might multiply,
Great God, grant us the courage to follow You and try
to live out love that welcomes, finds friendship ev'rywhere;
to immigrate to kindness and never move from there.

Words: John Campbell

Tune: Wolvercote

https://urc.org.uk/images/LOS/200921_Fourteen_Racial_Justice_Songs.pdf

Our Legacies

When hist'ry makes it harder to be who we might be,
when long-ago oppressions still shape what we can see;
when deep-ingrained assumptions hold back, restrict, restrain,
then, Jesus, lead the struggle 'til all true freedom gain!

When blackness read thro' slav'ry corrupts the way we see,
imposing double standards, means black folk can't be free;
when whiteness sets what's 'normal', degrades all other lives,
then, Christ, our slave-like Saviour, bring justice that abides.

When borders serve injustice, restricting who can share
the wealth which some inherit, excluding others there;
when walls preventing fairness define who each may be
then, Christ, for us excluded, break borders 'til we're free.

Christ, lead us in addressing distorting legacies;
help us make reparations for deep injustices.
Your love is daily trampled if we decline to act'
help us remove injustice, turn fairness into fact.

*Words: John Campbell, adapted
Tune: Aurelia*

https://urc.org.uk/images/LOS/200921_Fourteen_Racial_Justice_Songs.pdf

Brother, sister, let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on a journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night-time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony

Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

Brother, sister, let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard
Tune: Servant Song
Common Praise

We have a dream

We have a dream: this nation will arise,
and truly live according to its creed,
that all are equal in their makers eyes,
and none shall suffer through another's greed

We have a dream that one day we shall see
a world of justice, truth and equity,
where sons of slaves and daughters of the free
will share the banquet of community.

We have a dream of deserts brought to flow'r,
once made infertile by oppression's heat,
when love and truth shall end oppressive pow'r,
and streams of righteousness and justice meet.

We have a dream; our children shall be free
from judgements based on colour or on race;
free to become whatever they may be,
of their own choosing in the light of grace.

We have a dream that truth will overcome
the fear and anger of our present day;
that black and white will share a common home,
and hand in hand will walk the pilgrim way.

We have a dream; each valley will be raised,
and ev'ry mountain, ev'ry hill brought down;
then shall creation echo perfect praise,
and share God's glory under freedom's crown!

Adapted by Michael Forster from a speech by Martin Luther King Jr

Tune: Woodlands

Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New 715

For the healing of the nations

For the healing of the nations
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Words: Fred Kaan

Tune: Picardy

Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New 186

Beauty for brokenness

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed

Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

*Words and Music: Graham Kendrick
Copyright 1993 Make Way Music
Anglican Hymns Old and New (Rev.) 67*

God of Justice

God of Justice, Saviour to all
Came to rescue the weak and the poor
Chose to serve and not be served

Jesus, You have called us
Freely we've received
Now freely we will give

We must go live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken
We must go
Stepping forward
Keep us from just singing
Move us into action
We must go

To act justly every day
Loving mercy in every way
Walking humbly before You, God

You have shown us
What You require
Freely we've received
Now freely we will give

We must go live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken
We must go
Stepping forward
Keep us from just singing
Move us into action
We must go

Fill us up, send us out
Fill us up, send us out
Fill us up, send us out Lord (x4)

Acting justly, loving mercy
We must go, we must go
To the broken and the hurting
We must go, we must go

We must go live to feed the hungry
Stand beside the broken
We must go
Stepping forward
Keep us from just singing
Move us into action
We must go

*Words and Music: Tim Hughes
Copyright: Thankyou Music*

Let Justice Roll

Forgive us Lord for passing by
When children cry for bread
Forbid it, Lord, the justice lie
In tatters, cold and dead
Outside these walls run desperate streets
Where greed is law and life is cheap
We bar the doors
Refuse to see
Or hear the words You said

*Let justice roll like a river
Like a river, let it roll (x2)*

Convict us, Lord, we dance and laugh
Ignoring those who weep
Correct us, Lord, our golden calf
Has lulled our hearts to sleep
The gap between the rich and poor
Grows ever wider, shore to shore
There's racial hate, religious war
Wolves among the sheep

*Let justice roll like a river
Like a river, let it roll (x4)*

Indwell us, Lord, and purify
Our hands to work for you
Enlist us, Lord, to serve nearby
And cross the waters too
Your image bearers on the earth
Will never know how much they're worth
Unless we love and help them first
Show the way to you

*Let justice roll like a river
Like a river, let it roll (x4)*

Let it roll (x4)

*Let justice roll like a river
Like a river, let it roll (x4)*

Lyrics: Bobby Gilles
Music: Rebecca Elliott
Copyright 2007 Sojourn Music

<https://mysonginthenight.com/wp-content/uploads/Let-Justice-Roll-UPDATED.pdf>

In Christ there is no East or West

Words: John Oxenham

Tune: Manchester

New English Hymnal 480

One bread, one body

Words and Music: John B. Foley

Ancient and Modern 46 I

My song is love unknown

Words: Samuel Crossman

Tune: Love Unknown

New English Hymnal 86

All people that on earth do dwell

Words: William Kethe

Tune: Old Hundredth

New English Hymnal 334a

O thou, who at thy Eucharist did pray

Words: William Turton

Tune: Song I by Orlando Gibbons

New English Hymnal 302

Khudaya rahem kar (Have mercy on us, Lord)

Goodness is stronger than evil

Inspired by love and anger

How can we stand together?

Words and Music: John Bell with Graham Maule

Copyright: The Wild Goose Worship Group, Iona Community

From Love and Anger: Songs of lively faith and social justice

Come to me

The Hand of God (Psalm 82)

Words and music: Wendell Kimborough

Ella's Song

Words and music: Sweet Honey in the Rock

Justice Will Roll Down

Words and music: Sandra McCracken

<https://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/108576256870/sandra-mccracken-justice-will-roll-down>

We are one in the Spirit (They'll know we are Christians)

Words: Peter Scholtes

Tune: St Brendan's

Put peace into each others hands

Words: Fred Kaan

Tune: St Columba

Anglican Hymns Old and New (Rev) 633

This we can do for justice and peace

Words: Brian Wren

Tune: Gaudium et Spes

Three dozen choir songs on justice

<https://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/164337933000/a-dozen-choir-songs-3-free-for-these-troubled>

Other Resources: Annotated links

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

<https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-13-february-2022/>

CTBI has a comprehensive 80-page resource here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/RJS-2022-edit.pdf>. It includes worship material, learning material on racial justice (history, bible study, theological reflection, reflection on public policy, testimony, practical action), and a race glossary

Churches Together in Cornwall

https://togethernetwork.org.uk/uploads/shared/RACIAL_JUSTICE_SUNDAY_TOOLKIT_1.pdf

Racial Justice Sunday Toolkit including ideas for children's work, sermons, prayers, and music

Baptists Together

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/310669/Racial_Justice_Issues.aspx

A Racial Justice Hub with numerous links to reflections, national justice sites, racial justice awareness, and blogs

United Reformed Church

<https://urcarchive.org.uk/our-work/global-and-intercultural.html>

2021 Racial Justice Sunday materials, including a liturgical toolkit and a sermon

Catholic Bishops' Conference

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/previous-events/days-of-prayer/racial-justice-sunday-2021/>

Racial Justice Sunday 2021 resources and reflections

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

<https://www.csan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Racial-Justice-Sunday-resources-booklet-2017-1.pdf>

Resources for Racial Justice Sunday in 2017, including prayers, sermon reflections, intercessions, and hymns

United Methodist Women

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/download-resources/racial-justice-tools-for-leaders.pdf>

A 120-page document on racial justice resources and tools for leaders, including numerous bible studies, sermon reflections, and hymn suggestions

Salvation Army for Social Justice

<https://salvosocialjustice.org/2016/06/27/justice-themed-song-list/amp/>

A list of worship songs relating to issues of justice. Other 'Ministry Resources' on this site include a 'Women of Justice' Bible study and three activities/reflections for children on issues of justice

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee against Racism

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>

Resources which include educational resources, bible studies, prayers, and stations of the cross