

# **Liturgical Resources for Black History Month**

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# Liturgical Resources for Black History Month

## I. Introduction

God and love—perfectly revealed to us in Jesus Christ—form the heart of our worship. Scripture teaches us that God alone is to be worshipped<sup>1</sup> and that the greatest commandment is to ‘love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind’ and to ‘love your neighbour as yourself’.<sup>2</sup> Worship’s very foundation is our love for God and for one another. We are sent out from our worship together to love and serve the Lord, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, and to be salt for the world.<sup>3</sup>

Our worship, our liturgy, is one of the most important actions we undertake as Christians. We express our love for God in and through our liturgy. Liturgy brings us closer to God and to one another, led by the Holy Spirit. Through liturgy we express our joys and sorrows, repentance and thankfulness, and gather around one table with all God’s children. Liturgy literally moves us from lament to action, from repentance to healing and embrace.

These resources, which are designed for use during Black History Month, are more than an annual reminder of the Church’s commitment to the task of anti-racism and the prevalence of the idolatry of racism that intentionally and unintentionally privileges certain peoples and groups over others. The following resources—which include Services of the Word, a Eucharistic service, Prayers of Lament and of Commission, and links to further resources for Bible studies, youth work, Messy Church, and music—are for all churches. The Church has immense formative power within the wider community and such power begins in our worship of God.

Racism is at root an issue of power, the limiting of the capacity of certain people and groups to act whilst privileging and promoting the capacity of others, solely on the grounds of racial characterisation. Our worship and the life of the Church are not free from these dynamics. These resources are an invitation to develop a constant awareness to such dynamics in our worship and the life of the Church, nourished by and borne out of the constant focus of true worship. At the heart of this invitation is an intentional focus on and attention to God and God’s will for all people: life in all its fullness according to the image of God in which all are created.<sup>4</sup>

Genesis 1.27 states ‘So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them...’ When we apply this simple yet powerful verse to our everyday lives, it means that each one of us is made in God’s image. We are all loved by God, who wants us all to grow

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<sup>1</sup> Exod 34.14; 1 Sam 7.3; Matt 4.10; Luke 4.8 cf. Exod 23.24; Deut 5.9; 6.13; 8.19; 11.16; 30.17; 1 Cor 10.14

<sup>2</sup> Matt 22.37–40

<sup>3</sup> *Times and Seasons*, 2006; p.3.

<sup>4</sup> Gen 1.26–27; John 10.10.

and flourish. As Jesus is clear, *'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'*<sup>5</sup> God does not distinguish between us based on the colour of our skin or the country in which we are born, yet today we live in a society that is fractured by the differential treatment of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups. Racism denies the reconciling work of Jesus Christ that was achieved for all people. Racism denies our common humanity in creation and our belief that all are made in God's image.

With a presence in every community and in people's key life events, the Church can play a key role in helping raise the importance of diversity within our congregations and our wider society. We as the gathered people of God might be different one from another but through our liturgy and communion in Christ, we can become one community and an example to others of what is possible when we truly and equally value all God's people.

As the fourth Mark of Mission reminds us, we are called *'To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation'*.<sup>6</sup> Far from being a mere act of individual piety or internalized spirituality, liturgy invites the faithful to experience what a real community is in church and to live it out in the world.

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*:

- acknowledge prejudice
- speak into silence
- address ignorance
- name fear
- admit vulnerability
- pay attention to power
- commit to action.<sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>5</sup> John 10.10

<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/MTAG The 5 Marks Of Mission.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/MTAG%20The%205%20Marks%20Of%20Mission.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/COFE\\_03022\\_PastoralPrinciples\\_A5Booklet\\_fullweb.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/COFE_03022_PastoralPrinciples_A5Booklet_fullweb.pdf) and <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/pastoral-advisory-group/pastoral-principles>

and individual recognise them, confront them, lament, pray, and seek transformation of heart and of communities divided.

*For some, these resources might not extend as far as hoped in their challenge and scope. This is only the first set of resources and liturgical materials for Racial Justice and Racial Justice Sunday are forthcoming.*

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 out our faith in every moment. Gathering together around Word and Sacrament, we are reminded time and again that we are called to be agents of transformation in this broken world.

# Liturgical Resources for Black History Month

## 2. Prayers and Additional Resources

### Suggested Collects for Black History Month

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God 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 is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter  
by sending us your Holy Spirit,  
and made known to every race and nation the way of eternal life;  
open our lips by your Spirit,  
that every tongue may tell of your glory,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Eternal God,  
in whose perfect realm  
no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness,  
and no strength known but the strength of love:  
so guide and inspire the work of those who seek your kingdom  
that all your people may find their security  
in that love which casts out fear  
and in the fellowship revealed to us  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,  
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,  
eternal power, be our support,  
eternal wisdom, scatter our ignorance,  
eternal pity, have mercy upon us;  
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength  
we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy  
to your holy presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
lives and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

God of all peoples, whose Son reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, help us to break down the barriers in our communities, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination, and we seek your protection for those affected in our churches, our schools, our places of work and our communities.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in our world, of whatever race, who suffer the horrors of modern slavery. Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed. We pray for all working to combat modern slavery and to end human trafficking: for governments and agencies, for Church and other faith leaders, for businesses, charities and individuals.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves. May we be voices against oppression and channels of the transforming power of the gospel. Open our hearts to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight. Help us to work for a world where human beings are valued, where no one is enslaved, and no one used against their will for another's pleasure or need.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray that we may know the power of reconciliation. Wherever there is division between us and others, because of our race or ethnicity, we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation. We pray for all who work to bring communities together in ways that are just and equal for all.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

As we pray for reconciliation, we pray also for restoration. We pray for those whose spirits and communities have been weighed down by racism. Guide us as we strive to ensure everyone has equal dignity.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

## Prayers of Lament

God of all, we confess that we have inherited a faith that was used to justify the theft of native lands and the enslavement of your people.

From this sin, we ask for deliverance.

**All Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,  
and in your mercy, set us free.**

Touch hearts that have been shrivelled by generations of suppressed empathy,  
and eyes that have lost the ability to see brothers and sisters  
who suffer from systemic injustice.

**All Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,  
and in your mercy, set us free.**

Grant us courage to renounce the false teaching that we can somehow know you  
without being committed to justice for all people.

**All Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,  
and in your mercy, set us free.**

In your mercy, help us mourn the divisions among the body of your Son,  
and work for healing in the places where we gather to worship you.

**All Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,  
and in your mercy, set us free.**

As we name and unlearn the habits of racism, discrimination, and prejudice,  
give us grace to draw deeply from the witness of the movements  
that have always resisted injustice in the power of your Spirit.

**All Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,  
and in your mercy, set us free.**

We pray with thanksgiving for the prophetic leaders who guide,  
challenge and inspire us today.

Give us grace to follow them to freedom.

**All Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord,  
and in your mercy, set us free.**



## Scripture

### Suggested Readings from Scripture

|                    |                                                                     |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genesis 9.8–17     | God establishes God's covenant with every living creature           |
| 1 Samuel 16.7      | People look at outward appearance, God looks at the heart           |
| Isaiah 32.16–end   | The promise of God's justice                                        |
| Isaiah 61          | I, the Lord, love justice                                           |
| Micah 6.8          | Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God                     |
| Amos 5.21–24       | Let justice roll down like waters                                   |
| Psalm 10           | Prayer for deliverance                                              |
| Psalm 31.21–24     | Strength for those who wait for the Lord                            |
| Psalm 85.1–7       | Prayer for God's restoration                                        |
| Psalm 86.1–7       | Supplication for help in time of trouble                            |
| Psalm 89.46–52     | How long, O Lord?                                                   |
| Psalm 103          | The Lord works vindication and justice                              |
| Psalm 107.4–15     | God's steadfast love in times of distress                           |
| Psalm 142.1–7      | Prayer for deliverance from persecutors                             |
| Psalm 146.5–10     | God executes justice for the oppressed                              |
| Matthew 5.1–12     | The Beatitudes                                                      |
| Luke 4.16–21       | The Spirit of the Lord is upon me                                   |
| Luke 10.25–37      | Parable of the Good Samaritan; who is my neighbour?                 |
| Luke 12.1–7        | Beware of hypocrisy; you are of more value than many sparrows       |
| John 13.33–35      | Love one another as I have loved you                                |
| Acts 10.34–35      | God does not show favouritism                                       |
| Romans 8.18–25     | Creation itself is groaning; in hope we are saved                   |
| Romans 10.8–13     | The Lord is Lord of all                                             |
| Galatians 3.26–29  | All are one in Christ                                               |
| Philippians 2.3–4  | In humility look to the interests of others                         |
| Colossians 3.12–15 | Bear with one another and seek forgiveness                          |
| Ephesians 6.12–15  | Take up the armour of God against spiritual forces of evil          |
| Hebrews 13.1–3     | Mutual love and hospitality                                         |
| James 2.1–4:       | We have discriminated and judged                                    |
| James 2.8–9        | Love your neighbour and show no partiality                          |
| 1 Peter 5.3–11     | Be clothed with humility and stand in solidarity with the suffering |
| 1 John 4.19–21     | One cannot love God but hate a brother or sister                    |
| Revelation 7.9     | The great multitude before the Lamb                                 |

### Suggested Short Passages of Scripture

But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'

*1 Samuel 16.7*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners

*Isaiah 61.1*

[The Lord] 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 6.8*

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*Amos 5.24*

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

*Luke 4.18–19*

‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

*John 13.34–35*

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.’

*Acts 10.34–35*

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

*Galatians 3.26–29*

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

*Philippians 2.3–4*

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

*Hebrews 13.1–3*

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

*James 2.8–9*

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

*Revelation 7.9*

## **Suggested Canticles in Daily Prayer**

Canticles from *Common Worship* may include

*A Song of Penitence*  
*A Song of Deliverance*  
*A Song of Lamentation*  
*A Song of Ezekiel*  
*A Song of Anselm*  
*Saviour of the World*

## **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 social 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 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

### Introduction<sup>8</sup>

Black History Month has been observed since 1987 and it aims to celebrate and honour the contributions and struggles of people of African and Caribbean heritage have made to British and global society. We want to lament and remember the black voices and stories which were overlooked and marginalised and we want to encourage positive awareness about Black History.

#### *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.  
Bearing your image,  
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 Black men and women in every generation who have contributed to the growth of this country.

**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*

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<sup>8</sup> This part of the service would work especially well in an all-age service, involving people from different generations in the lighting of candles and the prayers.

Let us light a candle to remember those who have been affected by the transatlantic enslavement of African peoples and all who today are affected by slavery and its legacy.

Let us pause to remember those who have been enslaved. We recall that for over 400 years, more than 15 million people were the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. During this time human beings made in the image of God were bought and sold, treated as property, and considered less than human.

Let us pause to remember the ways we continue in our world to treat others based on the financial profit we can derive from them: the persons 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.

Slavery still exists today. We remember the women who have been sold into slavery for prostitution. We remember the children who are sold into slavery left vulnerable by poverty. We remember persons who are enslaved because of their addictions.

**All Gracious God,  
help us to regard all persons 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. The legacies of slavery still exist in our world, and persons *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.**

### 3. Services of the Word

#### Morning Prayer (Contemporary)

#### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips.  
**All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, ♦  
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; ♦  
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; ♦  
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, ♦  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, ♦  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer ♦  
and listen to the voice of my supplication.
- 7 In the day of my distress I will call upon you, ♦  
for you will answer me.

*Psalm 86.1–7*

**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    You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.**

- 1    I cry aloud to the Lord; ♦  
     to the Lord I make my supplication.
- 2    I pour out my complaint before him ♦  
     and tell him of my trouble.
- 3    When my spirit faints within me, you know my path; ♦  
     in the way wherein I walk have they laid a snare for me.
- 4    I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me; ♦  
     I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul.
- 5    I cry out to you, O Lord, and say: ♦  
     ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.
- 6 ‘Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low; ♦  
     save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.
- 7 ‘Bring my soul out of prison,  
     that I may give thanks to your name; ♦  
     when you have dealt bountifully with me,  
     then shall the righteous gather around me.’

*Psalm 142.5–10*

**All    You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.**

*Each psalm or group of psalms 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**

*A Song of David, or another suitable canticle, may follow*

**All Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.**

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, ♦  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; ♦  
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you ♦  
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might; ♦  
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God, ♦  
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you, ♦  
and of your own have we given you.

*1 Chronicles 29.10b–13, 14b*

**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 Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.**

### **Scripture Reading**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made

distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

*James 2.1–9*

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

See what love the Father has given us,  
**All that we should be called the children of God.**

You are my sons and daughters,  
this day I have begotten you.  
**All See what love the Father has given us.**

As many as received him,  
to them he gave power to become the children of God.  
**All See what love the Father has given us.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**All See what love the Father has given us,  
that we should be called the children of God.**

### **Gospel Cantic**

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said*

**All You promised, O God, to save us from our enemies,  
from the hand of all that hate us.**

- 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 save us from our enemies,  
from the hand of all that hate us.**

## **Prayers**

*Thanksgiving may be made for the day.*

*Intercessions are offered*

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

¶ *for reconciliation and racial justice*

¶ *for this Black History Month*

*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.*

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 all victims of slavery. Set us free from enslavement to 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 pray for all who have died by acts of violence, war, and hatred and for the faithful in every generation who have worked 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 persons. 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.**

*Silence may be kept.*

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

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

*(or)*

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God 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 is alive 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.**

## Prayer During the Day

### Preparation

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

### Praise

*This Song of Lamentation may be said or another appropriate opening prayer, hymn or song.*

**All Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.**

- 1 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? ♦  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
- 2 Which was brought upon me, ♦  
which the Lord inflicted  
on the day of his fierce anger.
- 3 For these things I weep;  
my eyes flow with tears; ♦  
for a comforter is far from me,  
one to revive my courage.
- 4 Remember my affliction and my bitterness, ♦  
the wormwood and the gall!
- 5 But this I call to mind, ♦  
and therefore I have hope:
- 6 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, ♦  
his mercies never come to an end;
- 7 They are new every morning; ♦  
great is your faithfulness.
- 8 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, ♦  
'therefore I will hope in him.'
- 9 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, ♦  
to the soul that seeks him.
- 10 It is good that we should wait quietly ♦  
for the salvation of the Lord.
- 11 For the Lord will not reject for ever; ♦  
though he causes grief, he will have compassion,
- 12 According to the abundance of his steadfast love; ♦  
for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Lamentations 1.12, 16a,b; 3.19,21-26,31-33*

**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 Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.**

## **Psalmody**

*The appointed psalmody or the following psalm is said or sung*

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, ♦  
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; ♦  
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; ♦  
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, ♦  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, ♦  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer ♦  
and listen to the voice of my supplication.
- 7 In the day of my distress I will call upon you, ♦  
for you will answer me.

*Psalm 86.1–7*

*The psalm or group of psalms 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.**

## **Short Reading**

*One of the readings suggested below or found in Prayers and Additional Resources is read*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners

*Isaiah 61.1*

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*Amos 5.24*

‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

*John 13.34–35*

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

*Philippians 2.3–4*

## Response

*Silence, study, song, or words from Scripture, such as*

- Cast your burden upon the Lord:  
**All he will sustain you.**
- Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**All renew a right spirit within us.**
- Cast us not away from your presence;  
**All take not your Holy Spirit from us.**
- Give us the joy of your saving help;  
**All sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**
- Blessed be the Lord day by day:  
**All the God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.**

## Prayers

*One of these forms may be used.*

- We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**
- Generous God, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**
- We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**
- We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to keep us confident of your love, wherever you call us.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**
- We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness  
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**
- We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**
- We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.  
Lord, come to bless us.  
**All Fill us with your Spirit.**



We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit,  
given by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church,  
living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us.

**All Fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the River Jordan,  
and upon the disciples in the upper room.

In your mercy fill us with your Spirit.

**All Hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.  
Amen.**

(or)

We pray to the Lord.

In faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

That the rest of this day may be holy, peaceful  
and full of your presence:

in faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

That the work we have done  
and the people we meet today  
may bring us closer to you:

in faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

That we may hear and respond to your call  
to peace and justice,  
and challenge prejudice and discrimination in our world:  
in faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

That we may resist the urge  
to protect ourselves at the expense of others:  
in faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

That you will sustain the faith and hope  
of those who are lonely, oppressed and anxious:  
in faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

That you will strengthen us in your service,  
and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom:  
in faith we pray.

**All We pray to you, our God.**

**All** God of mercy,  
**you know us and love us**  
**and hear our prayer:**  
**keep us in the eternal fellowship of**  
**Jesus Christ our Saviour.**  
**Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Collect of the Day, or one of the following is said*

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

*(or)*

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God 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 is alive 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**

May God bless the work of our hands.  
**All Amen.**

## Evening Prayer (Contemporary)

### Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

**All** O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults ♦  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned ♦  
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence ♦  
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 Cast me not away from your presence ♦  
and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 7 Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦  
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 8 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked ♦  
and sinners shall return to you.
- 9 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,  
the God of my salvation, ♦  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

*Psalms 51.1–5, 12–15*

**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.**

**Psalmody**

*The appointed psalmody or the following psalm is said or sung*

*Refrain:*

**All     The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**

- 1    Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦  
      and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2    Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦  
      and forget not all his benefits;
- 3    Who forgives all your sins ♦  
      and heals all your infirmities;
- 4    Who redeems your life from the Pit ♦  
      and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5    Who satisfies you with good things, ♦  
      so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's. [R]
- 6    The Lord executes righteousness ♦  
      and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7    He made his ways known to Moses ♦  
      and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8    The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ♦  
      slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9    He will not always accuse us, ♦  
      neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10   He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ♦  
      nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. [R]
- 11   For as the heavens are high above the earth, ♦  
      so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
- 12   As far as the east is from the west, ♦  
      so far has he set our sins from us.
- 13   As a father has compassion on his children, ♦  
      so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him. [R]
- 14   For he knows of what we are made; ♦  
      he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15   Our days are but as grass; ♦  
      we flourish as a flower of the field;
- 16   For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, ♦  
      and its place shall know it no more.
- 17   But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old  
      and endures for ever on those who fear him, ♦  
      and his righteousness on children's children;

- 18 On those who keep his covenant ♦  
and remember his commandments to do them. [R]
- 19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, ♦  
and his kingdom has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, ♦  
you mighty ones who do his bidding  
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, ♦  
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion; ♦  
bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103

*Refrain:*

**All The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**

*Merciful Lord,  
as we come from dust and return to dust,  
show us the face of our Redeemer,  
that in our frailty we may bless your name  
and praise you all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Isaiah 61*

### **Canticle**

*A Song of the Justified, or another suitable canticle, may be said*

*Refrain:*

**All     Our hope is not in vain,  
          because God's love has been poured into our hearts.**

- 1    God reckons as righteous those who believe, ♦  
      who believe in him who raised Jesus from the dead;
- 2    For Christ was handed over to death for our sins, ♦  
      and raised to life for our justification.
- 3    Since we are justified by faith, ♦  
      we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4    Through Christ we have gained access  
      to the grace in which we stand, ♦  
      and rejoice in our hope of the glory of God.
- 5    We even exult in our sufferings, ♦  
      for suffering produces endurance,
- 6    And endurance brings hope, ♦  
      and our hope is not in vain,
- 7    Because God's love has been poured into our hearts, ♦  
      through the Holy Spirit, given to us.
- 8    God proves his love for us: ♦  
      while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
- 9    Since we have been justified by his death, ♦  
      how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath.
- 10   Therefore, we exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ♦  
      in whom we have now received our reconciliation.

*Romans 4.24, 25; 5.1–5, 8, 9, 11*

**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     Our hope is not in vain,  
          because God's love has been poured into our hearts.**

## Scripture Reading

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Revelation 7.9–17

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

**All** A thousand years in God's sight are like a single day:  
**like an evening that has already gone.**

**All** Christ is the first and the last,  
**the beginning and the end.**

**All** You hold the key to God's way of justice.  
**Open to us your kingdom of peace.**

## Gospel Cantic

*The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said, or Saviour of the World (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 repentance for the sin of racism*

*¶ for reconciliation and racial justice*

*¶ for this Black History Month*

*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.*

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*

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

*(or)*

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God 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 is alive 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.**

## Night Prayer (Compline)

### Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**All Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**All who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

*The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

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.**

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace,  
and nourish *you* with his blessing;  
the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil;  
the Lord accept *your* prayers,  
and absolve *you* from *your* offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**All Amen.**

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

**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.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be sung*

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And a symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground,  
Where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.

*Marty Haugen*

## **The Word of God**

### **Psalmody**

*One or both of the following psalms may be used.*

#### **Psalm 13**

- 1 How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever? ♦  
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I have anguish in my soul  
and grief in my heart, day after day? ♦  
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God; ♦  
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him,' ♦  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your steadfast love; ♦  
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the Lord, ♦  
for he has dealt so bountifully with me.

## Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦  
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦  
give you blessing out of Zion.

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung*

**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

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read*

But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'

*1 Samuel 16.7*

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

*Luke 4.18–19*

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

*Galatians 3.26–29*

*The following responsory may be said*

- Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**All    Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**
- For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**All    I commend my spirit.**
- Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**All    Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**
- Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of your eye.  
**All    Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## Gospel Canticle

*The Nunc dimittis (the Song of Simeon) is said or sung*

**All** Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations ♦  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29–32

**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** Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5.24

## Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

## The Collect

*The Collect of the Day or one of the Suggested Collects for Black History Month is said.*

**All** Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer may be said.*

**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)

**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** In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

**All** Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

**All** As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

**All** [Come with the dawning of the day  
**and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]**

**All** May Christ, who makes saints of sinners,  
who has transformed those we remember today,  
raise and strengthen us that we may transform the world.  
**Amen.**



## 4. Eucharist

### The Gathering

*At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.*

#### The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

**All** We meet in the presence of God  
**who knows our needs,**  
**hears our cries,**  
**feels our pain,**  
**and heals our wounds.**

#### Prayer of Preparation

**All** Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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,

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,  
this is your world and we are your people:  
come among us and save us.  
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.**

*The president says*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*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.*

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

**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.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

*cf I Peter 1.25*

**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 Additional Resources) 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.*

We pray for our world. Give your guidance and wisdom to all peacemakers, leaders, and all who promote nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a swift and peaceful end to all violence and conflict in our world, that all your people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only you can give.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our communities, our country and the world. Help us to respect all people as your precious children and banish racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are most vulnerable in our world and for an end to the growing disparity between rich and poor and between peoples because of racial identity. Give us the grace and courage to strive for economic and racial justice and all that builds walls between your people.

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church and for the reconciliation of all people. Forgive our failure to admit our hypocrisy in how we treat one another, forgive us when our disparities of power undermine trust, and shape our lives with humility and mutual respect that we may be an instrument of your healing love.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, and suffering in mind, body or spirit. Help us not to be indifferent to the pain and suffering of others. May all who suffer know the healing power of your presence, your love, and your peace.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and 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.**

We pray for ourselves and help us to make your ways known among all people. In the passion of protest and reform, give us open and receptive spirits. In the complexities of the issues we face, give us courageous hearts. Accept and fulfil our petitions, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

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.*

Wise and gracious God,  
you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life  
and the bread of heaven.  
**All Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

The Lord is here.  
**All His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For though the human race  
is divided by dissention and discord,  
Christ calls us in his death and resurrection  
to embody hearts of change  
and his work of reconciliation.  
By your Spirit you give courage to overcome fears  
and to seek the unity of all.  
By the working of your power,  
hatred is overcome by love,  
revenge gives way to forgiveness,  
and division is transformed by mutual respect and humility.  
Therefore, we give you ceaseless thanks,  
and join with choirs of angels  
and with all the heavenly host,  
to proclaim your glory  
in their unending song of praise:

**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.]**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:  
**All Lord, by your cross resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [N and ] all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving 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*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
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.**

## Additional Materials

### School Assemblies

The Importance of Black History Month for KS3 and KS4:

[https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/importance-black-history-month?tab=assembly\\_plan](https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/importance-black-history-month?tab=assembly_plan)

Black History Month Assembly for KS2: <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/black-history-month-assembly-6321946>

Black History Month Teacher Resources from the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/black-history-month-primary-and-secondary-resources/zjwf8xs>

Black History Month Assembly for KS1 and KS2: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-h-5075-black-history-month-assembly>  
and <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-h-5079-black-history-month-assembly-script-and-powerpoint-pack>

### Messy Church

Identity and Community (free):

[https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/Messy\\_Church\\_Real\\_me\\_session.pdf](https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/Messy_Church_Real_me_session.pdf)

Philemon and Slavery (free):

[https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Authorisedmess\\_philemon.pdf](https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Authorisedmess_philemon.pdf)

### 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/-/media/learn/resources/tools-and-guides/2018-the-warehouse-tearfund-seeking-peace-en-new.pdf>

Youth Programme: Wonderful Youth 'No Outsiders': Five Biblical sessions created for Black History Month to empower young people between the ages of 13 and 16 to become 'The best that you can be': <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/WonderfulYouth2019.pdf>

### Music Resources

For a database of hymns, choral music, and composers: <https://www.composerdiversity.com/>

## **Art and Poetry Resources**

### **Art**

Thomas Blackshear, 'Forgiven'  
Engelbert Myeng, Mural for Holy Angels Catholic Church  
Lamidi Olonade Fakeye, 'The Yoruba Transfiguration'  
Lorna May Wadsworth, 'A Last Supper'  
Akili Ron Anderson, Altarpiece  
Sarah Jenkins, 'The Last Supper'  
Kevin 'WAK' Williams, 'Daily Prayer'  
The Black Madonna of Częstochowa, Poland

See also: <https://www.blackartdepot.com/>

### **Poetry**

Maya Angelou, 'Solidarity'  
Ayesha Williams, 'A poem for Black History Month'  
Danya Francis, 'Black and British?'