

Christian Unity Week 2018

Liturgy Leader's Guide

There are two Order of Service Options

(Adapt as you wish. Involve as many speakers as you can)

Welcome and introduction

Invite people to greet one another (even to go and sit beside someone from another church)

Opening Hymn

'Spirit God of All Creation' OR 'All Creatures of our God and King'

The Grace of our Lord..... and with your spirit.

Prayers of Reconciliation

TEXT ATTACHED

As we begin our time of prayer we take a moments silence to acknowledge our need of forgiveness and healing. For the times, as Christians we have failed to love and live as Christ calls us we acknowledge our need of God's grace and Mercy.

Response said or sung: Kyrie eleison/ Lord have Mercy with the intercessions between.

At conclusion of the reconciliation Prayers the Leader prays:

Have mercy on us O God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out our offenses. Amen

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Leader: Dear Friends, let us pray as we gather for this service of prayer for unity, mindful of our Christian heritage and God's liberating and saving action in human history that the Holy Spirit may be with us...

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all: enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

You live and reign with the Father and the Son, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Act 2:1-11 (Pentecost)

Sung Response 'Come gracious Spirit' OR 'O Breathe on me'

Second Reading Philippians 2: 1-5 (Be united in Christ)

Alleluia Sung

Gospel John 17:20-26 (The prayer of Jesus that they may be one)

Reflection/ Homily

Sung Response 'Baptised in Water' (to the tune of 'Morning has broken') People could be invited to come to the font to bless themselves as the hymn is sung and repeated as necessary.

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession

TEXT ATTACHED: Response: Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Concluding words (Thanks and invitation to supper etc)

Commissioning Prayer:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,
because the Lord has anointed us
to bring good news to the poor.
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.
Amen! Alleluia!

Concluding Hymn

'Lord you give the Great Commission' OR 'Whakaria Mai, How great thou art'

Prayers of Reconciliation

L From structures that undermine human dignity and enforce new forms of enslavement, deliver us, O God. *Kyrie eleison.*

C *Kyrie eleison.*

L From decisions and deeds that impose poverty, marginalisation or discrimination on our brothers and sisters, deliver us, O God. *Kyrie eleison.*

C *Kyrie eleison.*

L From the fear and suspicion that separate us from each other and place limits on hope and healing, deliver us, O God. *Kyrie eleison.*

C *Kyrie eleison.*

L The Lord is our strength and our might, and has become our salvation. May God, who has redeemed us, lead into the abode of holiness.

C Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L Let us place our needs before the Lord, asking him to empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Each intercession is read by a different reader

R1 God of Pentecost, be with us now and free us from all forms of prejudice and from everything that obscures human dignity.

C Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.

R2 God of abundance, in your goodness you provide for all our needs. Be with us now, help us to rise above selfishness and greed and give us the courage to be agents of justice in the world.

C Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.

R3 God of love, you created us in your image and have redeemed us in Christ. Be with us now, empower us to love our neighbour and to welcome the stranger.

C Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.

R4 God of peace, you remain faithful to your covenant with us even when we wander from you, and in Christ you have reconciled us to yourself. Be with us now and put a new spirit and a new heart within us that we may reject violence and instead be servants of your peace.

C Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.

R5 God of glory, you are all-powerful, yet in Jesus you chose to make your home in a human family, and in the waters of Baptism have adopted us as your children. Be with us now and help us to remain faithful to our family commitments and our communal responsibilities, and to strengthen the bonds of communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

C Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.

R6 God, One in Three Persons, in Christ you have made us one with you and with one another. Be with us now and by the power and consolation of the Holy Spirit, free us from the self-centredness, arrogance and fear that prevent us from striving towards the full visible unity of your Church.

C Send us your Spirit O Lord, that we may live.