

Call to Worship (psalm 100):

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Approach

God says:

Come gather, O my people.

Come to me with prayer and singing, offerings and thanksgivings.
Bring your music and your joy and we will celebrate together.

Come gather, O my people.

Come and bring your silence.
Come and give me your ears, your hearts and minds.
And I will instruct on the way to go.

Come gather, O my people.

Bring your hurts and sorrows;
Bring your fears, your confessions and your doubts;
I will remind you of my grace, my love for you, says God,
and I will make you whole.

Come O people, let us meet in worship!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

Your call has gone out into the world and we have heard.

We come to worship and we come to be set free in service to you, O Lord our God.

We come from a week that has been filled with struggles. We come having felt personal accomplishments and personal defeats, but mainly we come knowing that as a collective, our humanity fallen well short of your Creative intentions, and the original goodness that you placed in us.

We confess we are weak.

When it comes to justice we hunger and cheer on victories for the marginalized and minorities, but in truth we have done little to follow Jesus' example of reaching out to all.

We confess as Canadians we have typically watched from a distance the ministry of reconciliation with our Aboriginal siblings. Yet, we may be quick point out the continued injustices in other countries or to other minorities.

But all this is hard. We confess that we see the past failures of reconciliation, of justice and of transformed lives and we start to believe that these matters are impossible to overcome.

We confess a lack of faith, at times.

We confess that we need Divine Help, Divine Love and Divine Grace.

Help us O God.

We confess that we need you.

Come Lord Jesus, give us insight, give us wisdom, give us a message of hope to share and courage to follow you.

Come Holy Spirit, inspire us to take courage against injustice. Inspire us to see that your Kingdom is coming and inspire to hope that we can, through faith, be part of it.

God of all Creation, help us to see all the original Goodness around us.

Save us O Holy Trinity, help us to embrace the way of resurrection.

Through, our Saviour, Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5:1-8 says:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

There is, out of all the chaos and riots of the past several weeks, a sense of hope that is growing for real change and for a future beyond racial divisions.

But according to Paul, hope is only secured through suffering, endurance and character building. For, Paul, hope is a process.

We see this as the way of Christ, Jesus did not run from the weakness of the world but instead did the almost unthinkable, he became weak; weak even unto death, so that through his weakness we would all be given resurrection.

There has already been so much suffering. Yet I see powerful glimpses of the character building and endurance that will give rise to hope. Above the chaos I have loved the images that have captured law enforcement officials taking off their armour and laying down their batons and walking with the protestors. It seems to be true, that only through becoming weak and vulnerable can we hope to find a common character and endurance that will give birth to an enduring hope.

It is through becoming weak that the depth of human need is finally understood, for in the chaos even the powerful are seen for their powerlessness. Words and threats fall flat in the face of character and endurance. Indeed we are all pitifully weak.

In this common weakness, what is also been revealed is the profound need to treat one another with gentle hands. And it is again the images of those who have treated one another with gentle hands that have had the most profound affect for hope.

And why wouldn't Christians see this to be true? After all Christ treated us with gentle hands, hands so gentle that they were even pierced for us, in order for us to be made whole and reconciled to God and one another.

We are weak, but our God, though infinite in power, has treated us gently, in order to make us whole.

In Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Good Morning, today's scripture reading comes from Matthew's gospel, chapter 9, beginning at verse 35 and reading to chapter 10, verse 16.

Jesus sets his example and then sends out his disciples to follow in his pattern.

Let us hear God's word.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

"Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

This is God's word.

Offering

Life Giving Spirit,
receive all these gifts we offer,
and bring to the bones of our offerings,
the flesh of our actions,
the breath of our caring,
the feet that will proclaim Good News,
and the hands that are open in peace,
so that Your Church and our service to others,
may come to life in your Name! Amen. (from *The Worship Sourcebook*, copyright 2004, CRC Publications)

Prayers of the People

O Holy Trinity,

In gratefulness,
we come together to offer our prayers of Thanksgiving;
In our common need we come offering our petitions.

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

God, our Creator, we bless you for all the good gifts you give:
For the wonder and beauty of the world,
For the glory and majesty of the daylight hours,
For the depth of a night's dark rest and for the brightness of the stars and moon,
For the patterns and seasons and which give familiarity and newness,
Just as you O Trinity, are both always familiar and always new ...

O Lord of all, we pray our thanksgivings:

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

O Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we bless you for the peace, help and healing you send us:
For the immediate help we receive from doctors, nurses, first responders, police and
firefighters we give you thanks and mark their sacrifices.
For the now and eternal peace, help and healing you send us in Jesus Christ,
we return thanks and offer our peace in return to You, O Trinity ...

O Lord of all, we pray our thanksgivings:

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

O Holy Spirit, for the passion, hope and courage that you give us,
the passion for justice and peace,
the hope you give us in reconciliation and for reconciliation,
for the courage to participate in your mission of Good News,
for the fire that wakes us from our complacency,
and discomferts us from our comfort,
O Holy Trinity, for your companionship on the journey,

O Lord of all, we pray our thanksgivings:

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

O God our helper, hear now our petitions:

That we may help bring peace to the environment,
That we may help to bring peace to our neighbourhoods,
That we may help to bring peace among communities and people.

O God we need your help.

O Lord of all we pray our petitions:

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

O God our healer, hear our petitions:

That those who are sick may receive strength and wholeness,
That those who are dying may receive the assurance and comfort of your love and peace.
That those who are persecuted may rest or unrest in the promise of your deliverance.
That those who need to hear that their lives matter and that they are loved by you,
may they be met by the dusty feet of those who bear Good News.

O Lord of all we pray our petitions:

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

O God who arrests evil, hear our petitions:

That under your mothering wings, you will hide those those who live in fear,
That under your power persistent spirits of evil and prejudice will cast out,
That under your grace, people will learn to forgive and receive forgiveness.

O Lord of all we pray our petitions:

ALL: O God, hear our prayers.

And we add to these, our imperfect prayers, the perfecting words Jesus gave us to pray:

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,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours,
For ever and ever. Amen.

Commissioning and Benediction

We will go out and greet the world with peace,
with the same peace with which God has greeted us here, in worship.

**As the world works and toils, we will work alongside
those who work for the sake of their neighbours.**

With Christ, the Redeemer, as our strength,
we will go out transformed by hope, to share the Good News,
that evil is in retreat, for grace wins every time.

**Accompanied by the Holy Spirit,
we go out knowing we are never alone,
and that we have a comforter through all struggles.**

May the Grace, Love and hope of God abide with you, this day and always.
Amen!