



One Love

A Prayer Service for Peace and Inclusivity

P: Dear Lord, we come together today as a praying community asking that we be blessed with a spirit of inclusion in our hearts and minds. Help us to welcome and value everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. May we actively seek to include those who are often overlooked or marginalized.

Today we especially pray for peace and understanding between countries. We pray Your true love will spread across borders and boundaries blessing the world with peace. Let our actions reflect your love through unity and acceptance. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.

Author: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923) Music William M. Runyan

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us.

(To be repeated thrice)

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus 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 done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

(Cong. to be seated)

1st Lesson: Isaiah 56:1-8

2nd Lesson: Revelations 7:9-17

L: Meditation

Christian Inclusion: The Radical Inclusion of the Cross

The book of Revelation depicts a glorious scene: “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (Rev. 7:9 NIV). This depiction of what is to come, to me, is reminiscent of a scene in the early Christian church that is recorded in Acts chapter 2. It was the day of Pentecost. Following Jesus’s death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven, the apostles of Jesus had been filled with the Holy Spirit and given the ability to speak other languages. Both scenes (and many others) illustrate the radically inclusive nature of the Gospel and affirm that the salvation of the Lord is available to everyone from every nationality, race, ethnicity, creed, and tongue. Apostle Paul in Romans 10:13 declares: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” There is no greater model or illustration of inclusion than the cross of Jesus Christ.

Sinners are welcomed at the cross. In Luke 7:36–50, Jesus allows a woman known to have lived a sinful lifestyle to anoint him by wetting his feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair, kissing them and pouring perfume on them. Religious norms and customs at that time made it an unthinkable offense for this woman to touch Jesus as she did. Yet, Jesus allowed her to minister to him. Why? Because of her faith. Because of her need. Because she desired forgiveness.

The radically inclusive cross of Jesus welcomed sinners to faith in Jesus by offering forgiveness for their sins and providing salvation. Jesus invited them as sinners to come to Himself, just as He invited me as a sinner to believe in Him. But the invitation to faith in Jesus is not an invitation to remain in sin. The radical inclusion and invitation of the cross is for the sinner but not for our sin. To believe otherwise is to either misunderstand or reject the truth of the Gospel.

As we are baptized into faith in Jesus, the power of sin in our lives is broken and we are freed to live new lives as new creatures. The Apostle Paul declared in Romans 6:6–7, “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.”

Wayne D. Lewis

<https://www.houghton.edu/news/christian-inclusion-the-radical-inclusion-of-the-cross/>

L: One Table, Many Seats

No border can bind, no colour divide,
The love of the Maker we share side by side.
From nation and tongue, from people and place,
We gather as one in the light of His grace.

With faces so different and stories so wide,
Yet woven together, no soul cast aside.
The weary, the wandering, the searching, the strong,
Each finding a place where their hearts belong.

The broken and hopeful, the quiet, the bold,
Each life a thread in a tapestry of gold.
For wide are the doors of Christ’s dwelling place,
And mercy flows freely in rivers of grace.

The stranger no longer stands waiting alone,
The lost find a family, the homeless a home.

For healing begins when hearts open wide,
And love draws the distant and broken inside.

The table runs long, with a seat for each soul,
For the broken and searching to come and be whole.
The banquet is set and the price has been paid,
A gift of great mercy the Savior has made.

HYMN

Call them in—the poor, the wretched,
Sin-stained wanderers from the fold;
Peace and pardon freely offer;
Can you weigh their worth with gold?
Call them in—the weak, the weary,
Laden with the doom of sin;
Bid them come and rest in Jesus;
He is waiting—Call them in.

Call them in—the Jew, the Gentile;
Bid the stranger to the feast;
Call them in—the rich, the noble,
From the highest to the least:
Forth the Father runs to meet them,
He hath all their sorrows seen;
Robe, and ring, and royal sandals,
Wait the lost ones—Call them in.

Call them in—the little children,
Tarrying far away...away
Wait-oh wait not for tomorrow,
Christ would have them come today.
Follow on – the lamb is leading!
He has conquered we shall win;
Bring the old and blind to Jesus;
He will heal them- Call them in.

Call them in—the broken hearted,
Cowering 'neath the brand of shame;
Speak Love's message low and tender,
'Twas for sinners Jesus came:
See, the shadows lengthen round us,
Soon the day-dawn will begin;
Can you leave them lost and lonely?
Christ is coming—Call them in.

Words: Anna Shipton, 1862. Music: Ira D. Sankey, 1876

Congregation to stand

Thanksgiving Psalm 86

P:¹ Hear me, Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.

C:³You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.

Bring joy to your servant, Lord,

for I put my trust in you.

P:⁵ You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.

C:⁶ Hear my prayer, Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.

When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.

P:⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.

C:⁹ All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

For you are great and do marvellous deeds;
you alone are God.

P:¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;

give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

C:¹² I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.

P:¹⁴ Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
they have no regard for you.

C:¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

P:¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;
show your strength in behalf of your servant;
save me, because I serve you
just as my mother did.

C:¹⁷ Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Loving God, help us. When we have wandered away, when we have turned our backs on love; when we have chosen division instead of acceptance and remained silent in the face of injustice—merciful God, forgive us. When selfishness has guided us, when our words or actions have wounded others, when we have closed our ears to the cries of those in need—gracious God, forgive us.

C: Almighty God, heal us. When we see only our differences instead of our shared humanity, mend our hearts. When we do not know how to move forward, show us the way so that our faith may

become action. Teach us through Christ, who welcomed all and embraced the outcast. When hatred divides us, let your love restore and unite us.

P: Dear Lord, we ask forgiveness when we turn against one another instead of walking forward together as your children—one people. Help us use the privilege and influence we hold in our churches and communities to create spaces of welcome, comfort, and belonging. Open our eyes to see beyond colour, religion, race and ethnicity.

C: In these times of conflict and war, remind our leaders that the colour of our blood is the same—red for every human being. Teach the world to extend hands of peace instead of walls of division. May we reject discrimination of religion, colour, or race, and learn to live together as your children, wonderfully and lovingly created by you. Amen

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Lenten Meditation

L: In the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

The greatest sorrow Jesus endured that night was being forsaken by those closest to Him.

*God's only Son came to save us sinners,
Suffered as an ordinary human, and was sacrificed for us on the cross.
Oh, what amazing love!
Forgiving Lord, what goodness did You see in humanity
That You chose to love us so deeply?*

C: Daivathinte eaka puthran paapikale rekshippan
Manushyanay paadupettu kurishinmel marichu

Ithra sneham ithra sneham erivan
Manushyaril enthu nanma kandu nee rekshakara

L: All along the path he endured it all - the taunts and ridicule of the crowd, the betrayal of Judas, the crown of thorns and the cross where He gave His life, so that we might live. He faced his fears with intense prayer, sorrowful, yet hopeful, even to death.

*To restore the human race—sinful and wandering—
Dear Lord, You endured such suffering, quietly bearing our grief.
Oh, what wondrous love!
Dear Jesus, what goodness did You see in us
That You would suffer so greatly for our sake?*

C: Paapikalum dhoshikalumaaya nara vargathe
Veendeduppan ethra kashtam sahichu nee shanthamay

L: A soldier strikes Jesus across the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas. The palace guards taunt Him and mock Him. They also spit on Him, strike Him on the face, and push him around- the one who could call a thousand angels.

*Dear Lord, You are the heavenly manna for the righteous,
Yet for us sinners, You gave Your life and saved us.
Oh, such immense love!
What goodness did You see in us
That You forgave us with such boundless love?*

C: Nirmalanmar bhujikkunna para loka appam than
Paapikalkku jeevan nalky rekshikkunnee rekshakan

L: "They shall see the Servant of God beaten and bloodied, an object of horror; so disfigured many were astonished. His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, one would scarcely know it was a person..." (Isa 52:14)

*Saved by His Grace, here I am,
To be filled with God's love.
Oh! So much love,
What good did you see in us
That you gave us so much love?*

C: Krupayale rekshapetta paapiyaya njan itha
Hrudhayathin Daiva sneham erivan vanchikkunnu

L: We were there, shouting Hosanna and celebrating Jesus, and a week later we screamed louder "CRUCIFY Him".
Sounds of hatred, disappointment and fear. Nails pierced His wrists and feet. Unable to breathe, he cried "It's finished!! Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

*He came to save me, the greatest sinner of all,
I will praise and thank you forevermore for suffering such a cruel cursed Death.
Oh! So much love,
What good did you see in me
That you gave me so much love?*

C: Paapiyil pradhaniyaayirunna enne rekshippan
Shapa mruthyuvetta ninne nithya kaalam vaazhthum njan

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by **Evangelist Mathew.**

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So, we believe and affirm.

Matthew 15:21-28

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: With you also. We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed – To be sung

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven, Maker of earth,

We believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all world;

God of God, Light of Light, Of all things invisible, and all in light.

God of God, Light of Light, of all things invisible and all things right.

Being one with the Father, by whom all things were made,
who for our salvation, came down from heaven,
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin and was made man.

In the days of Pilate, He was crucified,
He suffered and died and was buried.
The third day He rose again, ascended into heaven,

He will come again for the living and the dead
and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life;
together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified;
God of God, Light of Light,
who spoke through the prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Church,
One baptism for the remission of sins;
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the new life to come.
Amen

(Cong to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful,
Jesus will save.

Though they are slighting Him,
Still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
He will forgive if they only believe.

Down in the human heart,
Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing,
Duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died.

Lyrics:Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)
Music:William Howard Doane (1832-1915)

Announcements

Offertory

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about Thy way;
Stones Thy pillow; earth Thy bed.

Shall not we Thy sorrow share,
And from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Glad with you to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,
Flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint or fail.

So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to Thee.

Keep, oh, keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Thy side;
That with Thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide

Author: George Hunt Smyttan (1856) Melody attributed to Martin Herbst (1654–1681).

Message

Congregation to stand

Closing Prayer

P: God of love and mercy,
You created all people in Your image and called us to live as one family.
As we prepare to leave this place, fill our hearts with Your peace.

C: Where there is division, help us to build bridges of understanding.
Where there is hatred, teach us to sow love.

P: When we see injustice, give us the courage to stand for what is right.
When we encounter those who feel forgotten or excluded, help us to welcome them with open hearts.

C: Bless our communities, our nations, and our world with peace.
Help us to celebrate the beauty of every culture, every language, and every people.

P: As we go forth from this place, let Your light shine through our words and actions,

that we may carry peace, compassion, and hope wherever we go. Amen

P: Benediction

And may the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Guard your hearts and minds
And guide your steps in the ways of love.

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

Amen.

Doxology and Kiss of Peace

"Man of Sorrows!" what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in Heav'n exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Philip P. Bliss, pub.1875

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We make war that we may live in peace. Aristotle

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing. C. S. Lewis

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

We are Less when we dont include everyone

Stuart Milk

