

Prayers of the People

Let us raise to the Lord our common prayer for the Church
and for the needs of all humanity.

*From the islands and the oceans, we worship you, O God, the Creator of life.
Throughout the mountains and the valleys, we praise you, O God, the Saviour of the world.
With the tongues of all nations, we thank you, O God, the Comforter of bodies and souls.*

We come before you bearing our burdens and hopes. Today we ask you:
O God, hear our prayer and grant us your love.

*We pray for those who live in the midst of injustice. Encourage us to lift up their voices and
strengthen their hope. We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice.
May your kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace.
We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice.
Let us act justly according to your words. Today we ask you:*
O God, hear our prayer and grant us your justice.

*We pray for the visible unity of the Church. Lead us to fulfil Jesus' prayer that we may be one
and work together to manifest your Kingdom. Today we ask you:*
O God, hear our prayer and grant us passion for unity.

*We thank you for the many colours, cultures, and customs that we share in this world.
In our differences, unite us by your love. Enable us to act together to uphold life
and to make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity. Today we ask you:*
C O God, hear our prayer and grant us your peace.

The Lord's Prayer

Dismissal & Blessing

Here I am Lord

Dan Schutte, SJ

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night.
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone.
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Aotearoa New Zealand

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019

Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue
(Deuteronomy 16:18-20)

Welcome

*This worship service emphasizes the importance of moving from our discourses about
unity, justice and mercy to action and concrete commitment, and to acts of unity, justice and
mercy in our personal lives and in the life of our Christian communities.*

Let us take a moment to greet each other...

Commitment to Unity through Justice and Mercy.

*During the service, participants are called to reflect on how we might commit
to a particular act of justice, mercy, or unity. We will be invited to write
on each of the two cards what their own concrete commitment is.*

*Each person attaches one of these cards to their own shirt. The second cards will be placed
at the foot of the cross.*

Call to Worship

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Amene.

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

Let us worship the Triune God.

God, our Father, you crown your creation with justice and mercy.

We come to worship you.

Jesus Christ, your cross brings new life and justice - **We come to worship you.**

Holy Spirit, you inspire our hearts to act justly - **We come to worship you.**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Stuart K. Hine

Whakaaria mai tou Ripeka ki a au; Tiaho mai ra roto I te po:
Ki kona au titiro atu ai: Ora mate, hei a au koe noho ai (*Repeat*)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the works thy hands made.

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder

Your power throughout the universe displayed;

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art x2

Prayers of Repentance

Response - Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive our sins and lead us to eternal life. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word of God

First reading: Deuteronomy 16:11-20

Responsorial Psalm: 82:1-8

Response - *Rise up, O God, judge the earth.*

Second reading: Romans 12:1-13

Alleluia

Gospel : Luke 4:14-21

Sermon

Commitment to Justice, Mercy and Unity

Jesus Christ prays for the unity of his disciples.

The gift of his life is justice for the world.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to walk together in his path.

Let us hear his calling.

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to keep our lives free
from the love of money, and be content with what we have.

Let us break the cycle of greed and live in simplicity.

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim release to captives
and victims of all forms of violence. *Let us help them to live in dignity.*

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to extend hospitality to
strangers. *Let us outdo one another in showing honour.*

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim the good news to
the whole creation. *Let us protect the life and beauty of God's creation*

Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

To make concrete our individual commitment to work together for justice,
you are invited to write your commitment on two separate cards.

We invite you to keep one of these cards close to your heart.

The second one will be collected and brought forward as an offering.

(Reflective music)

Offering

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)

We commit ourselves to acts of justice.

(Please bring them forward one of your cards and place at the foot of the cross.)

Gracious God, you have shown us your compassion and care for all creation.
Your love inspires us to offer these commitments to act justly by loving others whole-
heartedly regardless of their cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

Accept now our offerings and transform them into action
for the unity of your Church.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
who live with you as one God forever and ever.

Amen.



Sharing Peace

(the assembly exchanges a sign of peace, so that together we can proclaim our faith.)

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.