

Eucharist for Racial Justice Sunday

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung and words of introduction may be given.

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

We stand before the throne of God with countless crowds from every nation and race, tribe and language.

All Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might be to our God for ever and ever. 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.

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.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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. We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

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 Affirmation of Faith

We say together in faith

All Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

All for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

All for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers for Racial Justice with the Lighting of Candles may be used here.

Introduction

Racial Justice Sunday has been observed by churches in Britain and Ireland since 1995 and aims to take deliberate action against racism in all its forms. As we pray, we give thanks to God for human diversity, we remember and lament all whose voices and stories are overlooked and marginalised because of race, and we encourage positive awareness and work to end racism, injustice, and ignorance.

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, and 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 men and women in every generation who have contributed to the growth of this country even in the face of racism, discrimination, and oppression.

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

Let us light a candle to remember the ways we treat others based on the financial profit we can derive from them: the people 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.

All Gracious God, help us to regard all people 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. Racial injustice still exists in our world, and people *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.

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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.

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now united on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer F)

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and *saying*:

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.

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love, made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set

us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty 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.

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.

A hymn may be sung.

The president may use this, or another suitable blessing

The blessing of God the Father, who made from one every nation that occupies the earth; of God the Son, who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation; and of God the Spirit, who brings us together in unity, be with 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.