

A LITURGY FOR THE TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(20 November)

Acknowledgement of Lands

CALLING

Come Christ Jesus

Come You who welcome all, from all the world

Come Christ Jesus

Come to greet us now

We come as we are from every race and love and gender

To build your house, our home

Keynote prayers/collects

God of All Compassion,
we come today for the/on this Transgender Day of Remembrance
to remember all gender diverse people who have been persecuted,
discriminated against, suffered hate crime, have been murdered
or have taken their own lives because of the rejection they face.
Help us today to understand the things we may not understand.
Help us to bring love and not hate.
Help us to rejoice in the diversity that humanity creates.

God of all genders and none,
Source of our glorious difference and true harmony,
Bearer of all pain and Spirit of transformation,
we give you thanks that you have created us in your own image,
in the many-splendoured forms of our human diversity.

Hear us as we remember and affirm gender diverse people.
Transform the violence, pain and struggles of the past and present,
bring new life out of death, hopelessness and despair,
and empower us with your grace, strength and joy.

May we be like kingfishers catching fire,
dragonflies drawing flame,
beautiful butterflies shining with your love.
In the name of Christ incarnate in a thousand places, and more. Amen.

Psalm 139.7-18

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.
For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.
How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

Corinthians 12.14-26

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe

with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Reflection - *as appropriate*

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

We remember the transgender and gender non-conforming people who have died by the hands of others or by suicide in the last twelve months. We have no list of names to read out – but we hold in our hearts and minds with thanksgiving those whose beautiful selves are now embraced by the beautiful, non gender conforming, queer God of all.

A Candle may be lit

Loving Creator,

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory of the heart, and neglect.

Then O God, let the sun come out and fill the sky with beautiful rainbows.

Let the warmth of the Sun heal us wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so that each of us sees each other clearly:

so that we can move beyond labels,

beyond accents, gender, sexual orientation, or skin colour.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness:

so that we can share the joy and sorrow of our neighbours.

And let the light of the sun be so strong

that we will see all people as our neighbours.

Let the Earth, nourished by rain,

bring forth flowers to surround us with your beauty,

and let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.

Then, dear God, grant us comfort, give us peace,

and allow us strength to enable us

to Stand up, Fight for, and be a Voice for Equality.

In Jesus' name, Amen!

(prayer by Rev. Debra J. Hopkins, Black trans woman, Minister at Sacred Souls Community Church in Charlotte, NC,

sourced from <http://religiousinstitute.org/resources/prayers-weekend-trans-justice/>)

Loving source and light of all creation,

your life and wisdom is gloriously revealed in gender diversity and in the kaleidoscopic beauty of human difference.

We give you thanks for gender diverse people.

Bless them with assurance of your love.

Grant them strength and joy in their lives, bodies and relationships.

And enable everyone to celebrate their gifts:

that all may flourish as full and equal expressions of embodied love.

In the power and mystery of your presence and peace. Amen.

Intercessions

God of kaleidoscopic love,

we pray today for healing and new strength.

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for those in need, for a deeper understanding of your joy and purpose for us all, and for the fulfilment of your vision of dynamic unity: in which 'there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female' for we are all 'one in Christ Jesus' (Gal 3.28).

As we celebrate the work of your grace in making us new creations, help us come home to your peace and enable others to be at home with you, with themselves, and with all that you have created.

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for welcoming hearts and arms to embrace. Like the parent in Jesus' story, who rushed out to meet their offspring with your profound mothering love, enable us to let go of our inherited prejudices and inhibitions. that we may joyfully receive one another's diverse gifts and thus be fully reconciled and renewed together in your love.

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for the Church, that it may fully recognise, affirm and celebrate the lives, bodies and gifts of its gender diverse members. Enable the Body of Christ to support those who suffer, to enable those who seek to thrive, and to welcome all fresh insights into what it is to become a new creation in God's love.

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for our wider communities and world, that they too may embrace the gifts of gender diversity. We ask for a true spirit of listening and commitment on the part of

politicians, media and other opinion formers. Strengthen those who bring light rather than heat and lift the clouds of ignorance, fear and oppression.

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for healing and renewal for all who struggle with gender dysphoria, particularly those rejected by family and other loved ones. We give thanks for those who minister with them: for families and loved ones who are supportive; for informed and caring health professionals; for life-giving support networks, agencies and individuals; and, above all, for fellow gender diverse people who walk in solidarity.

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

God of kaleidoscopic love, we give thanks for all those who have gone before us, especially our gender diverse forbears who are numbered among the saints. Inspired by their love, faith and courage, grant that we, and all your people, may come home to your abiding love, know your peace, strength and joy, and flourish more fully in your eternal presence,

God of love, in your mercy

hear our prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain Bearer, Life-Giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For your reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Jim Cotter

Litany of Thanksgiving

For the image of God in every person

Thanks be to God

For transgender and cisgender women in their diversity
For transgender and cisgender men in their diversity

Thanks be to God

For agender, non-binary, and other gendered people
in their diversity

Thanks be to God

For loved ones who share the lives of gender diverse people
For professionals who help bring support and strength

Thanks be to God

For those who give voice and expression to gender diversity
For those who work for justice and empowerment

Thanks be to God

For religious leaders and congregations who are fully affirming
For politicians, media and educators who bring understanding

Thanks be to God

For all human diversity and its joys and life-giving challenges
For continuing revelation and life-giving grace

Thanks be to God

Commissioning

Today, loving God,

we have remembered those gender diverse people who have died by the hands of others,
for daring to be who they are.

That their deaths may not be in vain,

in your grace and your forgiveness,

we ask for the courage to bring your love and affirmation to the world

Help us to do Your will

Sending out prayer

Kaleidoscopic God,

beyond gender and embodied in all,

thank you for your love and your assurance

that we have been fearfully and wonderfully made.

Grant us strength and joy in being the people

whom you have created and called us to be.

Give us patience and loving persistence

in the face of struggle and adversity,
and help us always to live fully as blessed images of you.

Blessing

May the delight of God fill your souls with joy
and give you strength to celebrate and embody Christ's love in the world:
and the blessing of God – creating, transforming, and making new -
bring you to your true and loving home, now and always. Amen.

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