

Worship Outline for Transgender Day of Remembrance Service
23 November 2025

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THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Rev. Katherine Brittain

Guest Worship Leader: Justine Etzkorn

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Readers: Peggy Jensen & Xan Bell

Greeters: Teresa Bellinger & Niki Karmali

Power Point: Matt Haapala

Audio Visual: Matt Haapala

Coffee Servers: John Oh & Hellen Flathers

Italics – leader; **Bold** - congregation

Centring and preparing for worship

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Land Acknowledgment:

Affirming statement:

ALL: As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.

Gathering Words:

One: The annual Transgender Day of Remembrance honours the lives of individuals who have died throughout the world in the previous year because of anti-transgender hatred.

ALL: Today we publicly mourn and honour the those who might otherwise be forgotten, giving their silenced lives new voice. It is an opportunity to meet hatred and indifference with love and respect.
(source: Jordan Sullivan)

Opening Prayer:

ALL: O God, whom no image can encompass, no definition encircle, and yet who meets us in the gentle touch of love, the beauty of a butterfly's wing, and the laughter of children, help us to move beyond our attempts to limit You, intellectualise You, or to eliminate You from all that is earthy, sensuous, or vibrant, so that we may greet You in every particle of this spectacular universe which You are creating. Amen.

(source: More Light Presbyterians Retreat & Mission Weekend New Orleans, LA, 2006)

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Hymn: "All Are Welcome"/"Let Us Build a House" MV #1

(Words & music: Marty Haugen; French trans. David Fines, 2006

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ARR. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800-442-1358

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- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

**Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

- 2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: R**
- 3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: R**
- 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: R**

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5. **Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: R**

Faith Focus:

Lighting of the Candle of Remembrance

Hymn: "Jesus Remember Me" VU #148 (sung three times)

*(Words: Luke 23:42; Music: Jacques Berthier 1978
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**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

ALL: We now honour, by holding in our hearts and uplifting in prayer, the victims of transphobic killings over the past year.

*One: This list does not exist in a vacuum, nor is it possible to separate it from the intersecting violence faced by sex workers, people from a migrant or refugee background, Indigenous, Black and People of Colour, disabled people, neurodivergent people, people who use drugs, people who are HIV positive, and people living in poor socio-economic conditions, including those without safe housing.
(source: Trans Murder Monitoring Project)*

One: Where the body of a murdered trans person was found, but their identity could not be discovered, we will say "Name Unknown." In one case, we will say "Name Withheld" out of respect for the Indigenous Australian practice of not speaking the name of a loved one while their family is in mourning.

Read the names from October-December 2024

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Hymn: Repeat – "Jesus Remember Me" (sung once)

Read the names from January-March 2025

Hymn: Repeat – "Jesus Remember Me" (sung once)

Read the names from April-June 2025

Hymn: Repeat – "Jesus Remember Me" (sung once)

Read the names from July-September 2025

One: We honour those who have gone before us. We honour their names and their lives. We honour the lives of those whose names have been forgotten.

ALL: When the souls rise up in glory, theirs shall not be shunned nor sundered, but shall be the prize of God's garden. Even their darkness shall be treasured then, and all their pain made holy. Amen.
(source: adapted from Lois McMaster Bujold)

Hymn: Repeat – "Jesus Remember Me" (sung three times)

Period of Silence

Hymn: "The Lord's My Shepherd" VU #747

*(Words: Scottish Psalter 1650
Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine 1872
Public Domain)*

- 1. The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.**
- 2. My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.**

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3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill,
for thou art with me;
and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes,
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Reading:

Beatitudes for a Queerer Church by Jay Hulme

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Isaiah 65:17-25

One: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Reflection: "Good Shepherds on a New Earth"

Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide" MV 145

*(Words & music Gordon Light, 1994, ARR Michael Bloss, 1998, French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006 Words
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Refrain: Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

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**God the stillpoint of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. R**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. R**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. R**

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer: VU #959

*(Words: David Haas 1986; Music © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
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**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

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Offering:

Offering Hymn: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" VU #541

(Words: Thomas Ken ca 1674

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551

Public Domain)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offering Prayer:

One: *Generous God, you have shown us what it means to love. And you call us to follow Your example, to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Continue to write your law of love on our hearts. Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.*

(source: adapted from Christine Longhurst)

Announcements:

Hymn: "My Love Colours Outside the Lines" MV #138

(Words & music: Gordon Light, 1995; arr. Andrew Donaldson, Words & music © 1995 Common Cup Company

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- 1. My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**
- 2. My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.**

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**We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

- 3. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

**We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

- 4. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.**

Benediction:

ALL: It is sacred work to make sure that in this world, all are treated equally, all have the right to live a safe life, and every person is counted as a whole and complete person created in the image of God. Let us do this work with our whole selves. Let us stand together and act together so that no one may remain broken.

(source: Jordan Sullivan)

One: And now may the peace of Christ, the love of the Holy Spirit, and the grace of God be with us now and always.

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Sung Response: "May God's Sheltering Wings" MV #214

(Words & music: Judith Snowdon, 2004

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**May God's sheltering wings,
their gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
their cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in their love,
and hold you in their love.**