

A Service of Stillness and Reflection for Sunday

PREPARATION

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World;
a light that no darkness can quench.

A candle is lighted

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of all things,
you give life and light to the world.
As we light this candle may the light
of your love burn within our hearts.
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We draw together in worship, the people of God,
called by his Spirit, longing for his word,
to praise the holy name of the Lord,
to share the glorious news of grace,
to pray for our needs and the pains of the world,
to rejoice in his love and be sent in his peace.
We are all heirs of the Father
joint heirs with the Son
renewed in the Spirit
together we are one.

Confession and absolution

In penitence and faith, let us confess our part in the continuation of
oppression today:

**We have been proud
and have made others lowly.
We have held fast to privilege
and have made others suffer.**

**We have misused riches
and made others poor.
God of all freedom, have mercy on us.**

May the God who lifts up our heads
when we bow down in penitence
forgive us and lift us up high again,
and make us always mindful
of what other people need. **Amen.**

Collect or Prayer for the Day

THE WORD

Reading from Scripture or another source

The Magnificat

My heart praises you, O God,
my spirit rejoices in you, my Saviour.
You have remembered me in my lowliness,
and now I will be called blessed.
You have done great things for me
and shown mercy to all those who trust you.
You have stretched out your right arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.
You have brought down the mighty from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
You have kept your promise to our mothers and fathers,
and come to the help of your people,
to Abraham and to Sarah,
and to all generations for ever. Amen.

Gospel reading

Reflection, meditation or sermon

Affirmation of faith

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who
strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS

These words or others may be used

In the places of decision-making,
and the places of powerlessness:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

In the places of wealth,
and the places of poverty:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

Where we are healthy,
and where we are sick:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

In the streets of plenty,
and in the dark corners and alleys:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

In our places of worship,
and where there is no faith:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

In our places of learning,
and in the depths of our ignorance:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

In our homes and our welcomes,
and where people couldn't care less:
Come, Lord,
hold us in your love and heal us.

**Lord God, our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in trouble;
help us not to be afraid when the chaos around us and within
threatens to overwhelm us;
teach us to trust in your faithful love,
and sustain and refresh us with your grace,
for in you alone is our life. Amen.**

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

CONCLUSION

Closing responses

Look at your hands, see the touch and the tenderness,
God's own for the world.

Look at your feet, see the path and the direction,

God's own for the world.

Look at your heart, see the fire and the love,

God's own for the world.

Look at the cross, see God's Son and our Saviour,

God's own for the world.

This is God's world,

and we will serve God in it.

Blessing

The blessing of Martha's welcome,

the blessing of Mary's listening;

the blessing of action, the blessing of reflection,

the blessing of God

who is in each one of these,

and in each one of us,

be with us all.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

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