

Continuing the Journey

A Worship Service for Black History Month

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Words of Welcome

God calls us to oneness, unity and love.
For we are all children of God in Christ,
 for there is neither Jew nor Greek,
 for there is neither slave nor free,
 there is neither male or female,
and we are all one in Christ Jesus. (based on Galatians 3:27–28)

Opening Hymn

“Draw the Circle Wide” (*More Voices* 145)

Unison Prayer

**Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for being a companion on our journey.
In a world where there is a great deal of indifference,
we thank you for welcoming all us just as we are
and making us feel at home.
We pray that you will transform us
and make us the people you want us to be.
We pray all this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:7–12 *or* Isaiah 60:1–4 *or* Luke 4:17–21

Short Reflection

Litany

Gracious God, we thank you for creating all of us in your image,
even though outwardly we look different.
We thank you for being faithful.
We thank you that in you there is no superior race; we are all the same.
We thank you for your justice.
Help us, O God, to forget the past and look to you for guidance.
We thank you for reconciling us.
Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for inviting us to you, the spring that flows with living water.
We thank you for giving us water to drink.
Help us, Lord, to accept one another in love,
like you did for us, Christ, when you accepted each one of us in your love.
Thank you for your love that is from eternity to eternity.
As we come together this month to remember Black History Month,
we thank you, Lord, because you have made us equal in your sight
and you are calling us to rise and look forward, and to serve you in justice and peace.
Thank you, loving God, for giving hope that last forever.
Thank you, Lord, for making us to be part of this journey; we know that you will make all things new.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Prayers of the People

God, we come before your presence as your children.

We thank you for creating us in your image

and for making us very special to you and to one another.

We pray that you may help us to accept and love each other the way you want us to be.

We pray that we may look at ourselves as ambassadors of your peace and reconciliation in the world in which we live.

We are called, like in the words of Paul when he said we are ambassadors of Christ in the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

We ask that by your grace we may play this role faithfully

and that this should be seen in our day-to-day lives.

As we come before you, we realize that we are your children

and you have recreated us in Christ to be your children.

We are glad to be part of your people from all the four corners of the earth.

Help us to be vessels and instruments of your grace, love, and peace in the world.

We ask you to help us to fulfill the purpose for which you have created us.

We pray all this through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Offertory Music

"O Let the Power Fall on Me" (*More Voices* 13)

Offertory Prayer (*in unison*)

Gracious and loving God,

we thank you for entrusting us with all the bounty.

Help us to be good stewards of your blessings to us.

We pray for these offerings that they may be used to establish and extend your kingdom.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Go, Make a Diff'rence" (*More Voices* 209)

Closing Blessing

God bless you as you rise up to be counted for the sake of the kingdom.

May God's light be your guide in fulfilling this calling.

Sending Forth

Go forth as servants of Christ,

fulfill your task as his witnesses,

and bring the world to the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.