



LIVING JUSTICE

# While We Wait

ADVENT 2014

*Leader's Guide and Orders of Service*

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# Leader's Notes

This guide contains all of the information you'll need to carry out each of the services of prayer. Following this guide is a less detailed order of service that can be projected or distributed to participants. For each week, instead of a homily or a sermon, we have included a reflection written by someone who has visited a Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) partner organization. The group can read this individually or you can have one person read it aloud. The group is encouraged to take time to think and discuss together using the suggested questions at the reflection time.

At the closing of each service, there are a number of songs suggested which are all available on-line.

Please choose the one that you think your group will best connect with. While these songs are being played, your group can select a word (see below) that resonates with them based on what they have heard, learned, or felt during the service, and that word can be something that they continue to reflect on through the week.

A list of words is also included in this guide, for use during the closing song. These words for

reflection can be printed out, or written by hand, and put on display in numerous ways depending on your space and configuration. If you gather in a circle, they could be placed on a blanket or table at the centre of the circle. If you gather in pews, they could be placed in front of the pews so that each person can walk up and select their word. Be creative with your space. The vision for this is that each person will add their word to a word board, or a designated area of a wall, so that their growing collection of words will be a visual reminder of the connections between each week. If you are using a space that has a Christmas tree, the words could also have strings attached to them, and can be hung from the tree. Again, there are many ways that you can use these, so be creative!

Living Justice – While We Wait was created by PWRDF's Youth Council initially for youth groups to use. We are happy to be offering this resource more widely to the PWRDF community. We hope you will adapt our suggestions as you see fit for your group to worship effectively. If you are using this resource and have any feedback, please feel free to email [pwrdf@pwrdf.org](mailto:pwrdf@pwrdf.org). We would love to hear from you!

## Living Justice – While We Wait

is a production of [justgeneration.ca](http://justgeneration.ca) (the Youth initiative of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund)

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This prayer resource was compiled by Allie Colp, Tessa Dudley, Shaya Gasnarek and Sheilagh McGlynn

We thank the following contributors for their reflections –  
Cody McKay, Simon Chambers, Sheilagh McGlynn, Suzanne Rumsey





# Hope

## Opening Response

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

(from <http://www.brethren.org/bvs/files/service-sunday-2009-worship.pdf>)

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## Song

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

(*Common Praise*, 94, Taizé Community)

*(During this time we invite you to light the candle of hope, the first candle lit during the season of Advent).*

## Opening Prayer

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can extinguish.**

(From the *Book of Alternative Services*)

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.  
(*Common Praise*, 94, Taizé Community)

## **Readings**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

## **Reflection/Discussion**

*Written by Cody McKay, Youth Council member from the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario*

If you are anything like me, you had the luxury of growing up in a safe, secure environment. I grew up with my own room, with the security of a large meal on my plate every morning, noon and night. It was safe to go outside and play with my friends, and I was able to travel to school on my own.

This is far from the case for many young Tamil refugees I met, who have spent their whole lives never seeing their home country. In the 1980s, in the small East Asian country of Sri Lanka, a civil war that would last 35 years began, between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority ethnic groups. The conflict forced millions of Tamils to flee their homes, leaving their belongings behind. Many more who were not able to leave were forced off their land and into Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps, essentially making them refugees in their own country.

Many of those who fled Sri Lanka ended up on the coast of Tamil Nadu province, India, and eventually entered refugee camps there. Today, over 70,000 Tamil refugees still reside in more than 113 refugee camps in India. The refugees established the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) “by the refugees and for the refugees”. Since its beginning, PWRDF has been a long-term partner to OfERR, helping them to implement their programs and support networks, generate income for the refugees, and most importantly, work towards the refugees’ safe return to Sri Lanka.

In March of 2012, I was part of a nine-member PWRDF/OfERR information gathering delegation. As part of our work, we were able to meet with refugees from a number of the camps, as well as see firsthand some of the programs that OfERR has implemented to assist those refugees who still remain displaced in a foreign country, three years after the war’s end (The war ended in May 2009). We also traveled to Sri Lanka to the OfERR office (OfERR Ceylon), where we met with returnees, IDPs and those who stayed in Sri Lanka throughout the war.

While in Sri Lanka, I met with youth who had been born in the refugee camps; they had lived their whole lives in camps that were never meant to be permanent homes, never having seen their home country.

Refugee camps were situated in barren, desolate locations. Water had to be trucked in from miles away. Families of four or more were living in a space the size of the average North American living room, many with faulty, dangerous wiring. In fact, the morning we arrived at the Valavanthankottai Refugee Camp, a young boy had died after being electrocuted due to faulty wiring. These refugees have lived in conditions I cannot imagine living in for a month, let alone the 20-plus years many of them have endured.

Yet, throughout all of this, there is one word that I can use to describe the refugees' mindset: hope. Through all their hardships and losses, these people demonstrated an extreme capacity for hope, hope that tomorrow will bring them another day closer to a durable solution, hope that these refugee camps will not remain their homes forever, hope that with a new day will come a brighter future.

- What stands out to you in this story?
- How do you think hope impacts the lives of these refugees?
- Where do you find hope in your life?
- How can we water, or support and care for others, as we heard in Corinthians, or stay awake, as we heard in the Gospel to help share hope?

## **Intercessions**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness.  
In this holy season,  
when the sun's light is swallowed up  
by the growing darkness of the night,  
you renew your promise to reveal among us  
the splendour of your glory,  
enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets  
you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his Spirit,  
you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness.  
Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise.  
For to you all honour and blessing are due,  
now and for ever. Amen.

(From the *Book of Alternative Services*)

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life  
in which your Son Jesus Christ  
came to us in great humility,  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen  
(From the *Book of Alternative Services*)

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Blessing**

May you leave here with the reminder that we are always hopeful. Hopeful that we and all peoples may bring peace to this world, love to our neighbours, and joy to everything we do.

*During this first week, and perhaps each week if you have new people joining the group, explain the reflection words, and the way in which you will display them, perhaps using words like this, suited to your particular space:*

As we listen to this song, I invite you to reflect on what we have shared here, and then come and select one of these reflection words. Choose one that stands out to you based on the things that you have learned, heard and felt during this service of prayer. Take your word and place it on this board. We will do this each week, creating a visual reminder of the things we have learned. Carry that word in your hearts and minds throughout this week, remembering the importance of hope in your life and in the lives of others.

## **Closing Song**

I Hope - The Dixie Chicks  
I Won't Give Up - Jason Mraz  
Three Little Birds - Bob Marley  
Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles  
Try, Try, Try - The Smashing Pumpkins

## **Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**  
Let us share this sign of peace.



# Peace

## Opening Response

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.

(from <http://www.brethren.org/bvs/files/service-sunday-2009-worship.pdf>)

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## Song

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

(Common Praise, 94, Taizé Community)

*(During this time we invite you to light the candles for hope and peace.)*

## Opening Prayer

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle,

the strength to be forgiving,

the patience to be understanding,

and the endurance to accept the consequences

of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil

and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe  
in a world emancipated from violence.

Help us to devote our whole life, thought and energy  
to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfill the destiny for which we were created.

(Week of Prayer for World Peace, 1978 from <http://re-worship.blogspot.ca/2011/10/prayer-for-peace.html>)

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.  
(*Common Praise*, 94, Taizé Community)

## **Readings**

Isaiah 40: 1-11  
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:1-8

## **Reflection/Discussion**

*Written by Simon Chambers, PWRDF Communications Coordinator*

In 2009 PWRDF led a youth delegation to visit our partners in the Diocese of Bujumbura, Burundi. One day we travelled for about an hour outside of Bujumbura to Bubanza. On the way, our cameras clicked constantly as we tried again and again to get shots at 50 km/h of people pushing bicycles loaded with bananas, of houses made of corrugated aluminum, of small children carrying water on their heads in 10 or 20 litre jugs.

On the way to Bubanza, Edmond, our host, explained to us that Bubanza was a community which had been heavily affected during the war in Burundi, with many teens from the area joining in the fighting either as militia/rebels or government troops. When they returned home after demilitarization, their childhood friends and neighbours were terrified of them.

Part of the work of the Diocese of Bujumbura in the area has been the reintegration of these former child soldiers back into the community. One of the programs they engaged in was a work camp to construct a youth centre in Bubanza. Every day for a week, young people from the area came in the mornings to do the physical labour of digging the foundation of the building. Each afternoon, they engaged in civic education, peace and reconciliation work, etc., to build up their community again after the troubles during the war. At the end of the summer, the youth centre was ready to open.

But, there was an issue in the community. The primary school was, at the time, meeting in tents because they had no building. When the rainy season arrived, the school was, quite literally, being washed away. So the youth decided to give their shiny new youth centre to the school to use.

Now, that may seem pretty selfless. In fact, I can't picture many groups of teens in Canada doing that. And I work with teens, I stand up for their rights. I argue with people who tell me teens are self-centred. But this kind of selflessness is way beyond what I've experienced in 20 years of working with teens in Toronto.

Then I think about what life has been like for the youth who built this centre. They have grown up in the midst of a civil war, in one of the poorest countries in the world. They spent a week sweating and digging to make this building a reality. During that time, I'm sure they grew to have a sense of pride and ownership in the centre, to have something to point to and say "I built that!" They were improving their community, giving hope to people who had very little to look forward to.

And they gave it away.

Their hope is to get enough money to be able to have a work camp again next summer to build a school. That way they can have their youth centre back.

Acts of selflessness in communities affected by war are an act of peace. I will always remember the sacrifice made by those youth so that the children in their community would have the opportunity to learn.

- What surprises you in this story?
- What does peace mean to you?
- How can we work for peace in our lives? in our community? in our world?
- How does working to create peace help prepare the way of the Lord?
- Who inspires and leads you to work for peace?

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
from whom all thought of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth  
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Peace of the World (Common Worship)

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Blessing**

Peace of the running waves to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the shades of night to you,  
Moon and stars always giving light to you,  
Deep peace of Christ, the Son of Peace, to you.  
(Anonymous)

*If you have new people joining the group, you may want to take a moment to explain the reflection words again, perhaps using words like this, suited to your particular space:*

As we listen to this song, I invite you to reflect on what we have shared here, and then come and select one of these words. Choose one that stands out to you based on the things that you have learned, heard and felt during this service of prayer. Take your word and add it to the collection of words from last week. Carry that word in your hearts and minds throughout this week, remembering the importance of peace in your life and in the lives of others.

### **Closing Song**

We Want Peace - Lenny Kravitz  
Peace - Nora Jones  
Heard Somebody Say - Devendra Banhart  
Wavin' Flag - K'Naan

### **Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**  
Let us share this sign of peace.



## Opening Response

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

(from - <http://www.brethren.org/bvs/files/service-sunday-2009-worship.pdf>)

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## Song

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

(*Common Praise*, 94, Taizé Community)

*(During this time we invite you to light the candles for hope, peace and joy).*

## Opening Prayer

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing,

You have fashioned me for joy.

Share with me the vision that finds that joy everywhere.

In the wild violet's beauty;

In the lark's melody;

In the face of a steadfast man;

In a child's smile;  
In a mother's love;  
In the purity of Jesus.

A. Maclean, *Hebridean Altars*, Moray Press, Edinburgh, 1937

## **Readings**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Psalm 126 or Canticle 18 (Luke 1:47-55)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

## **Gospel Reading**

John 1:6–8, 19–28

## **Reflection**

*Written by Simon Chambers, PWRDF Communications Coordinator*

I visited the Philippines in September of 2014. The purpose of my trip was to see the developments that have happened since Typhoon Haiyan hit the country the year before. I was greeted by our partners with warmth and welcome, but was surprised at the level of humour that exists in a country that has been through so much!

Everywhere I went in the Philippines there was laughter and joking. Inside jokes rapidly developed with the partner staff as we travelled. There was much joking in community meetings as well.

The time arrived for the community meeting when I would be talking to two dozen or so people about their experience during Yolanda (as Haiyan is known locally). I was expecting things to get serious at this point.

I asked “Can you please tell me about your experience on the day of Yolanda?”

Everyone in the group turned to look at one older lady. They smiled and giggled a bit as she got up to tell me her story. I thought it was nerves.

She told me about the first time the storm hit the island, how they evacuated to another house to escape their own house which had lost its roof. She told me about how, when the wind died down, she went back home to see what could be salvaged.

Then the storm hit again. She was caught up in a meter of fast moving water, a flash flood coming from the hills nearby.

And she lost her pants.

At this, the whole gathering broke out in laughter, including the lady telling her story.

Even as she was fearing for her life during the storm, she was aware of the humour of her situation. And she loves to tell the story.

“We still smile,” I have been told many times on this trip. And it’s true.

Toward the end of my time, I met Evelinda. Her story was much harder to hear. She told me about clinging to her daughter for dear life as the storm surge smashed through the community she was in near Tacloban. She told me of losing her grandmother in-law, both her in-laws, and her two-year old son in the storm. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she talked about her daughter’s trauma since the storm.

And then she said, “It took me three months to find my smile again.” And her smile is a beautiful one, and we saw it a lot as she kept talking about “cold ice” during the day, only to be asked where she kept the “hot ice”. (Hot ice?!!)

The smiling faces cover a deep pain for the survivors of Yolanda. But it is not a false front. It is a genuine humour, a love of life, and a deep joy that has impressed me and will stay with me. It has inspired me. And I hope you will remember both the tragedy of Typhoon Haiyan, but also the humour, spirit, and joy of the survivors as they continue to rebuild their home.

- What stands out to you from this story?
- What is the “good news” that Isaiah refers to in your life? What brings you joy?
- What can we learn about joy from our Philippine partners?
- How can you be like John and share that light and joy with others?

## **Intercessions/Thanksgivings**

To you, Our Creator, we give honour and praise, and we lift up our voices to proclaim your Gospel in the world around us, when so many are oblivious to your good works. We know how much you love and care for your whole creation, including ourselves. Even when we sin, you forgive and we are endlessly thankful that you see fit to offer us such a chance for life. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christ and his teachings, in a world where so many fail to be astonished. Help us to be messengers of his Word and teach us what it really means to embrace truth and joy. Remind us what the Kingdom looks like and how it is always here, present. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For your Spirit in us, when so many refuse to open their hearts. Help us to remain open to our own vocations, that we may do and say what is most honourable and worthy. Help us to continue to let the spirit move in us, so that we may continue to move in you. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For food in a world where many live in hunger; remind us that we are fortunate. We have more than we deserve and for that we are forever grateful. We thank you for all you give and give and give, even when we can't give back. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For faith in a world where many live in fear; thank you for making us your people. Thank you for love and compassion and joy. But more, we thank you for sheer creation – for our own beautiful, unique selves. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For friends in a world where many live alone; we thank you without ceasing for friendship, families, fellowship and fun. May we strive to offer these things to those we know are without them, and be ever mindful of the joy this plants in our hearts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all of these things, and all of the gifts that you offer to each of us every single day, we give our heartfelt thanks. We bless your name. **Amen**

## **Collect**

Almighty God, everlasting Creator,  
we ask your blessing upon all of those who work for peace and righteousness all over the world.  
We pray that the day might come, sooner rather than later, when war shall be no more, and that all the world might know Your grace and mercy, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

(Collect for Advent Ember Days, *Book of Common Prayer* (Canada), modified)

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Blessing**

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. In the name of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

(*Book of Alternative Services*, p. 683)

### **Peace**

May the love, hope, joy and peace of the Lord be with and among you this day and always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of these blessings with one another now.

*If you have new people joining the group, you may want to take a moment to explain the words again, perhaps using words like this, suited to your particular space:*

As we listen to this song, I invite you to reflect on what we have shared here, and then come and select one of these words. Choose one that stands out to you based on the things that you have learned, heard and felt during this service of prayer. Take your word and add it to the collection of words from last week. Carry that word in your hearts and minds throughout this week, remembering the importance of joy in your life and in the lives of others.

## **Closing Song**

What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong

My Joy - Depeche Mode

We're All in this Together - Ben Lee

Happy – Pharrell Williams



# Love

## Opening Response

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

(from - <http://www.brethren.org/bvs/files/service-sunday-2009-worship.pdf>)

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## Song

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

(*Common Praise*, 94, Taizé Community)

*(During this time we invite you to light the candles for hope, peace and joy).*

## Opening Prayer

Loving God,

As we gather together in prayer as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, be with us.

Open our ears to Your word, our eyes to Your world, our minds for reflection, and our hearts to Your love.

Amen.

## Readings

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Canticle 18 (Luke 1:47-55) or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25–27

## Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26–38

## Reflection/Discussion

*Written by Sheilagh McGlynn, justgeneration.ca Facilitator and Suzanne Rumsey, Public Engagement Coordinator*

*Video produced by PWRDF Youth Council*

*Note – for this week's reflection you will need a projector and computer to show a video. If you don't have access to the internet where you will be leading this prayer service, you will want to download the video beforehand.*

## Reflection

Mary learns that she is going to have a child. Mary is young, she is poor and she is unmarried. Yet the baby she bears inspires the world to love. We too are called to reach out in love to the many babies born in this world that start in less than ideal situations. As a group watch the video found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TqTOjX3NgI&list=UUoQP475xxXQAYzjoXtC0ykA>.

In far too many places in the world far too many women die due to complications in childbirth, and far too many babies and young children die from preventable diseases. PWRDF, with support from the Canadian government's Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Initiative (also known as the Muskoka Initiative), seeks to respond to this situation through our partners, and to transform the lives of women and their children in a number of innovative ways:

- **Mozambique:** Women were dying because they had to walk 25 km or more to the health clinic in 40°C+ heat when they went into labour. PWRDF's partner, SALAMA, came up with an idea to create bicycle ambulances that transport the women to Mothers-in-Waiting houses built near the clinics so they can rest before giving birth.
- **Bangladesh:** PWRDF partner, UBINIG, has complimented its bicycle ambulances with boat ambulances, a necessity in this very wet county. In Bangladesh, the bicycle ambulance is built differently, with a larger back section that can carry not only the patient but also a midwife to accompany her to the clinic.
- **Mexico:** As in Mozambique and Bangladesh (and throughout the world) midwives and community health workers play a crucial role in the lives and health of women in Mexico's Indigenous communities. In addition to training, PWRDF partner, K'inál Antzetik provides support to Indigenous midwives through advocacy with the Mexican government to ensure that Indigenous women's right to health care is realized.

- What surprises you in this story?
- Where do you see love in this week's readings?
- How are we called to reach out in love to our world?

If your group or individuals in your group are interested in giving a Mexican community the gift of a midwife, giving a community access to health care through a bicycle ambulance, or helping provide a place for mothers to give birth, please check out the Anglican Church of Canada's Gifts for Mission catalogue [http://giftsformission.anglican.ca/product\\_List.asp?crypt=CDhgHnBjcGc0EDAzy98Jm43exUJBwY=](http://giftsformission.anglican.ca/product_List.asp?crypt=CDhgHnBjcGc0EDAzy98Jm43exUJBwY=).

## **Collect**

God of Life,  
 Let your great love redefine our world.  
 Let light shine in the darkness,  
 And peace spread through our nations,  
 our communities,  
 and our hearts.  
 Amen

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

May love and laughter light your days,  
 and warm your heart and home.  
 May good and faithful friends be yours,  
 wherever you may roam.  
 May peace and plenty bless your world  
 with joy that long endures.  
 May all life's passing seasons  
 bring the best to you and yours!  
 (Irish Blessing)

*If you have new people joining the group, you may want to take a moment to explain the reflection words again, perhaps using words like this, suited to your particular space:*

As we listen to this song, I invite you to reflect on what we have shared here, and then come and select one of these words. Choose one that stands out to you based on the things that you have learned, heard and felt during this service of prayer. Take your word and add it to the collection of words from last week. Carry that word in your hearts and minds throughout this week, remembering the importance of love in your life and in the lives of others.

## **Closing Song**

One Love - Bob Marley

New Kind of Love - Plants and Animals

Still a Lot of Love Around Here – Martyn Joseph

Give a Little Love - Noah and the Whale

Coins in a Fountain - Passenger

## **Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

Let us share this sign of peace.



# Words

This is our list of suggested words. You may wish to add words, or include blank sheets so that individuals have the opportunity to write a word if there isn't one here that speaks to them. You may also wish to have multiples of some or all of these words, as many of them may be chosen in more than one week.

Create  
Learn  
Health  
Embrace  
Apart  
Sadness  
Anger  
Future  
Frustration  
Talent  
Kingdom  
Future  
Challenge  
Passion  
Truth  
Awareness  
Light

Sacrifice  
History  
Memory  
Pain  
Sacrifice  
Freedom  
Spirit  
Family  
Community  
Blessing  
Home  
Warmth  
Embrace  
Love  
Hope  
Peace  
Joy

Inspired  
Grace  
Mercy  
Share  
Gifts  
Justice  
Together  
Creation  
God  
Youth  
Inspire  
Hunger  
Connection  
Nourishment  
Laughter



# Orders of Service



# Hope

## **Opening Response**

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

## **Opening Prayer**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can extinguish.**

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

## **Readings**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

## **Reflection/Discussion**

Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) in India and Sri Lanka

## **Intercessions**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness.

In this holy season,

when the sun's light is swallowed up

by the growing darkness of the night,

you renew your promise to reveal among us

the splendour of your glory,

enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets

you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his Spirit,

you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness.

Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise.

For to you all honour and blessing are due,

now and for ever. Amen.

## **Collect**

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life

in which your Son Jesus Christ

came to us in great humility,

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

May you leave here with the reminder that we are always hopeful. Hopeful that we and all peoples may bring peace to this world, love to our neighbours, and joy to everything we do.

## **Closing Song**

### **Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you  
And also with you  
Let us share this sign of peace.



# Peace

## **Opening Response**

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

## **Opening Prayer**

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle,

the strength to be forgiving,

the patience to be understanding,

and the endurance to accept the consequences

of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil

and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe

in a world emancipated from violence.

Help us to devote our whole life, thought and energy  
to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfill the destiny for which we were created.

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

## **Readings**

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

## **Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:1-8

## **Reflection/Discussion**

Diocese of Bujumbura, Burundi

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
from whom all thought of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth  
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

Peace of the running waves to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the shades of night to you,  
Moon and stars always giving light to you,  
Deep peace of Christ, the Son of Peace, to you.

## **Closing Song**

### **Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you  
And also with you  
Let us share this sign of peace.



# Joy

## **Opening Response**

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

## **Opening Prayer**

As the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing,

You have fashioned me for joy.

Share with me the vision that finds that joy everywhere.

In the wild violet's beauty;

In the lark's melody;

In the face of a steadfast man;

In a child's smile;

In a mother's love;

In the purity of Jesus.

## Readings

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Psalm 126 or Canticle 18 (Luke 1:47-55)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

## Gospel Reading

John 1:6–8, 19–28

## Reflection

Multiple Partners in the Philippines

## Intercessions/Thanksgivings

To you, Our Creator, we give honour and praise, and we lift up our voices to proclaim your Gospel in the world around us, when so many are oblivious to your good works. We know how much you love and care for your whole creation, including ourselves. Even when we sin, you forgive and we are endlessly thankful that you see fit to offer us such a chance for life. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christ and his teachings, in a world where so many fail to be astonished. Help us to be messengers of his Word and teach us what it really means to embrace truth and joy. Remind us what the Kingdom looks like and how it is always here, present. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For your Spirit in us, when so many refuse to open their hearts. Help us to remain open to our own vocations, that we may do and say what is most honourable and worthy. Help us to continue to let the spirit move in us, so that we may continue to move in you. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For food in a world where many live in hunger; remind us that we are fortunate. We have more than we deserve and for that we are forever grateful. We thank you for all you give and give and give, even when we can't give back. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For faith in a world where many live in fear; thank you for making us your people. Thank you for love and compassion and joy. But more, we thank you for sheer creation – for our own beautiful, unique selves. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For friends in a world where many live alone; we thank you without ceasing for friendship, families, fellowship and fun. May we strive to offer these things to those we know are without them, and be ever mindful of the joy this plants in our hearts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all of these things, and all of the gifts that you offer to each of us every single day, we give our heartfelt thanks. We bless your name. **Amen**

## **Collect**

Almighty God, everlasting Creator,  
we ask your blessing upon all of those who work for peace and righteousness all over the world. We pray that the day might come, sooner rather than later, when war shall be no more, and that all the world might know Your grace and mercy, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. In the name of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

## **Peace**

May the love, hope, joy and peace of the Lord be with and among you this day and always.  
And also with you.

Please share a sign of these blessings with one another now.

## **Closing Song**



# Love

## **Opening Response**

God of all Creation,

**What do you require of us?**

To do justice,

**Seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten**

To love kindness

**Showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need**

To walk humbly

**Following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.**

With these things on our minds and in our hearts, we gather together in prayer.

## **Song**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

## **Opening Prayer**

Loving God,

As we gather together in prayer as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, be with us.

Open our ears to Your word, our eyes to Your world, our minds for reflection, and our hearts to Your love.

Amen.

## **Readings**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Canticle 18 (Luke 1:47-55) or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 1:26–38

## **Reflection/Discussion**

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Programs in Mexico, Mozambique, and Bangladesh

## **Collect**

God of Life,

**Let your great love redefine our world.**

**Let light shine in the darkness,**

**And peace spread through our nations,**

**our communities,**

**and our hearts.**

**Amen**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing**

May love and laughter light your days,  
and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours,  
wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world  
with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons

bring the best to you and yours!

## **Closing Song**

### **Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

Let us share this sign of peace.



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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

80 Hayden Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

Phone: 416-924-9192 or  
1-866-308-7973

Fax: 416-924-3483

Website: [justgeneration.ca](http://justgeneration.ca)

Email: [youth@pwrdf.org](mailto:youth@pwrdf.org)

Charitable number: 866434640RR0001

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