

The Eucharist for Racial Justice Celebrating October Black History Month

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Gathering Prayer

Loving God

**As we meet together in this place
we ask you to bless all those who are not able to be here.
May they know your loving presence with them.
Bring comfort to those who are distressed, and healing to
the sick.
Give strength to those who care for others and your peace
to those who mourn.
Protect them from harm as we long for the day when we
are reunited and can worship you together.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.**

*In a moment of silence we hold before God those members of our
community for whom this time is still so difficult.*

More than an invitation...

You have all been invited at this time to this place.
We don't just want an invitation: We want to be welcomed.
You are all offered a warm welcome to this place.
We don't just want a welcome: We want to have a voice.

You are all welcome and this is a place for listening.

We don't just want a voice: We want it to be heard.

You are all welcome here, and your story will be heard.

We don't only want to be heard: We want to be believed.

You are welcome to this place where no truth is denied.

We don't only want to be believed: We want to be trusted.

You are welcome to this place where your words are accepted.

We don't only want to be trusted: We want to be loved.

You are welcome to this place where God's love embraces all.

We don't only want to be loved: We want to know we belong.

Whoever belongs to God, belongs among us, for we are one in Christ.

Richard Becher, Racial Justice Sunday Resources 2020, United Reformed Church

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus said, 'Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled.'

As sisters and brothers in God's family,

we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

You made us to be one family,

yet we have divided humanity.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people,

yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You rejoice in our differences,

yet we make them a cause of enmity.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit,
and made known to every race and nation the way of eternal life;
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

For the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philipians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.
**He breaks down the walls that divide us:
praise Christ who is our peace!**

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because in him you have received us as your sons and daughters,
joined us in one fellowship with the saints,
and made us citizens of your kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The body and blood of Christ.

Amen.

Communion is administered in silence.

Father of all,
we thank you that you have shared this feast of your
kingdom with all peoples
and have united all races in your Son Jesus Christ:
may the unity we have known here
give us a joyful anticipation of the fullness of life
to which you call us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A prayer of hope

**Gracious God, persevering through the years,
persevering to the end,
as we face the future as a community of your people
in this place,
may we know afresh your faithful love,
and see afresh your loving faithfulness.
May it be your words of life for which we listen,
and by which alone we live.
God before and God behind, for all that has been – thanks.
For all that will be – Yes! Amen.**

The Dismissal

Now may the blessing of God the Father,
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;
of God the Son who bought us for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation;
and of God the Spirit who brings us together in unity,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

