

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Gathering of the People of God

All gather in silence

Call to worship

The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences:

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.
Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121.1-2

This I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.
Lamentations 3.21-23

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew
their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary
they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6.8

The presiding minister continues:

We meet in the presence of God,
Who calls us to share in
Christ's ministry of reconciliation.
In penitence and faith
we commit ourselves to pray
for God's kingdom to come
and work together with all people of good will
toward that justice and peace
between nations and peoples
which is the hope of our calling.

We pray for all
who in bereavement, disability and pain

continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

A hymn may be sung

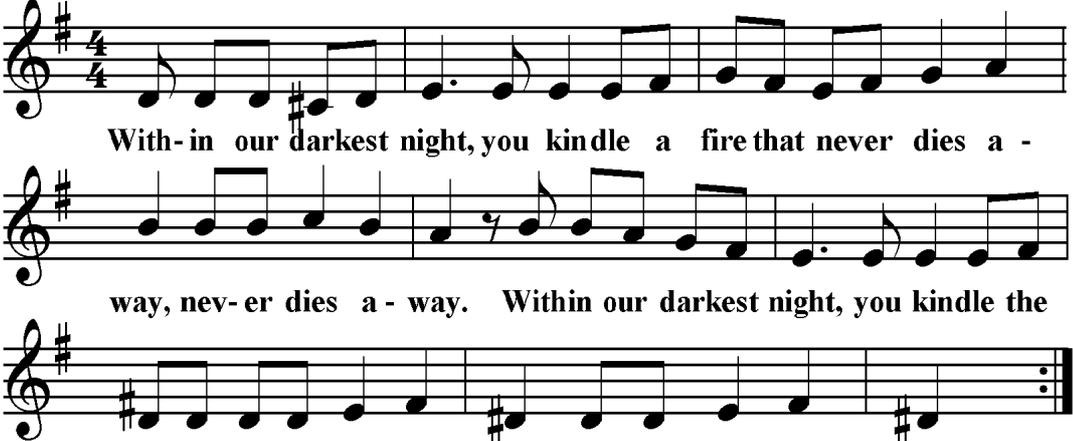
Prayer of Confession

(Alternatively, one of the Laments provided in the Additional Resources can be used at this point. When this option is chosen, the Prayer of Confession follows the Proclamation of the Word)

O Christ
in pain and agony on the cross
you bore the brunt of the world's violence.
You wore our insults scorched upon your back
and in your haunting cry of desolation
you utter our grief, our anguish, our loss.
Hear the cry of your people

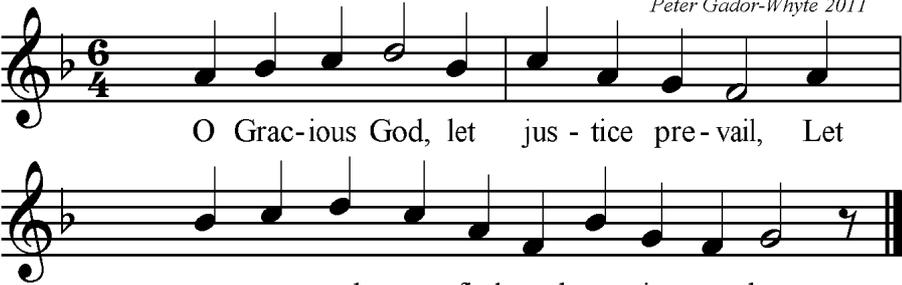
Response

One option is the Taize song 'Within our darkest night'



With-in our darkest night, you kindle a fire that never dies a -
way, nev-er dies a - way. Within our darkest night, you kindle the
fire that never dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.

or



Peter Gador-Whyte 2011
O Grac-ious God, let jus - tice pre-vail, Let
mer - cy and peace find a home in our hearts.

or
O God still the chatter, the twisted speech
Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope

We hold before you:
all the violence done in your name;
Those maimed by war or scared by hatred
Those traumatised by nightmares
which years of peace cannot erase.
Those crippled in spirit as well as in body
those who cannot or will not forgive.
response

We hold before you
the tyrants of our age
who wreak havoc with the minds and bodies of the young
and force them to commit horrendous crimes.
We hold before you
a world broken by despair
where false prophets voice not words of peace
but chant a mantra of revenge
response

We hold before you
our own complicity with the evils of our age
and pray for those who have not forgiven us
Response

Hear what comfortable words our saviour Christ says
To all who truly turn to God:
Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden,
And I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.
For I am gentle and lowly in heart,
And you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

We wholeheartedly repent
Of the evil we have done,
And the evil done on our behalf;
And we look for grace to offer forgiveness,
And to know ourselves forgiven.

Declaration of forgiveness

God was in Christ reconciling the world
By his wounds we have been healed.
Hear and live Christ's word of grace.
Your sins are forgiven
Thanks be to God!

The Peace

**(The peace should be shared at this point unless
the Lord's Supper is being celebrated later in the service)**

The Service of the Word

The reader says:

Hear these words from the New Testament

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

James 3:17-18

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

and/or the following is read responsively:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is
great in heaven,
**for in the same way they persecuted the prophets
who were before you.”**

Matthew 5:1-12

The reader says:

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

A hymn may be sung

The preaching of the Word

Affirmation of Faith

(An affirmation of faith such as the following may be used)

We believe in God,
creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ,
incarnate among us, who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit,
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe.

Lord, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts
entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

We confess our sin, individual and collective,
by silence or action:
through the violation of human dignity
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people
by greed and indifference;
through the misuse of power
in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security
by military and economic forces
that threaten human existence:
through the abuse of technology
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community
to the way of Christ;
to take up the cross;
to seek abundant life for all humanity;
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,
praying that God's kingdom may come.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

*(15th World Methodist Council, Nairobi, Kenya, 1986
Uniting in Worship 1: People's Book: Page133)*

An act of remembrance and prayer

Prayer is led:

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of
conflict, and ask that God may give us
peace:

for the servicemen and women who have
died in the violence of war, each one
remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace
God give peace

for those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief and the
sadness of our loss;

May God give peace
God give peace

for all members of the armed forces who
are in danger this day, remembering
family, friends and all who pray for their
safe return;

May God give peace
God give peace

for civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and
hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace
God give peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who
seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace
God give peace

for all Defence Force chaplains offering support,
encouragement, acceptance, compassion and understanding
wherever and whenever it is needed;

May God give peace
God give peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege
of leadership, political, military and
religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and
resolve in the search for reconciliation and
peace.

May God give peace
God give peace

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memory
we cherish,
and those whose names we will never
know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment
of this broken world,
and grant us the grace to pray for those
who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our
faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.

Amen.

All join together in the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

OR

**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. Amen.**

An older person says:

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

A younger person may reply:

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.

All affirm:
We will remember them.

Silence

The following prayer is said:

Ever-living God
we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war into the peace of

your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A hymn may be sung

Those wishing to do so come forward to lay wreaths, light candles, or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses

An act of commitment is made:

Let us commit ourselves to responsible

living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in
us that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed
in the hearts of all people,
And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.
Amen

Offering

Notices and concerns of the Church

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

(If the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is being celebrated, it appropriately follows here)

The peace
A hymn may be sung
Setting of the table
Great prayer of thanksgiving
The breaking of the bread
Lamb of God
The communion
Prayer after communion

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn
Word of mission
Blessing
Dismissal