

Meditation for a Transgender Day of Remembrance: On the Prayer of St Francis

Susan Gilchrist

SuH1108d

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It is suggested that one person reads the prayer and another reads the meditation

*Lord make us
instruments of
your peace*

On this day of remembrance for all transgender people who have died, help us build peace and understanding between all of us, so all may rejoice and be enfolded in your love.

*Where there is
hatred let us sow
love*

Help us to calm the fear and hate that drives us to condemn and scapegoat all transgender people, for simply trying to be who they are

*Where there is
injury, pardon*

Forgive us for all the hurt and injury we have caused, for the presumptions we have made, and the guilt we have created

*Where there is
doubt, faith*

For all transgender people who are harassed and discriminated against by the Christian Church and society help us bring to them the assurance of faith that enfolds everybody, who tries to live their lives in ways that are true to their own identities and in the fullness of God's love

*Where there is
despair, hope*

Forgive us for the guilt, the self-disgust, the self-blaming and the loss of hope we have caused, for the harm that has been done by our medical misdiagnoses, and for pursuing a doctrine which condemns every form of transgender expression as a depraved act in pursuit of inappropriate sex.

*Where there is
darkness, light*

Help us lord to move Christian Churches from their self-imposed darkness by refusing to consider even the possibility of change to their traditional doctrines on gender and sexual variation into one which helps them to find the Light of Christ

*And where there
is sadness, joy*

Lord God we are all wonderfully made in Your image: help all of us, heterosexual, transgender, transsexual, lesbian, gay, intersex and bisexual, to find and build on the richness that exists in every person, so that with true veneration, sharing and understanding for each other, our lives may be lived in the Joy of Christ

*O divine master
grant that we may
not so much seek
to be consoled as
to console*

Each year on the Transgender Day of Remembrance we commemorate all transgender people who have been murdered for being who they are, or who have taken their own lives because of the persecution they have endured. We remember in particular the following people, who also stand for the many others who are unknown or un-named: (list of names¹). Grant your peace and consolation to all those who have been harmed by these actions, give courage, comfort and support to the friends, relatives, partners and companions who have been left behind.

So that their deaths have not been in vain, give us also the resolve to

transform our lives in ways that that help us to help others who continue to face the same difficulties in their everyday lives.

*To be understood
as to understand*

To listen in humility to the voices of all transgender and gender and sexually variant people, to hear and to respect their concerns and to act in sympathy and esteem for what they say.

*To be loved as to
love*

St Paul said, “*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus*”. As Jesus loved us, so we must love each other: This is the Gospel message we are asked to share with transgender and all other people in our lives.

*For it is in giving
that we receive*

In his role as the suffering servant the true message of the Gospel is revealed. It was Jesus who made the supreme sacrifice for us. Grant us that we too may give of ourselves without restraint in our lives.

*It is in pardoning
that we are
pardoned*

Calm our angers. Give us Lord the ability to forgive ourselves and each other: And not to harbour the hurt of past injustice. There is much more to Christianity than just these issues of gender and sex. Let us build a world together which can truly fulfil the Love of God in Jesus Christ.

*And it's in dying
that we are born
to eternal life*

The early Christian Church set out to be a beacon of light, shining out to the discriminatory society around it. That beacon should shine most strongly in places where discriminatory societies exist. Whatever the social cost to the organisation may be, surely the mission of every Church today must be to rekindle that beacon of light. We pray that this new light of the Gospel Message will be lit to shine equally in all parts of the world and for all people, including transgender and transsexual people, who seek to live their lives in ways that are true to their own identities, in the Love of Christ

Amen

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ⁱ For a list of names of people who have died, go to: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/SuH1108w-TransgenderDeaths2017.pdf> .

See also the Transgender Day of Remembrance Website <https://www.glaad.org/tdor>