

SHORT TRANSGENDER WELCOME LITURGY

Introduction

But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!

Isaiah 43, 1

Jesus personally calls each one of us by name. You are loved by Christ. In which name(s) do you hear God's call?

Respondent

In the name(s) of *NNNNN* I hear God calling me.

Hymn

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave old self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
 when you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you
 and never be the same.
 In your company I'll go
 where your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I'll move and live and grow
 in you and you in me.

'Will you come and follow me' is from the writing partnership of two leading members of the Iona Community in Scotland, John Bell and Graham Maule.

Presider

NNNNN you have responded to that summons. You have faced difficulties such as these in responding to that call.

Paul said in Galatians 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

In you and your name you have found yourself.

As God has called you, we also call you to be a full member of our community and Church, so that we can all be as one together in the Love of Christ

Congregation

**NNNNN, we welcome you as one of us.
 For beyond all gender we are one in Christ
 We welcome you NNNNN with all of our hearts
 We welcome you NNNNN into all of our lives
 We welcome you NNNNN in all of our ways
 And in all of our doings be one with us**

Hymn

Let us build a house where love can dwell
 and all can safely live,
 a place where saints and children tell
 how hearts learn to forgive.
 Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
 rock of faith and vault of grace;
 here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
 All are welcome, all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
 and words are strong and true,
 where all God's children dare to seek
 to dream God's reign anew.
 Here the cross shall stand as witness
 and as symbol of God's grace;
 here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
 All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
 in water, wine and wheat:
 a banquet hall on holy ground
 where peace and justice meet.
 Here the love of God, through Jesus,
 is revealed in time and space;
 as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
 All are welcome, all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
 beyond the wood and stone
 to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
 and live the Word they've known.
 Here the outcast and the stranger
 bear the image of God's face;
 let us bring an end to fear and danger.
 All are welcome, all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
 their songs and visions heard
 and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
 as words within the Word.
 Built of tears and cries and laughter,
 prayers of faith and songs of grace,
 let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
 All are welcome, all are welcome,
 all are welcome in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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 Tune: TWO OAKS

If a form of baptism is decided upon, it can be included here

Prayers

As decided

Affirmation

NNNNN, we welcome you. We welcome you as our brother/sister in the Love of Christ

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