

# **SIBYLS LITURGY FOR THE TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**



**20 NOVEMBER 2021**

# SIBYLS LITURGY FOR THE TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

(20 November each year)

CALLING

Leader 1

Come Christ Jesus

Come You who welcome all, from all the world

Come Christ Jesus

Come to greet us now

We come as we are from every race and love and gender

To build your house our home

COLLECT

Leader 2

God of All Compassion,  
we come today for the/on this Transgender Day of Remembrance  
to remember all gender diverse people who have been persecuted,  
discriminated against, suffered hate crime, have been murdered  
or have taken their own lives because of the rejection they face.  
Help us today to understand the things we may not understand.  
Help us to bring love and not hate.  
Help us to rejoice in the diversity that humanity creates.

*Continued by Leader 2*

God of all genders and none,  
Source of our glorious difference and true harmony,  
Bearer of all pain and Spirit of transformation,  
we give you thanks that you have created us in your own image,  
in the many-splendoured forms of our human diversity.

Hear us as we remember and affirm gender diverse people.  
Transform the violence, pain and struggles of the past and present,  
bring new life out of death, hopelessness and despair,  
and empower us with your grace, strength and joy.  
May we be like kingfishers catching fire,  
dragonflies drawing flame,  
beautiful butterflies shining with your love.  
In the name of Christ incarnate in a thousand places, and more.

Amen.

*Leader 1 introduces hymn: PUT PEACE INTO EACH OTHER'S HANDS*

HYMN

All (muted)

PUT PEACE INTO EACH OTHER'S HANDS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YemloW5xCfE>

Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.

*continued*

Put peace into each other's hands,  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.

When in communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.

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Stream, IL 60188

# PSALM

## Psalms 139.7-18

Where can I go from your Spirit?

***Where can I flee from your presence?***

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

***if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.***

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

***if I settle on the far side of the sea,***

even there your hand will guide me,

***your right hand will hold me fast.***

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

***and the light become night around me,"***

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

***the night will shine like the day,***

for darkness is as light to you.

Plain text: Speaker 1

*Italics: Speaker 2*

*and all (muted)*

*continued*

***For you created my inmost being;***

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

***I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;***

your works are wonderful,

***I know that full well.***

My frame was not hidden from you

***when I was made in the secret place,***

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

***Your eyes saw my unformed body;***

all the days ordained for me were written in your book

***before one of them came to be.***

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

***How vast is the sum of them!***

Were I to count them,

***they would outnumber the grains of sand—***

when I awake, I am still with you.



## OLD TESTAMENT

Speaker 3

### Reading from Isaiah 53

They were despised and rejected by others, a person of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom others hide their faces they were despised, and we esteemed them not. Surely, they took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered them stricken by God, smitten by them, and afflicted. But they were pierced for our transgressions, they were crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon them, and by their wounds we are healed.

## NEW TESTAMENT

Speaker 2

Reading from 1 Corinthians 12.14-26

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

*Continued by Speaker 2*

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

*Reflection by Leader 1 follows*

REFLECTION

as appropriate

Jo Inkpin

Leader 1

## ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader 2

We remember now by name some of the transgender people who have died by the hands of others or by suicide in the last twelve months

List of Names

[https://transrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TvT\\_TMM\\_TDoR2021\\_Namelist.pdf](https://transrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TvT_TMM_TDoR2021_Namelist.pdf)

Divide list of names into three equal parts. Speaker 1 reads the first part, NAMES ONLY on pages 1- 21 Speaker 2 the second part, on pages 22-43 and Speaker 3 the third part on pages 44-63

We also remember all others who have been hurt

Leader 2

Suitable Reflective Music      Candles may be lit or use slides below

We Remember....



Speaker 1

We Remember....



Speaker 2

We Remember....



Speaker 3



PRAYER

Leader 1 and All (muted)

Loving Creator,

**Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,  
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory of the heart, and neglect.  
Then O God, let the sun come out and fill the sky with beautiful rainbows.  
Let the warmth of the Sun heal us wherever we are broken.**

**Let it burn away the fog so that each of us sees each other clearly:  
so that we can move beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender, sexual orientation, or skin colour.  
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness:  
so that we can share the joy and sorrow of our neighbours.  
And let the light of the sun be so strong  
that we will see all people as our neighbours.**

*Continued by Leader 1 and All*

**Let the Earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers to surround us with your beauty,  
and let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.  
Then, dear God, grant us comfort, give us peace,  
and allow us strength to enable us  
to Stand up, Fight for, and be a Voice for Equality.  
In Jesus' name, Amen!**

(Prayer by Rev. Debra J. Hopkins, Black trans woman, Minister at Sacred Souls Community Church in Charlotte, NC,  
sourced from <http://religiousinstitute.org/resources/prayers-weekend-trans-justice/> )

THANKS

Leader 2

Loving source and light of all creation,  
your life and wisdom is gloriously revealed in gender diversity  
and in the kaleidoscopic beauty of human difference.  
We give you thanks for gender diverse people.  
Bless them with assurance of your love.  
Grant them strength and joy in their lives, bodies, and relationships.  
And enable everyone to celebrate their gifts:  
that all may flourish as full and equal expressions of embodied love.  
In the power and mystery of your presence and peace. Amen.

*Next: Intercessions introduced by Speaker 1*

## INTERCESSIONS

God of kaleidoscopic love,  
we pray today for healing and new strength.  
God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***

Speaker 1

*(Speakers now rotate)*

## Speaker 2

We pray for those in need, for a deeper understanding of your joy and purpose for us all, and for the fulfilment of your vision of dynamic unity: in which 'there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female' for we are all 'one in Christ Jesus' (Gal 3.28). As we celebrate the work of your grace in making us new creations, help us come home to your peace and enable others to be at home with you, with themselves, and with all that you have created.

God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***

### Speaker 3

We pray for welcoming hearts and arms to embrace.

Like the parent in Jesus' story, who rushed out to meet their offspring with your profound mothering love, enable us to let go of our inherited prejudices and inhibitions. that we may joyfully receive one another's diverse gifts and thus be fully reconciled and renewed together in your love.

God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***

## Speaker 1

We pray for the Church, that it may fully recognise, affirm and celebrate the lives, bodies and gifts of its gender diverse members. Enable the Body of Christ to support those who suffer, to enable those who seek to thrive, and to welcome all fresh insights into what it is to become a new creation in God's love.

God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***

## Speaker 2

We pray for our wider communities and world, that they too may embrace the gifts of gender diversity. We ask for a true spirit of listening and commitment on the part of politicians, media and other opinion formers. Strengthen those who bring light rather than heat and lift the clouds of ignorance, fear and oppression.

God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***



### Speaker 3

We pray for healing and renewal for all who struggle with gender dysphoria, particularly those rejected by family and other loved ones. We give thanks for those who minister with them: for families and loved ones who are supportive; for informed and caring health professionals; for life-giving support networks, agencies and individuals; and, above all, for fellow gender diverse people who walk in solidarity.

God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***

## Speaker 1

God of kaleidoscopic love, we give thanks for all those who have gone before us, especially our gender diverse forbears who are numbered among the saints. Inspired by their love, faith and courage, grant that we, and all your people, may come home to your abiding love, know your peace, strength and joy, and flourish more fully in your eternal presence,

God of love, in your mercy  
***hear our prayer***

Leader 2

Now in a time of silence, or aloud as we wish, we pray for ourselves, those for whom we are concerned, the Sibyls and those who share our journey with us

God of love, in your mercy  
*hear our prayer*

Leader 2

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

## THE PEACE

Gird us for our journeys as we together share the Peace

Leader 1

Form a (virtual if necessary) circle, holding out or joining hands<sup>1</sup>



***Almighty God,  
My protection be  
Encircling round me.  
Let evil be quelled  
That grace may abound  
As we journey together  
God's Peace may be found***

*All unmute*

(You may then share the Peace with each other as you wish)

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<sup>1</sup> The Celtic Church developed a special type of protection prayer, the Caim Prayer or Circle Prayer, it is where we get the word "Calm" from as praying this prayer would banish the storm and create calm. It was a way to surround oneself with God's protection and blessing and remove any evil. It was often prayed in by 'drawing' a circle around oneself as you prayed, at every 90 degree, turn. This is an example of a Celtic circle Prayer:

## LORD'S PRAYER

Leader 2

Let us say together the Prayer of Jesus- in our own language and preferred version...

**Our Father.....**

All unmuted

## LITANY/CHORUS OF THANKSGIVING

For the image of God in every person

***Thanks be to God***

For transgender and cisgender women in their diversity

For transgender and cisgender men in their diversity

***Thanks be to God***

For agender, non-binary, and other gendered people  
in their diversity

***Thanks be to God***

For loved ones who share the lives of gender diverse people

For professionals who help bring support and strength

***Thanks be to God***

Plain Text: Leader 1  
*Italic text speaker 3  
and all (muted)*

*continued*

For those who give voice and expression to gender diversity  
For those who work for justice and empowerment

***Thanks be to God***

For religious leaders and congregations who are fully affirming  
For politicians, media and educators who bring understanding

***Thanks be to God***

For all human diversity and its joys and life-giving challenges  
For continuing revelation and life-giving grace

***Thanks be to God***

## COMMISSIONING

Leader 2

Today, loving God,  
we have remembered those gender diverse people who have died by the  
hands of others,  
for daring to be who they are.  
That their deaths may not be in vain,  
in your grace and your forgiveness,  
we ask for the courage to bring your love and affirmation to the world  
Help us to do Your will

Leader 1 introduces the hymn: BE THOU MY VISION



HYMN

All (muted)

<http://sm.gndr.org.uk/online/eveningmeetings/SuN1118a/vision.mp3>

## BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of My Heart  
No boundaries of gender or love you impart  
Bring truth to my journeys by day and by night  
With fulness of being that shines in your light

Be thou my wisdom; be thou my true word,  
Of you ever with me, and I with thee Lord;  
With thou my great guidance for all I'd become;  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;  
Be thou my soul's shelter and thou my strong tower:  
With joys of completeness, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, give truth to us all  
Made one by your vision, O Ruler of all.

## SENDING OUT PRAYER

Leader 2

Kaleidoscopic God,  
beyond gender and embodied in all,  
thank you for your love and your assurance  
that we have been fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Grant us strength and joy in being the people  
whom you have created and called us to be.  
Give us patience and loving persistence  
in the face of struggle and adversity,  
and help us always to live fully as blessed images of you.

## BLESSING

Leader 1

May the delight of God fill your souls with joy  
and give you strength to celebrate and embody Christ's love in the world:  
and the blessing of God – creating, transforming, and making new -  
bring you to your true and loving home, now and always. Amen.

Closing Music

<http://sm.gndr.org.uk/online/eveningmeetings/SuN1118a/bestill.mp3>

Go to next slide



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