



A Service for Unit Conferences 2009 Cost of Relationship

Please add official Anglican Confession and Eucharistic Prayers from *New Patterns for Worship* and *Common Worship*

Candles are lit.

Opening Music

Please choose some gentle music or peaceful singing as people enter and prepare for this Service.

Prayer of Preparation:

Leader:

Let us pray -
Lord our God,
in you justice and mercy meet.
With unparalleled love you have saved us from death and
drawn us into the circle of your life.

Open our eyes to the wonders this life sets before us,
that we may serve you free from fear and address you as
God our Father.

All: Amen

Leader:

During this service we reflect on the cost of
relationship in our personal lives and in our work
throughout the Mothers' Union worldwide.
As we reflect, we ask our Lord and Saviour in his
almighty power,
to show us the true cost of relationship in the values
that his son Jesus Christ showed while on earth:
those of compassion, justice, dignity, acceptance,
forgiveness, mercy and patience.

**All: May we try to model these values in our own lives
and serve you God with our whole heart.**

Amen

Hymn *All: Christ, be our light*

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Refrain Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

© 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP.
All rights reserved.

Confession *candles are extinguished*

Leader: Lord God, our maker and redeemer,
 come among us and save us.
 We have wilfully misused your gifts of
 creation;
 Lord be merciful:

All: **forgive us our sin.**

Leader: We have seen the ill-treatment of others and
have not gone to their aid;
Lord be merciful:

All: forgive us our sin.

Leader: We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed
to strive for
justice;
Lord be merciful:

All: forgive us our sin.

Leader: We have heard the good news of Christ but
failed to share it with others;
Lord be merciful:

All: forgive us our sin.

Leader: We have not loved you with all our heart or our
neighbours as ourselves;
Lord be merciful:

All: forgive us our sin.

Absolution

Leader: May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw
us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins.
That we may behold the glory of his Son, the
Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Candles are lit

Readings

Reader: Jesus, you call to my heart once more:
"Leave anything that holds you back from deeper
love.

Come follow me, again and again."

Grant me the courage to leave behind whatever
keeps me from you and to trust you with my
life.

May my heart's connection with you be so strong
and true that I will daily risk the road of
following in your footsteps.

Keep me open to the adventure of life where I
meet you day by day. Remind me often of my
inner goodness.

Help me to believe that you look upon me with
love. Thank you for the call to be your
disciple.

Amen

From Out of the Ordinary by

Joyce Rupp

Gospel Reading:

John 21: 15 – 23 New Jerusalem Bible translation

Later on, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

When it was already light, there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Haven't you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No,' he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they threw the net out and could not haul it in because of the quantity of fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter tied his outer garment round him (for he had nothing on) and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net with the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?' They knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third

time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

In all truth I tell you,
when you were young
you put on your own belt
and walked where you liked;
but when you grow old
you will stretch out your hands,
and somebody else will put a belt round you
and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them-the one who had leant back close to his chest at the supper and had said to him, 'Lord, who is it that will betray you?' Seeing him, Peter said to Jesus, 'What about him, Lord?' Jesus answered, 'If I want him to stay behind till I come, what does it matter to you? You are to follow me.' The rumour then went out among the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus had not said to Peter, 'He will not die,' but, 'If I want him to stay behind till I come.'

Pause to and reflect and respond in silence

I am Peter. I am asked to let go of my desire to be perfect and to live with my own unfinished condition. Jesus, you loved Peter as he was. You love me as I am. May I not only respond with 'yes' to your question, "do you love me?" but also to say yes when you take me "where I would rather not go."

Homily

Creed

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:**

**Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Intercessions

*Leader: We say together the Cost of Relationship
prayer.*

All: God of love and life,
when we count the cost
of our relationships
and struggle to pay the price,
help us to remember
how you gave us your only Son.

When we give freely,
we mirror your greater gift.
And we become like you
in loving without reward.
Amen

Voice 1: Risen Lord Jesus,
We thank you for your sacrifice made on the
cross for us,
for your love for us your children.
We thank you for our family and friends.
Help those whose spirit is burning low
to be loving , to listen, to try to understand
others.
Be near to those who are lonely, hurt, bored,
or who cannot see the way forward.
Amen *Pamela Richardson, Sheffield - MU
member*

Voice 2: God, our Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the gift of relationships,

but we pray today for those who find themselves
in situations

where there is no easy answer.

Guide them in their decision making,

and show them the way forward,

so that in all things they feel your loving
hands upon them.

We ask this in your name,

through Christ our Lord,

Amen

Margaret Pullin, Carlisle - MU

member

Please add further intercessions relevant to your Unit's
needs and your local Mothers' Union work.

Sharing of the Peace

We are not alone.

We share a common humanity and the nurturing gifts of
God.

We are called to share in the task set before us
so that all may share the hope that is in Christ.

Let us offer Christ's peace to one another,
in love, acceptance and humility.

All: Exchange a sign of peace.

All: The Lord's Prayer

Hymn Blessed be God

**All: Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
thanks to your Goodness this bread we offer:
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
it will become the Bread of life.**

Blessed be God! Blessed be God!

Blessed be God forever! Amen!

Blessed be God! Blessed be God!

Blessed be God forever! Amen!

**Blest are You, Lord, God of all creation,
thanks to your Goodness, this wine we offer
fruit of the vine, work of our hands,
It will become the Cup of Joy**

Blessed be God! Blessed be God!

Blessed be God forever! Amen!

**Blessed be God! Blessed be God!
Blessed be God forever! Amen!**

© Aniceto Nazareth 1989 Kevin Mayhew
Ltd, Suffolk.

Eucharist

*Please add Eucharist according to an Authorized
Eucharistic Prayer.*

The Giving of Communion

Music during communion - Eat this bread, drink this cup..
Taizé

Symbolic action:

You may wish to place creative symbols representing both
your Unit's work and some or all of the following values
on the altar or central worship space. Or you can make
large cards with these words written on them and place
these in your central focal point so that everyone can
see them:

*compassion, justice, dignity, acceptance, forgiveness,
mercy and patience.*

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Gracious God, lover of all,
in this sacrament
we are one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood
and one in the communion of his Spirit:
help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the Body of
Christ.
We make our prayer through your Son our
Saviour.
Amen

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,
we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union
as we seek to share your love
through the encouragement, strengthening
and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit,
may we be united in prayer and worship,
and in love and service reach out

as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

Hymn Jesus Christ is Waiting

All: Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no-one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
"who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;

I will follow you.

© 1989 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona
Community, Glasgow.

Dismissal

Leader: God our Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for He reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory, forever. Amen

Blessing

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,

wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Northumbria Community

Candles are extinguished

Exit music