

Order of Service

It was necessary to walk through
Samaria

(cf. John 4:4)



St Clare's Church, Fulwood
Sunday 18th January 3pm



I. Prelude/preparation: Please stand and sing

Abba, Father, Send your Spirit
Glory, Jesus Christ (2)

Glory Hallelujah, glory, Jesus Christ (2)

I will give you living water...
If you seek me you will find me...
If you listen you will hear me...
Come, my children, I will teach you...
Peace I leave you, peace I give you...

Welcome & introduction

Reader Where is the path of unity, the route we should take, so that the world may drink from the source of life?

All **Jesus Christ is the path of unity.**

Reader Where is the path of unity that gives proper respect to our diversity?

All **Jesus Christ is the path of unity.**

Reader Welcome, in the name of Jesus Christ.
We light these lights as a sign of our meeting with Christ.
Candles are lit.

Reader Water now carried forward is a symbol of our unity which is real,
though still incomplete.
Water is brought forward.



II. Opening

Invitation to prayer

Reader Almighty God, breathe into us the wind of unity that recognises our diversity.

All **Breathe into us tolerance that welcomes and makes us community.**

Reader Breathe into us fire that unites what is torn apart and heals what is ill.

All **Breathe into us grace that overcomes hatred and frees us from violence.**

Reader Breathe into us life that faces down and defeats death.

All **Blessed be the God of mercy, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and makes all things new. Amen!**

Confession of Sin and Kyrie

Reader In humility, as children of God and sisters and brothers in Christ, we receive God's mercy and respond to God's call to make new all relationships.

All: **O Lord, have mercy upon us**

Reader Merciful Lord, your Spirit hovered over the waters and made diversity sprout and flourish. We confess our difficulty to live with difference. Forgive us those attitudes of mind, words and actions that do violence to unity in diversity.
(Genesis 1)

Silence.

All **O Lord, have mercy upon us**

Reader Merciful Christ, grace and joy of the multitude, listener and teacher, you give birth to new visions of hope and heal the wounds of mind and body. We confess that we have failed to listen to voices different from our own, failed to say words that bring healing and hope, and we have perpetuated exclusive attitudes to those who cry out for solidarity and fellowship.



Silence.

All **O Lord, have mercy upon us**

Reader Merciful Lord, you are the source of all creation, the eternal and life-giving Word. We confess that we do not listen to your creation that groans and cries out for liberation and renewal. Help us to walk together and to hear your voice in all living things that suffer and yearn for healing and care.

Silence.

All **O Lord, have mercy upon us**

Reader O God, fountain of mercy and grace, pour over us your pardon. May your love transform us into a source of living waters to restore the strength of your people. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

III. Gospel proclamation

Sung: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Said: *Come, all you lands, join the praises,
the land without evil offers to God.*

Sung: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Gospel of John 4: 1-42

Sermon

IV. We respond in faith and unity

Affirmation of faith

Reader Let us affirm, together with all who are baptised, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Reader Do you believe and trust in God the Creator, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All Yes! This is my belief and trust.

Reader Do you believe and trust in God the Saviour,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All Yes! This is my belief and trust.

Reader Do you believe and trust in God the Sustainer,
whose Spirit gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All Yes! This is my belief and trust.

Reader This is the faith of the Church.

All We believe and trust in the One Triune God.

Intercessory prayer

The Congregation may sing as a response to prayer the following:

*O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me, O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer, Come and listen to me*

Reader God of eternal compassion, as individuals and as community,
we ask for light so that we may become more welcoming and
understanding towards others and reduce the suffering in
our world.

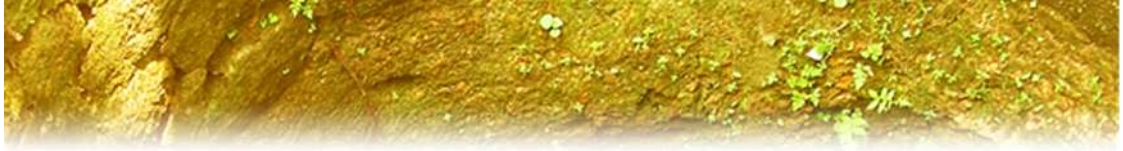
All *O Lord hear my prayer*

Reader God of eternal compassion, teach us your children that charity,
hospitality and unity are expressions of your revelation and will
for humanity.

All *O Lord hear my prayer*

Reader God of eternal compassion, grant us peace; teach us and guide us to be
builders of a tolerant and non-violent world.

All *O Lord hear my prayer*



Reader God of eternal compassion, who spoke to us
through creation,
through the prophets,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
grant us wisdom to listen to your
voice calling us still to unity in our diversity.

All *O Lord hear my prayer*

Reader God of eternal compassion, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord, who as a stranger asked for a drink from a Samaritan
woman, give us living water, springing up to eternal life.

All *O Lord hear my prayer*

Reader We learn from Jesus to offer our lives as a sign of love and
compassion. May we become living offerings dedicated to the
ministry of God's Word and grace.

We Sing:

*1. Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.*

*2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

*3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*4. I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.*

*5. When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.*

*6. Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.*

Reader God, with us and walking in our midst, grant us the grace of your light
and Spirit. May we continue your mission, remaining faithful,
welcoming all and listening even to those who are different from
ourselves. Take and use these gifts in the service of your kingdom.

Take away the violence that is in our hearts and the discriminating attitudes that exclude and devalue the dignity of others. Enable our churches to be welcoming spaces where feast and forgiveness, joy and tenderness, strength and faith, become our daily practice, our daily food, our daily movement forward in Jesus Christ.

All **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

V. Peace and sending forth

Reader May God bless you and protect you,
fill your heart with tenderness and your soul with joy,
your ears with music and your nostrils with perfume,
your tongue with song, giving face to hope.

All **Amen**

Reader May Jesus Christ the living water be
behind you to protect you,
before you to guide you,
by your side to accompany you,
within you to console you,
above you to bless you.

All **Amen**

Reader May the life-giving Spirit
breathe into you that your thoughts may be holy,
act in you so that your work is holy,
draw your heart so that you love what is holy,
strengthen you that you will defend what is holy.

All **Amen**

Reader May the Spirit make a home in your heart,
water its dryness and melt its coldness,
kindle in your innermost soul the fire of love
and bestow upon you a true faith, a firm hope,
and a sincere and perfect love.

All **Amen**

Benediction

Presider: May the blessing of Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain always with you. **Amen**

Call to share Christ's mission

Reader May God, who teaches us to welcome each other and calls us to practice hospitality, grant us peace and passion to transform the world as we move forward on the path of Christian Unity.

All Amen

Recessional Hymn

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy pow'rful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more (2)
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer
be thou still my strength and shield. (2)
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside,
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee. (2)

You are most welcome to
refreshments and
friendship in the
Parish Hall after the
Service