

Song

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no-one stands alone,
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle,
round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever
in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide....

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide....

Let the dreams we dream be larger
than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Draw the circle wide....

*When all have laid their cloths, creating a
Coat of Many Colours, Bishop Martin says:*

May almighty God empower you to continue
his work of reconciliation,
give you the courage to overcome fears and
embody love,
give you grace to grow in self-awareness and
personal integrity
and strengthen you to seek the unity that is in
Christ,
that we may rejoice with all God's children
as disciples of God's Son. **Amen.**

12. Sending and Blessing

Lord Jesus, as you walked this good earth,
your feet upon land that is blessed and holy,
despite its borders and boundaries,
to minister to those in need,
you encountered many people from different
cultures and different nations.
You listened to them,
you spoke with them,

you touched them and healed them,
you blessed them and forgave them.

**May we follow your example,
loving and tending all you have made,
healing and sowing peace wherever you call.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit.**

Amen.

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be upon you and those whom you love,
now and always. **Amen.**

13. Hymn 479

Go peaceful, in gentleness,
through the violence of these days.
Give freely, show tenderness
in all your ways.

*God speed you, God lead you,
and keep you
wrapped around his heart,
may you be known by love.*

Through darkness, in troubled times,
let holiness be your aim.

Seek wisdom, let faithfulness
burn like a flame

*God speed you, God lead you,
and keep you wrapped around his heart,
may you be known by love.*

Be righteous, speak truthfully,
in a world of greed and lies.
Show kindness, see everyone
through heaven's eyes.

*God speed you, God lead you,
and keep you wrapped around his heart,
may you be known by love.
May you be known by love.*



Welcome to St Anne's, Bewdley: Diocesan Racial Justice Service

“Coat of Many Colours” 9th February 2025

1. Welcome and Gathering Prayer

(stand)

Come

We who are ready and willing

Come

We who are weary and burdened

Come

We who feel different on the outside

Come

We who may be uneasy or unsure

Come into the presence of the One who
made us,

Come into the gaze of Christ who sees us,
who recognises us and who knows us more
than we know ourselves.

Come into the loving embrace of God
our maker, redeemer and sustainer.

Come and find peace;

Come and find love;

Come, and be found by God, who loves us
one and all.

**God, we come into your presence,
God most holy, three yet one,
Meet us here we pray. Amen.**

2. Hymn 365 (-v3) *(stand)*

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...

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...

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.*

3. Confession and Absolution *(sit/kneel)*

Let us confess our sins and failure in the area
of racial justice:
When we fail to listen to the cries of the
oppressed

Help us to feel their pain

When we choose to deny racism and injustice

Pierce our very souls

When we choose not to speak truth to power

May the rocks cry out

When we witness dignity being stripped

Give us courage to be compassionate

When we are complicit, unmoved or
unrepentant

Forgive us, Lord, we pray.

May God who loved the world so much that
he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive you
your sins and make you holy to serve him in
the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

4. Bible Reading (sit)

Colossians 3.9-17

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

5. Encounter with East Asia

6. Encounter with Africa

Interview with Harriet Chimani

7. Hymn from Kenya (stand)

On the journey to heaven we'll walk with the Lord ,
he will walk with us on our way;
when we walk with the Lord
he will lead by his word -

Jesus is with us every day.
Jesus is with us, Jesus is with us,
Jesus is with us every day.
On the journey to heaven we'll walk with the Lord ,
he will walk with us on our way.

On the journey to heaven we'll live in the light,
he will shine light upon our way;
when we live in the light
we shall not fear the night -
Jesus is with us, come what may.
Jesus is with us, Jesus is with us,
Jesus is with us every day.
On the journey to heaven we'll live in the light,
he will shine light upon our way.

On the journey to heaven he'll give us his rest,
he will give rest upon our way;
when he gives us his rest,
we'll know his way is best -
Jesus is with us when we pray .
Jesus is with us, Jesus is with us,
Jesus is with us when we pray .
On the journey to heaven he'll give us his rest,
he will give rest upon our way.

8. Encounter with Africa (sit)

9. Address

10. Prayers of intercession (sit/kneel)

Listen, O Lord, to the cries of your children.
Listen as we seek your mercy not just for ourselves, but for our loved ones, our communities, our world.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Music group lead with:

**If you believe and I believe
and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free.**

Merciful God: to leaders, policy shapers, decision makers, grant wisdom and compassion. Hold them to account when their actions discriminate and dehumanise – whether empowering greed or forcing stark choices between eating and heating for those at the sharp end of their policies. Lord, hear the cries of those in debt and struggling. Lord, have mercy on us.

**If you believe and I believe
and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free.**

Compassionate God: to all those who are overwhelmed, struggling with addiction and sinking out of sight; to all those who are widowed, orphaned or abandoned; to the ones who need to know the tender touch of mercy rather than violence, Lord, hear the cries of the oppressed.
Lord, have mercy on us.

**If you believe and I believe
and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free.**

God of creation, hear the sound of creation groaning, of prayers offered in desperation as the injustice of climate emergency makes living conditions unbearable. Lord, hear the cry for your Kingdom to come. Break the heavens, Lord. Let your justice roll.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

**If you believe and I believe
and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free,
and set God's people free,
and set God's people free,
the Holy Spirit must come down
and set God's people free.**

Now I invite you to say **The Lord's Prayer**, which Jesus himself taught us, in whatever form and language is most natural for you.

11. An Act of Commitment to Racial Justice (stand)

Dear people of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love and moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another.

We are all called to the work and ministry of racial justice and reconciliation.

Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim the good news of reconciliation in both word and deed?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge and address the prejudices that keep you from loving all God's children?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, and value those with whom you disagree?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek the perfect love which casts out fear?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you work towards dismantling the sin of abuse of power?

With the help of God, I will.

I now invite all who wish, when you are ready, to come and add your piece of cloth onto the frame here at the front to create a coat of many colours. As you do so you may wish to make your own act of commitment to racial justice.