



# Sharing the Feast of Life Lesbian & Gay Liberation Sunday<sup>\*</sup>

*Introductory music, followed by welcome*

## **Centring chant**

**Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and bless God's holy name;  
bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads me into life.**

## **Gathering**

In the name of the Creator who made us,  
**we celebrate the goodness of our lives.**

In the name of Christ who came to set us free  
**we rejoice in our diversity of love and life.**

In the name of the Spirit who sustains us  
**we challenge ourselves to grow and to dream.**

God, in your presence we gather,  
**be among us now.**

*We sing:*

**Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho:  
Your will be done on earth, O Lord.**

*Opening hymn*

## **Prayer of Reconciliation**

We acknowledge the pain and hurt of our world, and our part in that pain, and we seek to know God's forgiveness and healing:

We have wounded your love:  
**O God, forgive and heal us.**

We stumble in the darkness:  
**Light of the world, transfigure us.**

We forget that we are your home:  
**Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

*2-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell*

## **Absolution**

The prophet Isaiah said:

'Can a woman forget the infant at her breast,  
Or a mother the child of her womb?  
As a mother comforts her child,  
So I will comfort you, says the Lord.'

We live in God's love, healing and forgiveness.

Let us forgive and love ourselves:

Let us forgive and love others.

In the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*We turn to our neighbour and say these or other appropriate words:*

Sister/brother, you are set free from all that holds you back:  
journey on with hope.

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<sup>\*</sup>In this service we proclaim and celebrate the liberation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

## **The Gloria**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Maker.

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Maker.**

To God be glory for ever.

**To God be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, Amen.

**Alleluia, Amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Saviour.

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our Saviour.**

To Christ be glory for ever.

**To Christ be glory for ever.**

Alleluia, Amen.

**Alleluia, Amen.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory Holy Spirit.

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory Holy Spirit.**

Give us your freedom for ever.

**Give us your freedom for ever.**

Alleluia, Amen.

**Alleluia, Amen.**

Alleluia, Amen.

**Alleluia, Amen.**

**Alleluia, Amen.**

## **Prayer for the Day**

*... after which the children leave for Kids' Church*

## **The Readings**

*A reading from the Hebrew Scriptures or the Christian Epistles, after which is said:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gradual hymn*

*The Gospel*

*Before the Gospel reading the reader says:*

The Gospel reading can be found on page *nn* of the New Testament section of the church Bibles; it is from ...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon or other reflection**

*5-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe you are creating,**

**Animating all that lives.**

**Universal grace pulsating,**

**You, O God, the one who gives.**

**You are meaning, mystery, glory,**

**You are the fire, you the dove;**

**You in Jesus live your story,**

**Risk the nature of your love.**

**Jesus is divine engaging**

**With the pain of human strife.**

**Jesus is divine upstaging**

**Of our death by risen life –**

**Life your inexhaustible Spirit**

**Wills to ignite in what we do:**

**Willing us to each inherit**

**Justice-laden peace with you.**

## **Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession**

### **The Peace**

*We sing:*

**Dona la pace Signore a chi confida in te.**

**Dona, dona la pace Signore, dona la pace.**

*[Give peace, Lord, to those who trust in you.]*

*We continue singing as the children return and bring up the bread and wine for the celebrant.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We share the Peace with one another, and then gather around the altar.*

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer,  
at your table we present this money,  
symbolic of all our giving,  
and of the work you have given us to do:  
use it, use us, in the service of your world  
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

*The minister thanks God for the bread and wine and for ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **Thanksgiving Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Open up your hearts.

**We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The minister offers our thanks and praise, concluding ...  
... we praise you, singing:*

**Holy, holy, holy,  
my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
you are holy, Lord.**

**Santo, santo, santo,  
mi corazón te adora!  
Mi corazón te sabe decir:  
santo eres, Señor.**

*The minister says the words of institution, finishing with:*

For as we eat this bread and drink this cup  
we are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes.

**By your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free:  
you are the liberator of the world.**

Spirit of God, come afresh on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine  
**that they may make us one body in Christ.**

Open our eyes  
**that we may recognise you walking with us;**

Open our ears and our minds  
**that we may hear your word;**

Open our hearts  
**that your love may flow through us  
and bring the blessing of new life to all we meet;**

For you are the God who makes all things new,  
and surprises us into understanding.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**O God in heaven,  
Mother and Father of us all,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking the Bread**

*The minister breaks the bread to the four points of the compass while others say appropriate words, then returns to the altar and says:*

The bread we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

## **Jesus, one with God**

*We sing:*

**Jesus, one with God,  
come and live among us.  
Jesus, bearer of our pain,  
touch and heal us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
give us your peace.**

## **Invitation**

*The minister invites all to receive Communion.*

## **The Communion**

*Each person receives, responding **Amen** to the words of the minister:*

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**  
The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

*After receiving, anyone who wishes may go to receive prayer for healing and then return to the circle (or to their seat).*

*We remain standing around the altar until everyone has received communion, and then return to our seats. We wait in silence (or singing a suitable chant) until the prayers for healing are finished.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**O God, Giver of Life, Bearer of Pain, Maker of Love,  
affirming in your incarnation  
the goodness of the flesh:  
may the yearnings of our bodies  
be fulfilled in sacraments of love,  
and our earthly embracings  
a foretaste of the glory that shall be  
in the light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **Notices**

*Final hymn*

## **Blessing**

**May the God who dances in creation,  
who embraces us with human love,  
who shakes our lives like thunder,  
bless us and drive us out with power  
to fill the world with her justice.  
Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Let us go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**