

Service of the Word: The Five Marks of Mission

This order of worship takes the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion and links each to a readings and prayer or song. The final Prayer of Commitment from the Philippines draws on the words of Matthew 28.16-20 and asks for Christ's accompaniment as we tread the path of mission.

Greeting

- 1.** The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ:
All: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1.14-15

When we are deaf to the cries of those in need, because they are too painful for us to hear:

- All** Jesus, son of David, have mercy on us.

When we feel embarrassed by extravagant gestures of faith, because they challenge our complacency:

- All** Jesus, son of David, have mercy on us.

When we find it difficult to admit we might have been wrong, because we cling to our need to be right:

- All** Jesus, son of David, have mercy on us.

When our eyes remain hard and dry, because we have not learned to weep:

- All** Jesus, son of David, have mercy on us.

When following Jesus feels too great a risk, so we choose to stand aside:

- All** Jesus, son of David, have mercy on us.

Silence

- 2.** The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ:
All to teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28.16-20



Lord of the church,
Teacher of disciples,
You loved your friends to the end,
And gave them the example of leadership through service.
May we who follow you today
accept the radical challenge you still offer
to your companions on the way throughout all time.
Stop us short if our values go astray,
and enable us to discover in obedience a perfect freedom.
Above all, help us to make your church a pattern for a new world
rather than a pale reflection of this one. **Amen.**

Silence

3. The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ:
All: to respond to human need by loving service.

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Mark 7:24-30

Silence

Please stand to sing:

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
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,
and companions 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. 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.
5. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Gillard, R

Please sit

4. The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ:
All: **to seek to transform unjust structures of society.**

When he came to Nazareth, *where he had been brought up, Jesus went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'

Luke 4.16-21

Jesus, living Word of God,
Your Nazareth promise of good news is timeless,
Still you offer it to renew our world today:
You offer release for those imprisoned by debt and poverty,
Life for those who know only death and despair.
Provoke us by your Spirit, so we no longer linger and delay,
Quicken us with the vision of a world transformed,
Challenge us to make hope real for all,
So that God's kingdom may be celebrated in our time,
And poverty be turned to history.
Amen.

Silence

5. The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ:
All **to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.**



That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!"

Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Please stand to sing:

1. Maker of mystery,
dreamer of what will be,
wellspring and fertile ground of all our growing:
tending the buried seed,
foreseeing every need,
you draw us into life beyond our knowing.
2. Christ, strong and living vine
spreading through space and time,
deep-rooted in the love of God our Mother:
dying, you live and share
your strength with us, to bear
ripe fruit in season for the life of others.
3. Wild Spirit, springing green,
coiled in the depths unseen,
promise of seed within the fruit maturing:
new life, you grow and swell,
burst from the outgrown shell,
hundredfold yield in every age ensuring.
4. Living and loving God,
sing in the pulse of our own blood;
help us to know you in your great creation,
love you, the life of all,
serve you and hear your call
from our first forming to our full salvation.

Marnie Barrell, New Zealand Tune 'Come down O Love of divine'

Please remain standing



The Lord's Prayer

We say together the prayer that Jesus our Saviour taught us, each in our own language ...

Prayer of commitment

We are wayfarers, following roads to the ends of the earth,
pilgrims on our way to the end of the age.
All **Behold I am with you
to the end of the age**

We are travellers on the road to freedom,
a community of grace
with good news for all we meet.
All **Behold I am with you
to the end of the age**

We'll travel lightly, travel together,
learn as we go; we are disciples,
our mission is love,
the journey is long.
All **Behold I am with you
to the end of the age.**

We'll travel with authority
fearful of none;
we are sent, opponents of evil,
heralds of hope.
All **Behold I am with you
to the end of the age**

We'll travel with humility,
no task is too small;
we are servants, the cross is our compass,
love is our sign.
All **Behold I am with you to the end of the age**

When the way is uncertain, shadows are sinister,
and dangers threaten,
we'll not be afraid, but take heart
All **Behold I am with you
to the end of the age**

*From 'Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation',
Centre for Mindanao Studies, Philippines*

Blessing

All **May the love of the Father reach out and hold us,
May the Christ of god always laugh and cry with us,
And may the Spirit captivate us with the beauty of holiness
And never let us go.
Amen**

