

Longing for Light

A Service of Prayer & Reflection



Bright Waters Benefice

May this place be one of nurture
where we all may come to know
how your endless love sustains us
as we live and move and grow.
May we work to build your kingdom
full of truth and light and grace,
living life in all its fullness
held in one divine embrace.

For our negligence and failures
you have called us to repent,
drawing energy for action
from the voices of lament.
As the secret hurts long hidden
may at last be brought to light,
may the truth unlock the freedom
that is every person's right.

When the smallest child is valued,
and the strong empower the weak,
and each human life is hallowed
and the unheard voices speak:
then your justice stands like mountains
and your mercy falls like rain,
and you hold the broken hearted
till they learn to live again.

So in gratitude we praise you,
and we lift to you in prayer,
all the people you are calling
to this ministry of care.
Give us wisdom, grace and courage,
holding fast to all that's good,
seeing Christ in one another
we will love and serve our Lord.

Rev Ally Barrett

Welcome

We are meeting in the presence of God

**All Who knows our needs
hears our pain
and heals our wounds.**

Words of introduction are spoken

Hymn

During this hymn candles are lit.

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.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light...

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

Christ, be our light...

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

Christ, be our light...

(A&M 42) Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)

Prayers of forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, we hear the Good News
that God is like a mother hen
Who shelters her chickens under her warm wings.
We believe that God is love.
In Jesus we see a God
who wept for the people of the world
and weeps with our wounding.

In Jesus, we see a God
who reaches out with healing hands
who sees our pain and makes us whole.

We come into God's presence
aware of past failures and seeking his forgiveness.
We pray for all who have been hurt in body, mind or
spirit.

Your word says we can cry to you O God to forgive and heal us.

As members of your church, we ask your forgiveness for all the times we did not listen to the truth of the abuse suffered.

All Forgive us and heal us.

Jesus, by your death and in your resurrection we ask your forgiveness for all the times church authorities, and individuals, misused their power and abused those in their care.

All Forgive us and heal us

O God we cry out to you.

Please forgive us as we gather here in this place: for complacency and lack of vigilance, for sins of negligence and ignorance, for self-deceit and colluding with falsehood.

**All Forgive us and heal us.
Come and free us.**

Silence

May the God of Love and peace forgive us and heal us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Song

I still choose to love, Sue Hart

Reading

Isaiah 61 v 1-4

Reflective music and activities

During this time feel free to get up, to move around, have tea and cake, do some art or visit the prayer stations, or speak with one of our Helpers.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father in heaven,
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 forever.
Amen.

Hymn

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Vibrating love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in
grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all within the circles of our love.

Words: June Boyce-Tillman (b.1943)
Tune: Londonderry Air

Prayer of Rededication

Eternal light, shine into our hearts

All Eternal goodness, deliver us from evil

Eternal power, be our support

All Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance

Eternal pity, have mercy upon us

All That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength

We may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy

All To your holy presence

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Final blessing

With thanks to the Revd Sam Cullen, Portsmouth Diocese, for creating the *Longing for Light* liturgy.

Sources

Sarah J Chapman and Anna. *The Statues Gaped*. Published in 2020.

Church of England: *Towards a Safer Church*, Some Liturgical Resources.

Available at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/towards-a-safer-church-some-liturgical-resources-2018.pdf>