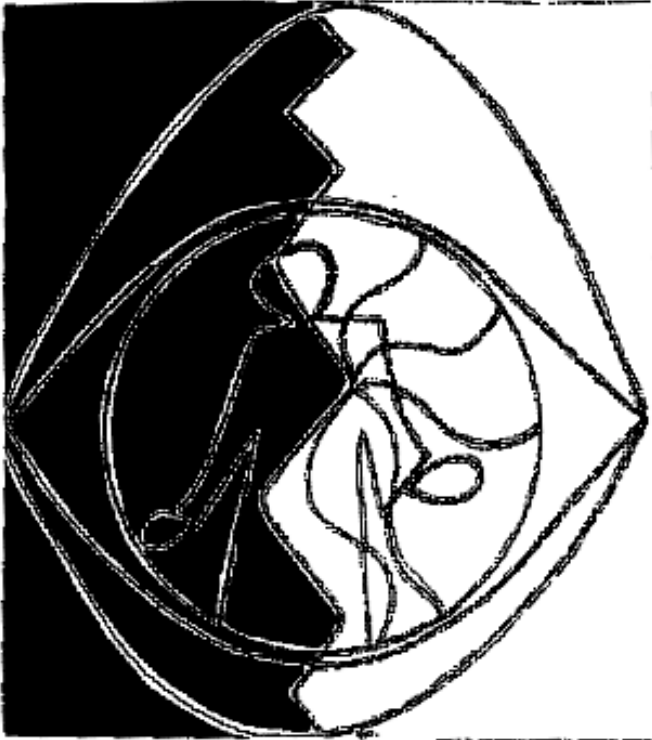


A Service of Prayer for Healing



"The past cannot be undone, but honest recognition of past injustices can lead to measures and attitudes which will help rectify the damaging effects for both the indigenous people and the wider society. The Church expresses deep regret and asks forgiveness where her children have been or still are party to these wrongs."

(Ecclesia in Oceania #28)

Environment

Seasonal Cloth, a large lit candle, possibly the paschal candle; basket of tealight candles to be lit during the ceremony; a bowl of water; a cross; Taize music playing. As people enter they are invited to take up a stone, symbol of grief and heaviness of heart, and place it in the bowl of water.

Invitation to Prayer

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

The leader of prayer welcomes all

Leader In the presence of Jesus Christ, who promised to remain always with us, we gather humbly to pray for one another – for ourselves, the parish or community to which we belong, for our Church – for all, who in one way or another have been betrayed by the abusive behaviour of those in whom they have placed their trust – in particular, clergy, religious, teachers, family members or friends.

Let us kneel in the presence of God, who weeps for people who are suffering

A period of silence follows, then a Litany of acknowledgement is prayed

The Response is E te Ariki whakarongo mai ki a matou or Lord hear us

Leader

We acknowledge:

the pain and devastation we are experiencing

Response

the abuse of trust placed in us and in others

Response

the shock and horror that hangs heavy as stones in our hearts

Response

the loss of respect for our leaders

Response

the effects on the church and the whole
people of God

Response

the fragmentation and damaging effects for
our community and the wider society

Response

the damage to our families

Response

the violation of tapu

Response

Leader

God of all consolation, grant to those who sorrow the spirit
of faith and courage, that they may have the strength to
meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not
sorrowing without hope, but trusting in your goodness

A New Zealand Prayerbook

Song

Tama Ngakau Marie

Tama Ngakau marie
Tama a te Atua
Tenei tonu matou
Arohaina Mai

*Son of peace
Son of God
Here we are always
Grant us love*

Murua ra nga hara
Wetekina mai
Enei here kino
Whakararu nei

*Wipe away our sins
unshackle
these evil ties
that trouble us*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Psalm 80

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
Shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved
O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
And given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
Our enemies laugh among themselves
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land
The mountains were covered with its shade
The mighty cedars with its branches
It sent out its branches to the sea
And its shoots to the River.
Why then have you broken down its walls
So that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
The boar from the forest ravages it and all that move in the field feed on it.
Turn again, O God of hosts, look down from heaven, and see
Have regard for this vine,
The stock that your right hand planted.
They have burned it with fire
They have cut it down
May they perish at the rebuke of your countenance
but let your hand be upon the one at your right hand
The one whom you make strong for yourself
Then we will never turn back from you;
Give us life, and we will call on your name
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader At the beginning of this ceremony we placed a stone in water, representing grief and heaviness of heart. We have acknowledged the abused and their abusers, we have listened to the word of God, we grieve the wounding, pain, loss, and struggle, both named and unnamed amongst us.

Your grief is your own, all the days of your life. Let no one deprive you of it, not even out of love. Pain is inseparable from love; that is a truth we must live with. It is a proof of our true inner reality, a judgment of ourselves, as to how and with what courage we face and accept that truth. Gerald S. Sloan

You are invited to come forward if you wish, in this time of reflection, to take a stone from the water. Watch the water dripping from the stone, symbol of God's tears and ours; then place it at the foot of the cross.

Song I Have Loved You (As One Voice I #126)

REFRAIN:

I have loved you with an ev - er - last-ing love, I have called you_

_ and you are mine; I have loved you with an ev - er - last-ing love.

Fine **VERSES:**

I have called you_ and you are mine. 1.-3. Seek the face of the Lord and

to Refrain

1. long for him: he will bring you his light and his peace.
2. long for him: he will bring you his joy and his hope.
3. long for him: he will bring you his care and his love.

Prayers of Intercession and Candle Lighting

As the response is made, a candle is lit and placed on a stone at the foot of the cross.

Leader We recognize that abuse diminishes the dignity of people. And so, gathered in faith and confidence as the Body of Christ, we present our prayers of healing to God the Father

Reader 1 "God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine" We pray for all those who have been abused sexually, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually – that God will heal and comfort them (pause)

Response **Restore us, O God.
Let your face shine that we may be saved**

Reader 2 "God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine" We pray for their families, relatives and friends that God will console them in their grief (pause)

Response

Reader 3 "God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine" We pray for all in the healing profession who minister to those who suffer as a result of the violence of abuse, that God will give them an abundance of love, compassion and wisdom (pause)

Response

Reader 4 "God's power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine" We pray that the Spirit of wisdom will enlighten the minds of all people and lead to a growth in awareness and a determination to put an end to all acts of violence and abuse (pause)

Response

Reader 5 “God’s power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine” We pray for those for whom the burden of violence and abuse has proved too much to bear, that the God of love and mercy will grant them everlasting peace (pause)

Response

Leader Gentle and ever loving God, listen to the prayers of your people, who offer them in the Spirit, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Act of Commitment

Leader Let us stand and declare our commitment to the journey of healing and hope.

All We stand together as a Christian community to acknowledge the revelations of abuse in our Church and the pain it has caused for so many people. We are united in our commitment to healing for those who have been hurt and to work to prevent future abuse. As we continue this journey of healing and hope, we will work for what is right. Together we invoke the Holy Spirit to journey with us towards wholeness and healing for all

Leader You are invited to seal this commitment, if you wish, by lighting a candle and placing it on or near one of the stones at the foot of the cross, as a sign of hope and trust in the God who longs to heal our lives.

Participants move forward in silence while the ritual action is completed

Leader Let us raise our hands in blessing as we pray together

All
 May the mystery of God enfold us
 May the wisdom of God uphold us
 May the fragrance of God be around us
 May the brightness of God surround us
 May the wonder of God renew us
 May the loving of God flow through us
 May the peace of God deeply move us
 May the moving of God bring us peace

- Joy Cowley

Hymn Christ be our Light (As One Voice II #3)

Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts,
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ be our light
 Shine in your church gathered today



1. Long - ing for light, ___ we wait in darkness. Long-ing for
 2. Long - ing for peace, ___ our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3. Long - ing for food, ___ man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4. Long - ing for shel-ter, people are homeless. - Long-ing for
 5. Man - y the gifts, ___ man-y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, ___ we turn to you Make us your own, ___
 2. hope, ___ man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone ___
 3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, ___
 4. warmth, ___ man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see. ___
 2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. ___
 3. bro-ken for oth - ers, shared un-til all are fed. ___
 4. shel-ter-ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone. ___
 5. to one an - oth - er, mak-ing your king - dom come. ___

Bernadette Farrell