



TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

ANNUAL MEETING

27 June, 2015



Order of Service for Opening Worship

Jesus said to her: "Give me to drink"

John 4: 7

*Cover and order of service adapted from the
2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
prepared by the Churches in BRAZIL.*

✠ I. WE GATHER IN HOPE AND UNITY

Hymn

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord (Peacey)

Gathering of the Community

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. *(1st Corinthians 1:3)*

Amen.

Acknowledgement of Country

As we gather here today, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to them for their care of it over thousands of years. We give thanks to God for the creation of this great southland of the Holy Spirit and for his work of grace throughout the ages.

Prayers of Repentance

Merciful Lord, your Spirit hovered over the waters where diversity sprouted and flourished. We confess our difficulty to live with differences that are legitimate in your sight. Forgive us those attitudes of mind, words and actions that do violence to unity in diversity.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Merciful Christ, grace and joy of the multitude, listener and teacher, you give birth to new visions of hope and you heal the wounds of mind and body.

We confess that we have failed to listen to voices different from our own, we have failed to say words that bring healing and hope, and have perpetuated exclusive attitudes towards those who cry out for solidarity and fellowship.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

O God, fountain of mercy and grace, pour over us your pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins. May your love transform us into a source of living waters to restore the strength of your people, that we may so serve you with a quiet mind and obedient heart.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

✠ II. WE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

John 4: 1-42

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Pause for Reflection

✠ III. WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND UNITY

Affirmation of Faith (The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Collect for Peace and Unity

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you". Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessory Prayers

God of eternal compassion, as individuals and as community, we ask for light, so we may become more welcoming and understanding towards others and reduce the suffering in our world.

Hear us, God of love, hear this our cry!

God of eternal compassion, teach your children that charity, hospitality and unity are expressions of your revelation and will for humanity.

Hear us, God of love, hear this our cry!

God of eternal compassion, we beseech you, grant us peace; teach us and guide us to be builders of a tolerant and non-violent world.

Hear us, God of love, hear this our cry!

God of eternal compassion, who spoke to us through creation, through the prophets, and finally through your Son Jesus Christ, grant us wisdom to listen to your voice that calls us to unity in our diversity.

Hear us, God of love, hear this our cry!

God of eternal compassion, in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who as a stranger asked for a drink from a Samaritan woman, give us living water, springing up unto eternal life.

Hear us, God of love, hear this our cry!

We learn from Jesus to offer our lives as a sign of love and compassion. Heavenly Father, may we become living offerings dedicated to the ministry of your Word and grace.

God, you are with us and walk in our midst,
grant us this day the grace of your light and Spirit
so that we may continue our mission
and remain faithful to welcoming and listening to all,
even to those who are different from ourselves.

Take away the violence that is in our hearts
and the discriminating attitudes that exclude and devalue the
human dignity of others. Enable our churches to be
welcoming spaces where feast and forgiveness, joy and
tenderness, strength and faith become our daily practice,
our daily food, our daily movement forward in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Having professed our faith in one Lord and affirmed our faith in Christ at the water of life we now stand before our God whom we can call Father.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

✠ IV. WE GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

**May the Lord God,
bless us and protect us,
fill our hearts with tenderness and our souls with joy,
our ears with music and our nostrils with perfume,
our tongues with song giving face to hope.**

**May Jesus Christ the living water
be behind us to protect us,
before us to guide us,
by our side to accompany us,
within us to console us,
above us to bless us.**

**May the life-giving Spirit
breathe into us that our thoughts may be holy,
act in us so that our work is holy,
draw our heart so that we love what is holy,
strengthen us that we will defend what is holy.
May God make a home in our hearts,**

water their dryness, and melt their coldness,
kindle in our innermost souls the fire of God's love
and bestow upon us a true faith, and firm hope,
and a sincere and perfect love.

Amen.

Prayer for Peace

May God, who teaches us to welcome each other and calls us to practice hospitality, grant us peace and serenity as we move forward on the path of Unity in Christ.

Sending Forth

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We meet, as we go, in peace, to love and to be loved, to welcome and to belong, to serve and to be nourished.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say (Bonar)



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