



Tasmanian Council of Churches

ANNUAL MEETING

7 June, 2014

Opening Worship

Order of Service



*The service is adapted from the 2014 Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity, prepared by the Churches in Canada.*

I. We Gather in Hope and Unity

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Hymn: Stand up and bless the Lord

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 the work of grace throughout the ages.

Prayers of Repentance

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do. Have mercy on us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you and live a new life to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2: 1-2.

II. We Hear and Receive the Word of God

Scripture Readings

Genesis 11: 1-9 – divided by sin

John 7: 37-39 – united in Christ

II. 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 worshiped 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 the TCC

God of life, unity and peace,
you have called us to be your people.
Bring us to closer unity with you
within the household of your Church.
Direct our steps as we journey
in the Tasmanian Council of Churches
that we may become what you have called us to be;
and that together we may walk in newness of life:
new and old, east and west, indigenous and all
who have gathered in this land from the
corners of the earth.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus
and through the grace and communion of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Intercessory Prayers

L: We pray for all people who suffer day to day in *poverty and hunger*. Their precarious state often causes divisions; may Christ's love restore justice and peace. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for all those striving for *universal education*. May their thirst for knowledge build bridges between our churches and restore respect in our differences. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for those striving for *equal dignity and rights of man and woman*. May the image of God be honoured in all women and men. We remember especially the need for equal access to jobs, goods and services. As we become one in Christ Jesus, may we fully receive the gifts of both men and women. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for the young who are sick and those who seek to improve *child health*. As we take care of children, may we welcome Jesus himself. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for women who bear children, and for their *maternal health*. May we take care of these mothers who carry new life and whose love for their children reminds us of God's uniting love for us. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for those who "*combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*". May we hear the voices of those denied a life of dignity, and work to create a world in which all people are respected and cared for, and where no one is excluded. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for all who suffer the consequences of the poor stewardship of creation, and for all endangered species. Guide us to "*environmental sustainability*" so we can be reconciled with faithful and fruitful stewardship of your creation. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: We pray for those who practice international solidarity and *global partnership*. As we favour a fair trade of goods and we cancel debt in the poorest countries, may we also strive for justice. Gracious God, hear our prayer,

C: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: As we strive to realise these goals, may we discern your voice, O Lord, and journey together towards and amidst the Kingdom for which you prayed. And so we pray:

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

Commitment to Unity

L: We are challenged by Christ to know in our hearts and to show in our actions that Christ has not been divided. He challenges us, too, to realise more fully the unity we already have in Christ. With all those in every place who call on the Lord Jesus Christ,

C: Together, we are called to be saints.

L: graced by God in every way,

C: Together, we give thanks for one another.

L: Rich in the many blessings God has given us through our union in Christ,

C: together, we are not lacking in any spiritual gift.

L: Sure in the God who strengthens us for love and service,

C: together, we affirm that God is faithful.

L: Embraced by Jesus Christ,

C: together, we are called into fellowship.

L: United in the same mind and the same purpose,

C: together, we seek to be in agreement.

L: Overcoming our quarrels about the one who was crucified for us,

C: together, we belong to Christ.

L: Has Christ, then, been divided?

C: No! Together, we go into the world to proclaim his good news!

L: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself, may the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service, may the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our spirits, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always.

C: Amen

Hymn: Filled with the Spirit's power

Acknowledgement

This service is based on the international material for the 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity prepared by the Churches in Canada and has been adapted by the Faith and Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia and the Tasmanian Council of Churches.