



# WE ARE CHURCH International

Saturday, 14 February 2026

## Liturgy of Love in Action

*Theme: Love that transforms, love that liberates, love that demands justice*

**Facilitator: Rachael A.**

### Welcome and Gathering

**Facilitator:** Welcome, dear friends. On this day dedicated to love, it is hard to focus when we see so much hatred in the world. We gather not to celebrate romance alone, but to honour love as radical action—love that refuses to be silent in the face of injustice, love that breaks down walls of exclusion, love that insists on the full humanity and equality of all people.

We gather as people of God who believe that the Church must embody the liberating love of Christ. We come together acknowledging that love is not passive or comfortable, but a force that calls us to transformation, to solidarity, and to justice.

### Opening Hymn: ONE DAY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqvKDCP5-xE> (start at 40 seconds)

Lyrics:

Sometimes I lay  
Under the moon  
And thank God I'm breathing  
Then I pray  
Don't take me soon  
'Cause I am here for a reason

Sometimes in my tears I drown  
But I never let it get me down  
So when negativity surrounds  
I know some day it'll all turn around because...

All my life I've been waiting for  
I've been praying for  
For the people to say

That we don't wanna fight no more  
There will be no more wars  
And our children will play  
One day

It's not about  
Win or lose  
'Cause we all lose  
When they feed on the souls of the innocent  
Blood-drenched pavement  
Keep on moving though the waters stay raging

In this maze you can lose your way (your way)  
It might drive you crazy but don't let it faze you,  
no way (no way)

## Opening Prayer

**Reader 1 MARTIN S:** Loving God, Source of all justice and compassion, we come before you as we are—wounded and hopeful, angry and faithful, tired and determined. We bring our longing for a Church and a World that honours the dignity of every person, regardless of gender, race, sexuality, or social status.

Forgive us when we have been complicit in systems of oppression – when we have silenced voices, excluded the marginalized, and betrayed the gospel of radical love. Help us to forgive those who resist our call for justice, even as we continue to demand change.

We thank you for the courage of all who have gone before us and are currently fighting—the women and men disciples, the prophets, and the reformers—who dare to imagine a different Church and a different world. May we honour them by continuing the work of liberation.

## Liturgy of the Word

**Facilitator:** We will now hear readings that challenge us to understand love not as a feeling, but as a commitment towards human dignity in all people.

### **Reader 2 MARTIN S: A reading from the prophet Micah (6:6-8)**

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

*The Word of the Living God.*

*All: Thanks be to God.*

### **Reader 3 ELZA F: A reading from bell hooks, *All About Love***

The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others. That action is the testimony of love as the practice of freedom.

Knowing love or the hope of knowing love is the anchor that keeps us from falling into that sea of despair. **Love is the foundation of our hope.** When we love we can confront realistically the issues that we are facing without fear. For the first time, the feminist movement is facing the reality of our despair.

To begin by always thinking of love as an action rather than a feeling is one way in which anyone using the word in this manner automatically assumes accountability and responsibility.

*Words of wisdom and truth.*

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel

### Reader 4 ELZA F: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (25:31-40)

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?

And the king will answer them, Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

*The Gospel of our Liberator.*

*All: Praise to you, Christ Jesus.*

### Time for Reflection and Sharing

**Facilitator:** Let us take a moment to reflect in silence on these questions:

- Where do we see love-in-action in our lives and in our communities?
- What injustices within the Church and in society make us most uncomfortable? How is love calling us to respond?
- How can we practice love as freedom, as bell hooks describes it?

*A time of silence for personal reflection*

**Facilitator:** We now invite those who wish to share their reflections.

*Time for sharing*

**Hymn: "Let Justice Roll Down" (based on Amos 5:24)**

**Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egocoXyby5g>

*Let justice roll down like waters,  
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
Let justice roll down like waters,  
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

**Facilitator:** Loving God, we bring before you the needs of our world and our Church. After each prayer, we respond:

**All: *God of Love, Hear our prayer.***

I now invite anyone to add their own prayers aloud or in silence.

*Time for spontaneous prayers*

**Facilitator:** God of justice and compassion, receive these prayers and all the unspoken longings of our hearts. Give us courage to be your hands and feet in the world, working for the liberation and flourishing of all.

**All: *Amen.***

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

**READER 5 SOLINE H:** Holy One, Source of All Life, Divine Mother and Father, we give you thanks and praise.

You created us in your image—all of us—women and men, in beautiful diversity of gender, sexuality, race, and ability. You declared all of creation good, and you call us to honour the sacred dignity in every person.

We thank you for the witnesses throughout history who have lived love-in-action: for Miriam, Deborah, and Ruth; for Mary Magdalene, the first apostle of the resurrection; for Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, and Teresa of Ávila; for Sojourner Truth, Dorothy Day, and Oscar Romero; for bell hooks, Audre Lorde, and all who have taught us that love is a practice of freedom.

**READER 6: SOLINE H.** We thank you for Jesus, our brother and liberator, who showed us what it means to love radically. You touched the untouchable, ate with the excluded, elevated women as disciples and teachers, confronted religious authorities, and chose solidarity with the poor and oppressed.

On the night before he died, knowing that the powers of empire and religious oppression would try to silence him, Jesus gathered with his beloved community. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with them, saying:

**All: *Take this, all of you, and eat. This is my body, which will be given up for you.***

**READER 6: SOLINE H.** In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it, saying:

**All: *Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins and the liberation of the world. Do this in memory of me.***

Send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Send your Spirit upon us, that we may become what we receive: the body of Christ in the world, committed to love-in-action, to dismantling oppression, to building beloved community.

May this Eucharist strengthen us to continue the work of transformation—in ourselves, in the Church, and in the world. Give us courage to speak truth to power, to stand with the marginalized, to challenge injustice wherever we find it.

**All: *Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever. Amen.***

## **Our Prayer**

**Facilitator:** Let us pray together in the words that Jesus taught us, reimagined for our time:

**All:**

*Our Mother and Father, who dwells both in heaven and among us,  
Holy is your name.*

*Your kin-dom come,*

*Your will be done,*

*On earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread,*

*And forgive us our sins,*

*As we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial,*

*And deliver us from evil.*

*For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,*

*Now and forever. Amen.*

## **Sharing of Bread and Cup**

**Facilitator:** This is the bread of life. This is the cup of salvation. All are welcome at this table—there are no barriers here, only love.

**All: *God of justice, we ARE worthy to receive you. By following your Word, may we heal the world around us.***

*All share bread and wine*

**Communion Hymn: *Love is his Way (4 verses only)***

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7gC-1UUbB8>

## Prayer After Communion

**READER 7 COLM H:** God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. May this meal strengthen us to go forth as agents of your love, working to dismantle all forms of oppression and to build your kin-dom of justice and peace.

Help us to remember that every act of love—every protest against injustice, every gesture of solidarity, every word of truth spoken to power—is a sacrament, a visible sign of your invisible grace at work in the world.

**All: Amen.**

## Blessing and Commissioning

**Facilitator:** Before we conclude, let us remember the words of Audre Lorde: Without community there is no liberation... As we prepare to return to our daily lives, let us receive this blessing:

**READER 8 COLM H:** May the God of justice bless you and keep you.

May the Christ who calls us to liberation make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Spirit of truth and courage lift up her countenance upon you and give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

**Facilitator:** Go forth in love. Work for justice. Build the kin-dom. And know that you are not alone.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Closing Hymn: If the People Unite (by Seth)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1aaV9H5680>

A seat forged from echoes of falsehoods and lies,  
The law bends and breaks as the ruler decides  
No throne, yet he'd reign with a sceptre and pen,  
The people subject to the will of one man

Chorus: Cause nowhere is safe in this world of  
change,  
Consent is manufactured through bigotry and rage,  
So billionaires and fascists can rule without a fight,  
But their will can be broken if the people unite

An Empire built on the backs of the poor,  
Centuries of suffering as the profit margins soar  
Through violent submission and million-dollar bribes  
Our government sold out to private enterprise

Through christo-fascist fantasies of race and purity  
They condition the people to scorn humanity  
We abandon Ukrayina to the Russian advance  
While we arm the Israelis as they burn the Levant

We need more than hope; we need people to rise,  
No more denial, or political lies  
In the wreckage and ruin, the truth starts to show,  
Our choices have led us to this world of woe

**But their will can be broken if the people unite**