

Service of the Word with Eucharist Prayer Option to be used during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 Nov – 10 Dec)

The MU 2026 theme for the 16 days of activism is **Together for Dignity and Safety**, which is aligned to the United Nations 2026 theme of Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity.

Services that focus on aspects of gender-based violence can weigh heavily on individuals. When planning your service, involve your safeguarding lead and think about having a separate area for private prayer with a couple of people available for prayer support. Make sure that those attending know that the service may be hard and alert them to support available.

This is an outline for a Service of the Word that you can use and amend to suit your settings. The words in **bold** are for everyone to say.

There are suggestions for prayers of intercessions, additional prayers and hymns further in this document. Additional resources include a more reflective service outline and a set of three Bible-based reflections.

Greeting

We meet in the presence of the Living God

All: **who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds.**

Hymn

Loving Lord, you have created each one of us in your image,
open our eyes to see your face in those of our sisters and brothers.

Loving Lord, who calls us to follow the example of Christ's love and compassion,
make us ready to cherish and to respect one other as beloved children of God.

All: **Amen.**

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:

Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

A Collect 'to reflect issues relating to gender-based violence':

Stir us with a resolve not to be silent.

To speak out against the abuse

Of power; especially in our homes.

To speak up for people who have been pushed down in any way.

To speak to the needs of people who are suffering at the hands of another.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who extended his forgiving hands to all.

Restored: Changing the Story

All: **Amen.**

To pause for a time of silence and reflection

‘For if you keep silence at such a time as this,

relief and deliverance will rise from another quarter

And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’

cf: Esther 4: 14 RSV

Liturgy of the Word:

[options noted below – as recommendations for consideration]

Old Testament Canticle: ‘A Song of Humility’

¹Come, let us return to the LORD
who has torn us and will heal us.

²God has stricken us
and will bind up our wounds.

³After two days, he will revive us,
and on the third day will raise us up, that we may live in his presence.

⁴Let us strive to know the LORD;
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

⁵He will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.

⁶‘O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you?
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?

⁷‘Your love for me is like the morning mist,
like the dew that goes early away.

⁸‘Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.

⁹‘For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings’.

Hosea 6: 1–6 (CW)

All: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm [options]:

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed,
and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³Though its waters roar and be troubled,
though the mountains shake with its swelling.

⁴There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
who has made desolations in the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; he burns the chariot in the fire.

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46: 1–11 KJV

or

Psalm 142

¹ I cry aloud to the LORD;
to the LORD I make my supplication.

² I pour out my complaint before him
and tell him of my trouble.

³ When my spirit faints within me, you know my path;
in the way wherein I walk have they laid a snare for me.

⁴ I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me;
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul.

⁵ I cry out to you, O LORD, and say:
‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

⁶ ‘Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low;
save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

⁷ ‘Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name;
when you have dealt bountifully with me, then shall the righteous gather around me’.

Psalm 142: 1-7 (CW)

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

New Testament:

¹³ I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory. ¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in

heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3: 13–21 NRSV

Hymn

Gospel [options]:

² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her'. ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' ¹¹She said, 'No one, sir'. And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.

John 8: 2–11 NRSV

or

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light'.

Matthew 11: 25–30 NRSV

or

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost’. ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance’.

Luke 15: 3–7 NRSV

Sermon / Homily:

Creed:

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All: Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

cf: Philippians 2.6-11

Hymn:

Prayers of Intercession [for suggestions see later in this document]

[If you are having a Service of Holy Communion, add the Peace and Eucharistic Prayer at this point. Suggested Eucharistic Prayer E can be found at the end of this document]

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We say together the personal prayer of our founder, Mary Sumner:

**All: All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,**

whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breath, or the life I live. Amen.

The Peace:

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid'.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

cf: John 14: 27

All: **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace, helping us to be more aware of the consequences of all affected

Hymn:

Closing prayers and dismissal:

Loving Lord, who has created us all in your image,
you have called us to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Help us to treat all with dignity and respect
as we follow Christ's example of selfless love.

MSH liturgy opening prayer

All: **Amen.**

All: **God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you now and always. Amen.**

Go into the world to love the Lord and to serve his people

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession: Together for Dignity and Safety

God our Creator and Redeemer, we come before you in prayer recognising our shared calling as your beloved children, through this year's theme: Together for Dignity and Safety.

Isaiah proclaimed: 'The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; to bind up the broken-hearted' – as we work 'Together for Dignity and Safety'.
cf: Isaiah 61: 1

We ask your blessing upon our Archbishops and Bishops as they highlight the issues relating to gender-based violence within their spheres of influence.

The victims cry out like the Psalmist: 'To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.'
Psalm 22: 5

Help us, as Mothers' Union members to play our part too, to help raise awareness of the issues relating to forced marriage, honour-based violence and spiritual abuse – through our prayers offered and action taken.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Isaiah proclaimed: 'The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed' – as we work 'Together for Dignity and Safety'
cf: Isaiah 61: 1

We pray for the work of our government ministers and local authorities as they consider and implement policies through moral, social and economic justice for all; helping to alleviate the suffering of those affected by gender-based violence, human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Psalmist declares: 'For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.'
Psalm 72: 12

Help us as Mothers' Union members, to also be open and willing to respond, as a worldwide moment visible to all – where together we can be united through prayer, action, and solidarity.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Isaiah proclaimed: 'The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; to proclaim liberty to the captives' – as we work 'Together for Dignity and Safety'.
cf: Isaiah 61: 1

We ask your blessing upon the skills offered through the health care system and social workers, charities offering refuge to families escaping from the harm of abusive relationships alongside issues relating to LGBTQIA+ communities.

The Psalmist declares: 'Out of the depths they cry to you, O LORD.'
cf: Psalm 130: 1

Help us, as Mothers' Union members, to be open and receptive to the conversations shared and to act appropriately to gently facilitate, through the offering of hospitality and the unconditional love of Jesus, the pursuit of peace in families in all its forms – out into our local communities.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Isaiah proclaimed: 'The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; to offer release to the prisoners' – as we work 'Together for Dignity and Safety'.
cf: Isaiah 61: 1

We also ask your blessing upon the skills offered through police, prison staff and probation officers, for their work liaising with families impacted by these issues – for both victims and perpetrators.

'Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon', says the prophet Isaiah.
Isaiah 55: 6–7

Help us as Mothers' Union members, to raise awareness of the links between gender-based violence, female infanticide, trauma, online abuse and the consequences relating to imprisonment.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Isaiah proclaimed: 'The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour.'
cf: Isaiah 61: 1

Inspire us – as we work 'Together for Dignity and Safety', to tell the world the good news of your healing love.

Paul the Apostle writes to the followers of the way in Corinth: 'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us'.
2 Corinthians 5: 18–19

Help us as Mothers' Union members to become faithful ambassadors for Christ today, willing facilitate conversations to help parents, grandparents and all family members feel confident talking about dignity, safety, boundaries, and in the creating of healthy and thriving relationships.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

God of mercy, you know us and love us and hear our prayer:

Keep us all united in dignity and safety within the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Colours of the Rainbow: Creative Prayers of Intercession for use during the 16 Days of Activism

These prayers of intercession lend themselves to having multiple voices although they can be led by just one voice. We have provided some prayer activities that can also be used with the intercessions.

In addition to shower clouds, the image of God's incredible rainbow effect can also be visible when the sun shines near waterfalls or fountains.

As we pray for healing of victims of gender-based violence, may our prayers include thanks to God for the abundance of his living waters to cleanse each and every one of us, observer; perpetrator; victim, from the shortfalls encountered through the use and abuse of coercive power that cause so much pain and suffering within the lives of families; both locally and globally.

Praying the colours of the rainbow:

Red: we lift before you and pray for all victims of **rape**.

The Psalmist cried out: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas [Psalm 65: 7].

We give thanks for the campaigns like RISE UP and organisations like Restored, who raise their voices on behalf of vulnerable people including people trapped in abusive relationships.

Help each one of us to listen and to act appropriately within our local communities.

God of the rainbow: **restore light to our world**.

Orange: help us today to identify **on-line** abuse whether through social media or those groomed through cyber-sex trafficking.

The Psalmist declared: Show me a sign of your favour, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me

[Psalm 86: 17].

We give thanks for the testimony of the Girls Friendly Society **Orange Day** on the 25th day of each month to raise awareness and encourage discussion of the ongoing campaign against violence towards women and girls.

Help us to be agents of change within our local communities.

God of the rainbow: **restore light to our world**.

Yellow: we pray for the plight of all **Young** people,

who can fall victim to the abuse through ruthless networks like County Lines.

The prophet Nahum proclaims: The LORD is good, a stronghold on a day of trouble; he protects those who take refuge in him [cf: Nahum 1: 7].

We give thanks for the work by our government and local authorities,

through schools and colleges to facilitate employer apprenticeship schemes

Help us, as we pilgrimage together in 'the way of Christ', to recognise and value the contribution our young people can bring to the local community.

God of the rainbow: **restore light to our world**.

Green: we pray for the abolition of the practice of **genital mutilation**, both in this country and across the globe: a practice covering different religions and cultures.

Help us to translate into daily life the prayer of the writer of Hebrews: 'for we desire to act honourably in all things' [cf: Hebrews 13: 8].

As Mothers' Union members, campaigning for the recognition that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God, and following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner, help us to translate this truth through: 'the words we speak, the prayers we breathe, or the life we live'.

God of the rainbow: **restore light to our world.**

Blue: breaking the cycle of the consequences of human trafficking in all its forms whether here in Britain or in other parts of the world.

To heed the warning given by the writer of the Hebrews: 'And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account' [Hebrews 4: 13].

Help to increase our awareness of campaigns like wearing **Black** on Thursdays, working towards a world without rape and violence.

God of the rainbow: **restore light to our world.**

Indigo: – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, signals the commencement of the 16 Days of Activism each year with the campaigning to highlight the plight and consequences of gender-based violence through Silent Vigils, Red Chair displays, marching with banners through towns and cities.

Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, proclaimed: 'Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones' [Isaiah 49: 13].

Forgive us when we look the other way, neglecting our neighbour in need; as gender-based violence exists down our street as well as across the world.

God of the rainbow: **restore light to our world.**

Violet: for Gender-based **Violence** that is sadly still prevalent around our world; despite the work through the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women, including contributions from our Patron, The Duchess of Edinburgh, alongside the 4million+ members of the Mothers Union / Women's Fellowship for Christian Service / Amare through the projects to assist **victims** across our nation and around the world.

Jesus says: 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' [John 10: 10].

Help each one of us to catch the vision of Augustus of Hippo [d430 AD], who advised:

Pray as if everything depended upon God, and work as if everything depended on you'. Amen.

With thanks to Anna Venables (Exeter Diocese Mothers' Union) and Revd Sandra Birdsall (Provincial Chaplain, Wales)

Prayer activities that can be used in conjunction with the Colours of the Rainbow Intercessions:

- **Candles:** Place seven coloured candles at the front or in the middle of the group. Light a candle either before or after each intercessory prayer. Once the intercessions are completed, have a period of silence gazing at the candles.
- **Pens and Candle:** Place a lighted pillar candle at the front or in the middle of the group. Using coloured Sharpie pens (or equivalent), draw the relevant section of the rainbow on the candle at the end of each intercessory prayer. Once the intercessions are completed, take time to gaze on the rainbow picture as part of the candle, representing Jesus, light of the world.
- **Ribbons and Candle:** Place a lighted pillar candle at the front or in the middle of the group. At the end of each intercessory prayer, tie a coloured ribbon of the relevant colour around the candle. Once the intercessions are completed, take time to gaze on the rainbow ribbons as part of the candle, representing Jesus, light of the world.
- **Vase and Flowers:** Place a vase at the front or in the middle of the group. At the end of each intercessory prayer, add a coloured flower to the vase. Once the intercessions are completed, take time to gaze on the bouquet that has been created. This can be kept in a suitable place after the service, or given to a local refuge.
- **Basket and Doves:** Place a basket or plate at the front or in the middle of the group. As part of each intercessory prayer, bring a coloured paper dove and place it in the basket/plate. The coloured doves could be made in advance, or as part of the service. Once the intercessions are completed, take time to gaze on the collection of doves and all that they present. The doves can be kept in a suitable place after the service as a prayerful reminder.
- **Paperchain:** Provide coloured links for a paper chain (this could be for each person to make their own paper chain during the prayers, or to make one paper chain by those leading the intercessions). After a period of silence, either the service leader or each person could be invited to break their chains as a symbol of breaking the chains of gender-based violence.

Alternative Prayers for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

With grateful thanks to Revd Lizzie Green

May the God who sees you
meet you in the places where you feel unseen.

May Christ walk beside you
when the road is difficult.

May the Spirit give you courage
to see what others overlook,
to hear what others silence,
and to speak when silence protects injustice.

And may we go from this place
not merely having seen suffering,
but ready to act.

Amen.

God who became flesh,
you know what it is to have a body.

A body that could be touched,
hurt,
exhausted,
hungry,
thirsty,
held,
betrayed.

You made our bodies good.

You made them worthy of care.

Forgive us for the ways
we have treated bodies as objects,
as possessions,
as commodities,
as things to be controlled.

Where bodies have been violated,
bring healing.

Where bodies have been exploited,
bring freedom.

Where bodies have been shamed,
bring dignity.

Where consent has been ignored,
bring truth.

Teach us to honour the bodies of others
as you honour them.

And teach us that holiness
is never a reason to violate another person.

Amen.

God who hears,
you hear the voices that tremble,
the words that are whispered,
the cries that never become words.

You hear what is spoken in public
and what is confessed in the dark.

You hear the child,
the survivor,
the frightened neighbour,
the person who has finally found the courage to tell someone.

Teach us to listen.

Save us from the temptation
to explain before we have understood,
to judge before we have listened,
to offer answers when what is needed first
is someone willing to hear.

Give us ears for the voices
we would rather not hear.

Give us courage to believe
when the truth is difficult.

And when we hear suffering,
do not let us simply say,
"How terrible."

Move us from hearing
to action.

Amen.

God of the places we call home,
you know the rooms where laughter lives
and the rooms where fear lives.

You know the doors that open freely
and the doors behind which someone is trapped.

You know the relationships that nurture,
and the relationships where love has become control.

Be near to those who are afraid in their own homes.

Protect those who are in danger.

Give courage to those seeking a way out.

Give wisdom to those who are trying to help.

And teach us to recognise abuse
even when it is hidden behind respectability,
marriage,
family,
religion,
or love.

Make our churches places of safety.

Places where people can tell the truth.

Places where control is named,
violence is challenged,
and nobody is asked to endure abuse
in the name of forgiveness.

God of refuge,
be refuge for those who have none.

Amen.

God of refuge,

for those who measure their words
to keep someone else calm,

for those who listen for footsteps
before they dare to breathe,

for those who hide bruises
and those whose wounds cannot be seen,

for those whose money is controlled,
whose movements are monitored,
whose friendships are forbidden,

for those who are threatened with losing
their children, their home, their community,
or their safety,

be near.

For those planning how to leave,
give wisdom and protection.

For those who cannot leave today,
keep them safe.

For those who have escaped,
help them rebuild lives
in which freedom feels ordinary.

For those who support them,
give patience without judgement
and courage without recklessness.

And for those who use violence and control,
bring truth, accountability and change.

God of refuge,
make our homes places of safety.

Make our churches places of safety.

And where safety has been broken,
help us become part of making it possible again.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer E

The Lord be with you
All: **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and *saying*:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died:**

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

**Suggested hymns to be included in a
service for 16 Days of Activism
Against Gender-Based Violence**

God who sees the hidden sorrow

God who sees the hidden sorrow,
God who knows unspoken pain,
find the ones whom fear has silenced,
call the lost to life again.

Where the bruises go unnoticed,
where the frightened learn to hide,
give us eyes to see the suffering,
give us courage to stand beside.

God who heard the cry of Hagar,
God who met her in the waste,
meet us now where fear has driven,
meet us now with love and grace.
Not with easy words of comfort,
not with promises too cheap,
but with truth that breaks the silence,
with a justice strong and deep.

God who sees, teach us to notice,
God who hears, teach us to hear;
when we meet the wounded stranger,
make your presence known through us.
May your church refuse the silence,
may your people speak what's true;
God of justice, God of mercy,
make us brave and make us new.

God who sees the hidden sorrow,
God who knows the unspoken pain,
send us out to seek your justice,
till your world is whole again.
We have prayed: now send us.
We have listened: make us speak.
We have seen: now make us act;
for your kingdom we will seek.

Words: Revd Lizzie Green

Tune: Abbot's Leigh (or any tune with 8.7.8.7.D
meter)

God of justice, God of mercy

God of justice, God of mercy,
hear the cries we cannot still;
violence shatters, silence covers,
yet your love is stronger still.
Into fear and into anguish,
speak your word of truth today;
call us into steadfast courage,
walk with us the costly way.

Christ, who knew the depth of sorrow,
Christ, who bore the wounds of wrong,
stand with all who face tomorrow,
when the nights are dark and long.
Risen Christ, bring resurrection,
hope that suffering cannot kill;
with your fierce and tender presence,
hold us, heal us, guide our will.

Spirit, stir in us compassion,
give us strength to work for peace;
till your justice brings us freedom,
till the captive find release.
Take our anger, take our yearning,
shape a future just and true;
in our living, in our daring,
make the world your kingdom true.

Words: Revd Lizzie Green

Tune: Blaenwern (or any tune with 8.7.8.7.D
meter)

In shadows deep

In shadows deep, where voices mourn
and cry, We gather here, where silent
sorrows lie, Through broken hearts and
spirits torn by fear, We hold each other
close, for God is near.

A dawn will break, where justice lights
the way, We stand as one, to bring a
brighter day, Each life is precious, each
held in sacred worth, We fight for peace,
for healing of the earth.

God of all grace, our pleas we lift on
high, For strength and hope, as endless
tears we cry, Give us the courage, in our
quest for right, To end all violence, bring
Your truth to light.

In pain and grief, may we Your comfort
know, In every heart, let seeds of mercy
grow, Guide us, O Lord, through
darkness and through strife, Till all the
earth is filled with love and life.

All made as one, in God's own image
bright, Each life is sacred, precious in
His sight, No one forgotten, no one cast
aside, In love we stand, with hearts and
hands allied.

Words: Revd Lizzie Green

Tune: Tune: Eventide 10 10 10 10

Other suggested hymns

- Be still, for the presence of the Lord
– David Evans
- Beauty for Brokenness - Graham
Kendrick
- Brother, sister, let me serve you –
Richard Gillard
- From heaven you came, helpless
babe (The Servant King) – Graham
Kendrick
- Meekness and Majesty – Graham
Kendrick
- The kingdom of God is justice and
joy – Bryn Rees
- We cannot measure how you heal -
John L. Bell / Graham Maule (Iona)
- A touching place (Christ's is the
world in which we move) - John L.
Bell / Graham Maule (Iona)