SIBYLS SERVICE FOR THE TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 20 NOVEMBER 2026

This liturgy and other information are available online at
http://www.tgdr.co.uk/liturgies/tdor/index.htm

I WATCH THE SUNRISE

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06h0lmj

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
Casting its shadows near.
And on this morning bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.
But you are always close to me
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunset fading away,
Lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes,
I feel your presence near me.
For you are always close to me
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Following all your ways, Lord.

CALLING

Come Lord Jesus Come
You who welcome all, from all the world
Come Lord Jesus Come
To greet us now
We come as we are from every race and love and gender
To build your love for all.

COLLECT

God of All Mercy Compassion and Grace, we come today on this Transgender Day of Remembrance to remember all transgender people who have been persecuted, discriminated against, suffered hate crime, have been murdered or have taken their own lives because of the rejection they face. Help us today to understand the things we may not understand. Help us to avoid unfeeling actions. Help us to bring love and not hate. Help us to rejoice in the diversity that humanity creates. Through our worship and our remembering of all transgender people who have died during this last year from the hands of others… and our appeals for those who face the distresses of exclusion and rejection which are enforced by others… help us to sustain the strength and the vision to break down these barriers of despising, rejecting, and misunderstanding and by your grace strengthen us to build a more tolerant and accepting world

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INTRODUCTION

It is a traumatic time for transgender people with a United Kingdom Supreme Court Judgement and the introduction of a UK Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Code of Practice which previously had sought to maximise the inclusion of transgender people in society; on the grounds that these are shared searches for welcome, coherence of identity, belonging and fulfilment of life, into one which maximises exclusion when motives of sex are applied.

In 1 Samuel 16:7 God told Samuel not to judge by height or looks, stating: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

And as we seek to be true to our own hearts and identities may we bring peace and hope to ourselves and to the world.

READING FROM ISAIAH 53:1

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

READING FROM ROMANS 8: 31-39

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one - for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one - for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below - indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

REFLECTION

On the 20th of November, each year during the Transgender Day of Remembrance we remember those transgender people who have died at the hands of others, or who have taken their own lives because of the discrimination they face

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

We remember now by name some of the transgender people who have died by the hands of others or by suicide in the last twelve months

LIST OF NAMES

TDoR2026-AllNames.pdf

In music we now remember those who are not on the list who have died while trying to live their lives in ways that are true to their own identities TDoR2026-GodWeeps.mp3

INTERCESSIONS

Let us Pray"

The response is "Help us God to do Your will"

TRIAL

Today we live in a society where we see a coherence if identity in our hearts but others do not. And instead of being welcome in societies as people who are searching for coherence of identity, belonging and fulfilment of life, we are seen as some as potential threats to women and children because our motives are presumed to be those of motives of desire, behaviour or sex. Help us to find the sunlight of Your smile and the moonlight that guards us at this difficult time.

Grant us Lord the courage, patience and understanding, so that we respond with courage, firmness and resolution, and not to engage into counterproductive attacks. Help us to open ourselves to others so that they may come to understand what is in our hearts, and we in theirs

Response: "Help us God to do Your will"

INCLUSION

in 1 Samuel 16:7 God told Samuel not to judge by height or looks, stating: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

As you called everyone on earth and in heaven, regardless of race, class, gender identity, and sexual orientation, help us to create for ourselves and others the ability to listen, so that we, and all people, find the same fulfilment, love, and inclusion on earth today, in all our diversities, without qualification

PRAYER B skip his prayer if prayer A has been used

As we bring into mind the one in eight transgender employees who have been physically attacked by a colleague or customer each year. The half of transgender people in the United Kingdom who have hidden their identity at work for fear of discrimination. The third of transgender people who have been discriminated against because of gender identity issues when visiting a café, restaurant, bar, or nightclub. The half of transgender people who do not feel comfortable using public toilets because of

fear of discrimination or harassment. The quarter of transgender people who have been homeless. In a world divided by discrimination, inequalities, and strife, where social divisions by power and gender exist, we pray for the creation of a new world of world of freedom from fear, in the Love of Christ.

As we bring into mind the one in four transgender people who are discriminated against when looking for a house or flat to rent or buy. The more than a quarter of transgender people who are in a relationship and have faced domestic abuse from a partner. The rejection by friends, religious groups, and families. The two in five transgender people who would like to undergo medical intervention as part of their transition, but who have not done so yet, because they fear the consequences it might have on their loved ones and families. In a world divided by discrimination, inequalities, and strife, where social divisions by power and gender exist, we pray for the creation of a new world of acceptance and understanding, in the Love of Christ.

As we bring into mind the two in five transgender people who report that healthcare staff lack understanding of transgender health needs. The more than a third of transgender students in higher education who have experienced negative comments or behaviour from staff. The many transgender people whose sense of identity has been directly attacked through deliberate misgendering by others. The forty percent of transgender people who have attempted suicide at some time in their lives . In a world divided by discrimination, inequalities, and strife, where social divisions by power and gender exist, we pray for the creation of a new world of inclusion and welcome, in the Love of Christ.

Response: “Help us God to do Your will”

PERSONAL PRAYERS

Now, silently, or aloud we each pray for matters that concern us, people we know, and issues that we set before you in love and faith

Response: “Hear our Prayer”
Conclude this section by introducing the following prayer

DEATH

Lord God, we remember before you all those who have died recently, especially those known to us. On this day we also remember all those transgender people who have been murdered or committed suicide, because they have been trying to be true to their own identities. We also remember those who grieve for them. We pray for the perpetrators. Give them the peace of knowing that we all are loved in equal measure. Help us to find that in life, as in death, we all are alive in Your Kingdom of Love.

Response: “Help us God to do Your will”

OURSELVES

Often, we are uncertain, like Thomas, who did not know the way to follow. Or Philip who asked to see the evidence before being convinced. And when we see how Jesus responded to their uncertainties, when he said: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life”. Help us to recognise the harm we may have done to others through ignorance or lack of understanding even when our best intentions are in place. As we mourn for those who have died let us remember that the true fruits of that mourning must be found in a better and more understanding world. In place of our own fears, our doubts and

uncertainties, grant us your peace, give us the joy, hope and courage to bring that good news, with your message of mercy, justice, love, and freedom to the world.

Lord in Your Mercy:

Response: “Hear our Prayers

THE LORD’S PRAYER Leader Introduces

In your own language and preferred version, as our Father has taught us… let us pray

COMMISSIONING Le

Today, we have remembered those transgender people who have died by the hands of others, for daring to be who they are. You have called us to your service, to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. That their deaths may not be in vain, in your grace and your forgiveness, we ask for the courage to bring your love and acceptance to the world

Response: “Help us God to do Your will”

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be Always wit
Response: “And also with you”

Let us offer each other a (Socially distanced) Sign of Peace

HYMN

LORD, WE HEAR THIS CALL TO SERVICE

TDoR2026-Sussex-4-verses-Organ-2020.mp3

Lord, we hear Your call to service
Love and trust for all to see
Let us bring Your wish for welcome
To a world that You make free

Neither race nor sex nor gender
Shall debar us from your call
When our acts are based on loving
You do welcome one and all

Give us strength to face our weakness
Give us power to do your will
Conquer fear and conquer danger
Brought by love we would fulfil

Give to us the power and wisdom
To pursue this glorious task
In your strength and power and glory
Through your love we dare to ask.

Tune: Sussex: “Father, hear the prayer we offer”

Hymn © Susan Gilchrist November 2018

For the complete hymn go to: https://www.tgdr.co.uk/liturgies/hymns.htm

BENEDICTION

As we go out into the world, from depression bring resolution, from hurt bring forgiveness, from despair bring hope, from fear bring courage, from self-interest bring compassion, from sadness bring joy, from darkness bring light, from commitment bring the peace which comes of knowing that we do God’s will. And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and for evermore.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the World

TDoR2026-The-peace-of-the-earth.mp3

Service: © Susan Gilchrist: November 2026

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I Watch the Sunlight
from Our Lady's Church, York. Release date: 12 August 2018
John Glynn with music composed by Colin Murphy
BBC Songs of Praise ©BBC https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06h0lmj

God Weeps
Scottish Festival Singers, Ian McCrorie (Conductor), Howard Duthie (Piano)
Tune: ‘God weeps at love withheld’ Shirley Erena Murray
©1992 Hope Publishing Company https://music.churchofscotland.org.uk/

Lord, we hear this call for service
Hymn © Susan Gilchrist November 2018
Adapted and abbreviated. For the complete hymn go to: http://www.tgdr.co.uk/liturgies/hymns.htm

Tune: Sussex: “Father, hear the prayer we offer” https://play.hymnswithoutwords.com/father-hear-the-prayer-we-offer/

The Peace of the Earth be With You
Scottish Festival Singers, Ian McCrorie (Conductor)
© Christine Carson & WGRG The Iona Community https://music.churchofscotland.org.uk/