

The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) Sunday 2026

Every year, we the worship communities of CCN come together as one body through worship in our respective morning services. This is an opportunity to perform an act of unity as those committed to working for reconciliation in and with the world. This service gives us an occasion to remember why the CCN matters, to reflect on how the reconciling story of Coventry still inspires us in our stories of reconciliation, and to encourage us to find where our stories connect.

A different global region of the CCN leads in producing the liturgy each year. This year it has been produced by our UK and Ireland partners and highlights reconciliation with creation in line with the readings for the day. Please note, partners and friends are welcome to take inspiration in whole or in part from the order of service provided. It is intended to provide a resource that can be used for planning CCN Sunday liturgy that is appropriate for each of our own contexts. Some of the notes may be included in a service bulletin, if desired.

The CCN

The CCN is a Christian network of more than 300 churches, schools, chaplaincies and retreat centres who, drawn together by the story of Coventry Cathedral, share a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation through:

- healing the wounds of history;
- learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity;
- building a culture of justice and peace.

We are guided by the words of the Litany of Reconciliation which we pray together on a regular basis. You can join partners across the world praying the litany once a month together on Zoom

- on the first Friday of the month, led by our UK & Ireland partners at 11am UK time
- or the third Wednesday, led by our North American partners at noon East Coast time.

Please email Alice at alice.farnhill@coventry.anglican.org if you would like the details to join in.

Today, our greatest numbers of partners are in Germany, the UK & Ireland and the USA, but we also have sizeable numbers in South Africa, Canada, the Netherlands and Central and Eastern Europe; overall, we have partners and friends in 45 countries across five continents. Different partners may focus on political, racial, religious, social or economic reconciliation; they may address war and violent conflict, post conflict restoration or healing; their work can have broad and far-reaching, national or regional consequences, or it can seek to address local communities specifically. Partners support one another, pray for one another and share their stories with one another.

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails>

Some notes on the liturgy

The liturgy that follows uses the general form of a Church of England Holy Communion service taken from Common Worship with additional elements from the Church in Wales Liturgy for Creationtide, Church of England A Time for Creation, and Coventry Cathedral's

Litany of Reconciliation. For many of our partners, the morning service does not include the Eucharist. The material may be adjusted as desired for your context with or without that part of the service.

Included below are a list of a few hymns and songs that you might find of value in your worship but are certainly not prescriptive. Due to varied copyright rules in different regions, we have not included the texts or tunes themselves.

- All Creatures Lament
Words and music: The Porter's Gate, featuring Fernando Ortega & Molly Parden
- For the fruits of his creation
Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). Suggested tune: *East Acklam* – Music: Francis Jackson (1917-2022) or e.g. *Ar hyd y nos* or other tunes with the metre 84 84 88 84
- For the healing of the nations
Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009). Suggested tune: *Regent Square* – Music: Henry Smart (1813-1879) or e.g. *Mannheim, Neander, Picardy* or other tunes with the metre 87 87 87
- Here, O Lord, your servants gather
Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi (1958), translated by Everett M. Stowe (1958, 1972). Suggested tune: *TOKYO* – Music: Isao Koizumi (1958)
- How like a gentle Spirit
Words: C. Eric Lincoln (1987). Suggested tune: *Sursum Corda* – Music: Alfred Morton Smith (1941)
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Suggested tune: *Lobe den Herren* – Music: from *Praxis Pietatis Melica* (1668)

After the service

We would love to hear about your experiences of CCN Sunday. Please do get in touch with Alice at alice.farnhill@coventry.anglican.org and share your stories, your reflections, your commitments, and even what your services looked like. And, of course, if you would like to be involved in producing service liturgies in future years, do let us know.

CCN Sunday Order of Service from CCN UK and Ireland

Each year we, the partners of the Community of the Cross of Nails, come together in an act of worship in our dispersed locations, reminding ourselves that we are not alone in our work of reconciliation in and with the world. In this service, we share our common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation through the three priorities of the CCN:

- *healing the wounds of history;*
- *learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity;*
- *building a culture of justice and peace.*

We also use the opportunity to remember why the CCN matters, to reflect on how the reconciling story of Coventry still inspires us in our stories of reconciliation, and to encourage us to find where our stories and the stories of our partners connect. The liturgy today reminds us of our God's reconciling heart and commitment to participate in God's reconciling work in the world. It also emphasizes the

work of reconciling with the world, with creation. The choice of liturgy is intended to challenge us to recognise how human actions have damaged that which God has created, how the exploitation of creation has so unequally impacted marginalised communities, and how the continued greediness is resulting in conflicts and wars. It is also intended to speak to hope revealed through the love of God active in this world and in this community of reconcilers. So let us worship together as one body spread throughout the world, together seeking peace, justice, and reconciliation in and with the world.

Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:1–7

Hymn

The Litany of Reconciliation

The CCN began with an act of reaching out after Coventry was bombed during World War II. When morning came and it was revealed that much of the city including Coventry Cathedral was in ruins, Provost Richard Howard, rather than seeking revenge, chose a message of peace, famously chalking the words "Father Forgive" on the charred walls. These words were later incorporated in the Litany of Reconciliation by Canon Joseph Poole. In the time between, nails from the ruined cathedral were formed into crosses and sent to cities and churches in Germany with messages of hope to work towards a new world after the war. Since then, hundreds of crosses of nails have gone to CCN partner churches, charities and organisations around the world as they have committed to working for justice, peace and reconciliation. Today we say together the words of Provost Howard, "Father Forgive," through the Litany of Reconciliation.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nations, identities and communities

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of adults and children

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Confession

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity; yet we have misused the earth, and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You have brought order out of chaos, light in darkness, good out of evil, but we have preferred darkness in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings, but we have been grudging towards others, and lacking in generosity in word and deed.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collects *(prayer for the day)*

Bountiful God, you call us to labour with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honour and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

cf Ezekiel 47:6–12; Psalm 33:3–9, 13–15; Mark 16:14–15; Romans 8:18–23

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 9.6–15

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Second Reading: Luke 12:16-30

Everyone STANDS. When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He 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.

Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Father, through the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who make, sustain and renew all things.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your Church throughout the world.

With the dawn of each day, may we be awakened to the beauty of the earth and rejoice in the wonder and diversity of creation in all its forms and colour.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord of life, as all living things depend on the good quality of the air, the soil, and water, may your wisdom guide us as we care for the environment.

Deliver us from selfishness and greed.

Help us to share the rich resources of this world gladly and justly, in the cause of stability and peace between nations and peoples.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord of mercy, we bring before you areas affected by chronic shortage of water, and pray for all who suffer from the effects of extreme weather and environmental damage. May we better understand and work to reverse the effects of the changing patterns of weather on our planet.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord of abundant life, we give thanks for the rich harvest of the seas; may we cherish the good things you have created and be successful in reducing the pollution keeps life from flourishing.

May your wisdom help us to maintain the biodiversity of our fragile planet.

Strengthen our resolve and bless the efforts of all who seek to protect creation.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord of creation, you have placed us on the earth to care for it, and call us to be co-workers with Christ your Son.

Bless our farmers and all who work as custodians of our lands.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord of the universe, you have made us from the stuff of the earth, and to earth we shall return.

May we tread lightly upon this earth and reduce our consumption. By your grace, may we live our days wisely, sustainably, and at the last come with all your saints into paradise and enjoy creation made new.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn

Eucharistic Prayer F

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your Word, and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the Law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

In our unending joy we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and saying:

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.

Lord, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,

Jesus taught us the way of
salvation. Loving us to the end, he
gave himself to death for us.

Dying for his own, he set us free from the
bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign
with him in glory.

On the night you gave up your Son for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke
it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take,
eat; this is my body which is given for you; do
this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the
cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the
tomb, and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our
redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts
of your creation be to us the body and blood of our
Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.
Look with favour on your people and in
your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the
oppressed go free and fill your Church with
power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with all your saints at the table in your
kingdom, where the new creation is brought
to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by
whom and with whom, and in whom, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory
be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share
in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus
Christ is Lord, sto the glory of
God the Father.**

Giving of Communion

Upon receiving communion, each communicant replies
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

**Creator God, you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat; make us thankful for
what we have received and generous in
supplying the needs of others so all the
world may give you thanks and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Isaiah 55.10

The Blessing

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
who is the source of all goodness and
growth, pour out his blessing upon all things
created, and upon you his children, that you
may use his gifts to his glory and for the
welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of
God almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with
you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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