

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 I I am 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 the pattern of a Church of England Service of the Word taken from Common Worship, with additional elements from the Diocese of Oxford's *Caring for Creation* programme, the Episcopal Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music's report to the 78th General Convention, A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, and Coventry Cathedral's Litany of Reconciliation.

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 CNN 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.

Order of Service

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.

Psalms 95:1-7

Hymn

Prayer of penitence

Creator of our common home,
you fill the earth and sea and sky with life. Forgive us our neglect of your creation,
the choking waste of our pollution, the damage done by careless habits, and our
indifference to future generations. Help us to amend our lives, to lift our voice for
lasting change and to live well and gently on the earth, to the glory of your Son,
the Living Word, through whom you made this fragile world.

Amen.

Confession

God of compassion, have mercy upon us.

**Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for
our mistreatment and neglect of the people and
creatures who share the earth with us.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent for what we have done to harm
them, and for what we have not done to help them.**

**Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all
creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through
Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

or

Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.

**We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your
creation:**

teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life.

**We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:
strengthen us in self-control.**

**We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:
make us urgent now for its protection.**

**Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus
Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you
live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Absolution

May the God of all healing and
forgiveness draw us to himself and
cleanse us from all our sins that we may
behold the glory of his Son, the Word
made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Collect (*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

Readings

Psalm 121, Philippians 2:1–13 (*set for 17th Sunday after Trinity*) and/or Revelation 12:7–12, and/or Luke 12:16–30 (*set for Harvest Thanksgiving and in line with the Gospel for the Feast of St Francis*)

Hymn

Sermon

Creed

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things: **for
by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
**for with his blood he purchased us for God, from every
tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say ‘Come!’.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

Amen.

cf Revelation 4:8, 11; 5:9; 22:17,20

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

**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

Intercessions *(during the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own silent prayers)*

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always. In the beginning, God was. Here and now, God is. In the future, God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and nature.

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation and community who desire or need your presence and help...

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures,
receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died...

Silence

God, Giver of life, Hear our prayer.

Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us to stand for what is right, rather than sit in indifference, to speak up for those whose voices are not heard, even when silence is easier, and to recognise, appreciate and steward responsibly your bountiful and generous creation, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

or

Gracious God:

Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's prayer (*traditional forms may be used*)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe,
the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world, your heavenly will be done by all created beings, and
your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

Blessing

Dismissal

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