

Some material in this service is drawn from resources produced by *set all free*, a project of Churches Together in England.

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**International Slavery Museum  
Albert Dock, Liverpool  
Opens 23 August 2007**

To mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the British slave trade National Museums Liverpool are opening a new International Slavery Museum at the Albert Dock on 23 August 2007.

The museum's galleries will feature dynamic and thought-provoking displays about the story of the transatlantic slave trade. They will address issues such as freedom, identity, human rights, reparations, racial discrimination and cultural change.

International Slavery Museum will also seek to address ignorance and misunderstanding by looking at the deep and permanent impact of slavery and the slave trade on Africa, South America, the USA, the Caribbean and Western Europe.

For more information about the museum, or about activities happening to commemorate Slavery Remembrance Day on 23 August please visit [www.internationalslaverymuseum.org.uk](http://www.internationalslaverymuseum.org.uk)



**Churches Together**  
in the Merseyside Region

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Abolition of the Slave Trade Act**



**“SET ALL FREE”**

**A service of penitence at  
Liverpool Cathedral and the Albert Dock**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

# ¶ 11.30am ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF PENITENCE

*Between 11am and 11.25am a Musical Welcome will be  
offered by African Drummers and the Philharmonic Gospel Choir*

## ¶ The Preparation

Welcome by the Acting Dean, Canon Anthony Hawley  
*followed by a time of silence*

***Ar'n't I a Woman? from a speech by Sojourner Truth***  
*read by Hyacinth Sweeney-Dixon,  
Merseyside Churches' Racial Justice Officer*

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place, and ain't I a woman? ... I have plowed, and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me -- and ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man (when I could get it), and bear the lash as well -- and ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children and seen most all sold off to slavery and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me -- and ain't I a woman?"

***Reflections on 'The state of my mind' by Olaudah Equiano***  
*read by Bayo Omoyiola,  
former asylum seeker from Nigeria, now a member of Liverpool Quaker Meeting*

Well may I say my life has been  
One scene of sorrow and of pain;  
From early days I griefs have known,  
And as I grew my griefs have grown.

Dangers were always in my path,  
And fear of wrath and sometimes death  
While pale dejection in me reign'd;  
I often wept, by grief constrain'd.

When taken from my native land,  
By an unjust and cruel band,  
How did uncommon dread prevail!  
My sighs no more I could conceal.

To ease my mind I often strove,  
And tried my troubles to remove:  
I sung and utter'd sighs between –  
Assay'd to stifle guilt with sin...

Yet here, midst blackest clouds confin'd,  
A beam from Christ, the day-star, shin'd;  
Surely, thought I, if Jesus please,  
He can at once sign my release.

*Extracts from: On the Abolition of the Slave Trade by William Wilberforce.  
Claire Curtis-Thomas, MP for Crosby*

When I consider the magnitude of the subject which I am to bring before the House... it is impossible for me not to feel both terrified and concerned at my own inadequacy to such a task... the end of which is the total abolition of the slave trade. I must speak of the transit of the slaves in the West Indies. This I confess, in my own opinion, is the most wretched part of the whole subject. So much misery condensed in so little room, is more than the human imagination had ever before conceived.

#### **Introit Anthem** *(remain seated)*

View me, Lord, a work of thine: shall I then lie drown'd in night? Might Thy grace in me but shine, I should seem made all of light. Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel at Thine altar, pure and white: they that once Thy mercies feel, gaze no more on earth's delight. Worldly joys, like shadows, fade when the heav'nly light appears: but the cov'nants Thou hast made, endless know nor days, nor years. In Thy word, Lord, is my trust, to Thy mercies fast I fly. Though I am but clay and dust, yet Thy grace can lift me high.

*Words: Thomas Campion (1567-1620) Music: Richard Harford Lloyd (b.1948)*

#### **¶ The Gathering** *(stand)* *Canon Anthony Hawley, Acting Dean*

This is the place and this is the time.  
Here and now God waits  
to break into our experiences.

**To change our minds,  
to change our lives,  
to change our ways.**

To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

**To fill us with hope, with joy  
and certainty for the future.**

This is the place, as are all places:  
this is the time, as are all times.

**Here and now let us praise God.**

#### **Hymn**

Tune: Rhuddlan

**God of freedom, God of justice,  
you whose love is strong as death,  
you who saw the dark of prison,  
you who knew the price of faith:  
touch our world of sad oppression  
with your Spirit's healing breath.**

**Rid the earth of torture's terror,  
you whose hands were nailed to wood:  
hear the cries of pain and protest,  
you who shed the tears and blood;  
move in us the pow'r of pity,  
restless for the common good.**

**Make in us a captive conscience  
quick to hear, to act to plead;  
make us truly sisters, brothers,  
of whatever race or creed:  
teach us to be fully human  
open to each other's need.**

Shirley Erena Murray (b1931)  
Copyright 1992 Hope Publishing Company.

*During the hymn the church leaders walk from the back of the Cathedral carrying large lit candles. They give their candles to Pastor Dr. Tani Omideyi who places them on a central table. The Church Leaders then join in the triangle made by the black ribbon and remain in the triangle for the Act of Penitence.*

## ¶ Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness

(setting of the Kyries: Missa Brevis – Bryan Kelly)

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,  
for our readiness to exploit and abuse  
and for our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Choir: Kyrie eleison*

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,  
for worldly ambition and gain – whatever the cost,  
and for a lack of true compassion.

**All: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Choir: Christe eleison*

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern,  
who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,  
for hearts that are restless until they rest in you

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Choir: Kyrie eleison*

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.**

*the congregation sits*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word in remembering – reflecting - responding

..... remembering

### A Reading from the Haggadah for the Feast of Passover

Behold the miserable bread which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt.

Let all who are hungry come and eat.

Let all who are in want come and celebrate the Passover.

This year many are still oppressed; next year may all be free.

Let one of the children open the door to welcome the hungry of body and spirit.

The Book of Deuteronomy says: A wandering Aramean was my father. He went down to Egypt and stayed there. His descendants became a great and important community. The Egyptians dealt harshly with us and oppressed us; they imposed heavy labour upon us. We cried to the Eternal God of our ancestors and the Eternal heard our voice and saw our suffering, our labour and our oppression. The Eternal brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with great terrors and signs and wonders...

In all generations we must all see ourselves as if we personally had gone out of Egypt. It says in Exodus: You will tell your child on that day, saying, "Because of this which the Eternal did for me when I came out of Egypt". The Holy One did not only redeem our ancestors but saved us also with them.

Therefore it is our duty to thank, praise and glorify God who performed all these marvellous deeds for our ancestors and for us. God brought us from slavery to freedom, from anguish to joy, from mourning to festival, from darkness to great light and from bondage to redemption. Let us therefore sing before God a new song.

John Newton was the son of a ship-owner. Impressed into naval service, he was at one time little less than a pirate and took his part in slave dealing. In 1748, whilst serving at sea, he experienced a conversion to Christianity. It was some years, however, before he abandoned the trade of which he had been part. After five years (1755-1760) as surveyor of the tides at Liverpool, he sought ordination and in 1764 was appointed to the parish of Olney in Buckinghamshire. Amazing Grace is his possibly his best known hymn.

**Hymn (remain seated)**

**Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)  
That sav'd a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears reliev'd;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believ'd!**

*..... reflecting*

Verses from Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night',  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.**

*..... responding*

Galatians 3: 23-28

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Choir "Hold On"**

**Sermon "The Real Blasphemy"**  
The Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool

**Hymn** Tune: Unde et Memores

**O God and Father, whose eternal mind  
breathed life into our dust and gave us birth  
and of one blood created humankind  
to live in peace as fellow-heirs of earth:  
for all the long-oppressed in this our day,  
whose night is starless, hear us as we pray.**

**Our Saviour Christ once chose a servant's part,  
maligned, rejected and unjustly tried;  
teach us, who follow him, to lay to heart  
what love he set on those for whom he died.  
Before his cross who rose and lives and saves,  
we fellow-sinners kneel as fellow-slaves.**

**Your Name we praise for those who fought and won  
to drive the slavers' traffic from the sea:  
who spent themselves until the task was done,  
who broke the bonds and set the captives free:  
on such a cause, on such a victor's crown,  
the stars of heaven shone more brightly down.**

Hear now our prayers for those who suffer still  
oppression, terror, misery and pain;  
give to your ransomed church the strength of will  
to frame a world where peace and justice reign:  
where those on earth rejoice with those above,  
free fellow-children of a Father's love.

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## ¶ The Prayers (kneel or sit)

We pray to a gracious and liberating God who with amazing grace has taken the initiative in reconciling us to himself. God reveals himself as one who leads his people from slavery in Egypt, and in Jesus proclaims release to captives and lets the oppressed go free.

**All: Lift us beyond the burdens of pain and guilt**

**Gospel Choir: Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.**

We ask that we are taken into new ways of being, not only that the burdens that constrain us be lifted. Pain is felt by those whose ancestors were enslaved and those who enslaved them; and pain continues in terms of impoverishment and disadvantage. Guilt is one of several shared emotions, related to shame, blame, anger, bitterness and desolation, which we pray may transcend God's healing power.

**All: Build our memories into life-giving resolutions**

**Gospel Choir: Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.**

Some memories are painful, recalling the hurts and discords of the past: other memories are happy and encouraging, and we are inspired by the witness and example of others. All memories, personal and corporate, are the blocks we can use to build together those things that are life giving, and enable one another to be human beings fully alive to the glory of God.

**All: Give us a vision of a new creation  
and strengthen us to act for justice and human dignity.**

**Gospel Choir: Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, one in which we are reconciled to God and one another. We are ministers of this reconciliation in a fragmented and disunited world. The spiritual experience of release from the slavery of sin takes us on to work for a better world, in which justice flows like a river, and every man, woman and child may flourish as those made in the image of God. Hence the imperative is to act to end slavery now, in this generation and set all free.

**All: Our hope is that we and the whole creation will be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

**Gospel Choir: Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen**

## Choir Anthem

To my humble supplication, Lord, give ear and acceptance: save Thy servant, that hath none help nor hope but Thee alone. Send, O send relieving gladness to my soul oppressed with sadness, which, from clog of earth set free, winged with zeal flies up to Thee. Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, hear me; for I am poor and needy. Preserve my soul for I am holy, O Thou my God, save Thy servant that trusteth in Thee. Be merciful unto me O Lord; for I cry unto Thee daily. Rejoice the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee O Lord do I lift up my soul. For Thou Lord, art good and ready to forgive. And plenteous in mercy unto them that call upon Thee. Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer and attend to the voice of my supplication. I will praise Thee O Lord my God, with all my heart. And I will glorify Thy name for evermore. To Thee, rich in mercie's treasure, and in goodness without measure, never failing help to those who on Thy sure help repose. Heavenly tutor of Thy kindness, teach my dullness, guide my blindness, that my steps, Thy paths may tread. Which to endless bliss do lead.

Words: Psalm 86 Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

## ¶ Commissioning and dedication

### Dedication of 'I am Not for Sale' by Stephen Broadbent (*all stand*)

Generous God,  
of your great goodness  
you have blessed your people with many gifts  
by which our emotions are stirred  
and your holiness glimpsed:  
pour out your blessing on this work of your hands "I am Not For Sale"  
that it may inspire and empower us  
to risk new ventures in faith, hope and justice  
in the name of Him so gave His life so freely,  
Jesus Christ, our friend and brother. **Amen.**

*The Bishop then blesses "I am Not for Sale" with water as a symbolic reminder of the equality and dignity all share in Christ through the water of baptism. The Church Leaders then add their handprints to the cloth.*

### Prologue from Slavery by Hannah More

Shall Britain, where the soul of Freedom reigns,  
Forge chains for others she herself disdains?  
Forbid it, Heaven! O let the nations know  
The liberty she tastes she will bestow.

Not to herself the glorious gift confined,  
She spreads the blessing wide as human kind;  
And scorning narrow views of time and place,  
Bids all be free in earth's extended space.

What page of human annals can record  
A deed so bright as human rights restor'd?  
O may that god-like deed, that shining page,  
Redeem our fame, and consecrate our age,

And let this glory mark our favour'd shore,  
To curb false Freedom and the True restore!

## Hymn

Tune: Lyngham

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! The Name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean,  
his blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of Thy Name.

Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)

## ¶ Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you  
And also with you.

As we prepare to leave and embrace the challenges of our lives and our world,  
let us ask for God's blessing.

May God bless us with strength to seek justice. **Amen.**

May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth. **Amen.**

May God bless us with love to bring forth new life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you, and remain with you, always. **Amen.**

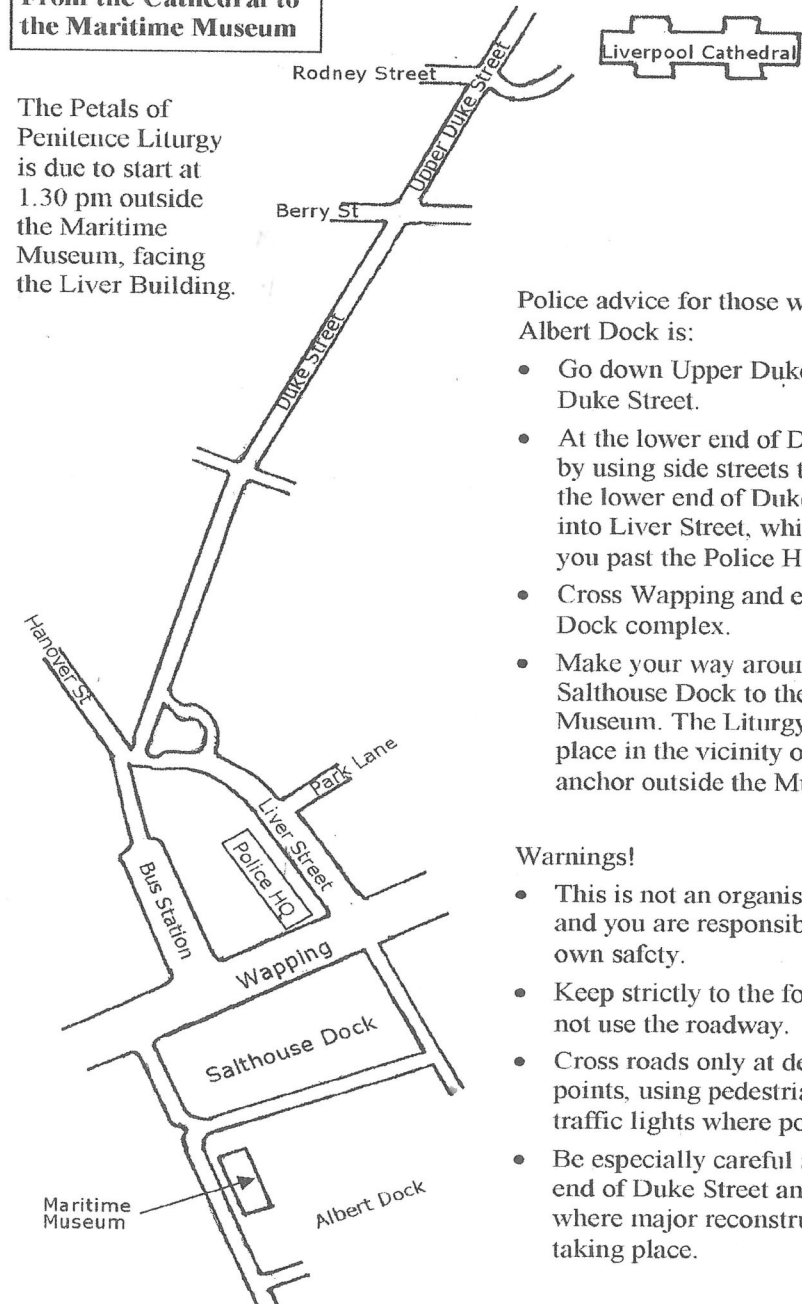
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**After the service the Gospel Choir will sing as people leave and drummers accompany congregation to the West Door as they leave to go to the Albert Dock. All are welcome to make their way to the Albert Dock for the service which will begin at 1.30pm**

**People are asked by the police to use footpaths on their way to the Albert Dock and to cross using public crossing points.**

### From the Cathedral to the Maritime Museum

The Petals of Penitence Liturgy is due to start at 1.30 pm outside the Maritime Museum, facing the Liver Building.



Police advice for those walking to the Albert Dock is:

- Go down Upper Duke Street and Duke Street.
- At the lower end of Duke Street, (or by using side streets to the left near the lower end of Duke Street) turn into Liver Street, which will lead you past the Police HQ.
- Cross Wapping and enter the Albert Dock complex.
- Make your way around the Salthouse Dock to the Maritime Museum. The Liturgy will take place in the vicinity of the big anchor outside the Museum.

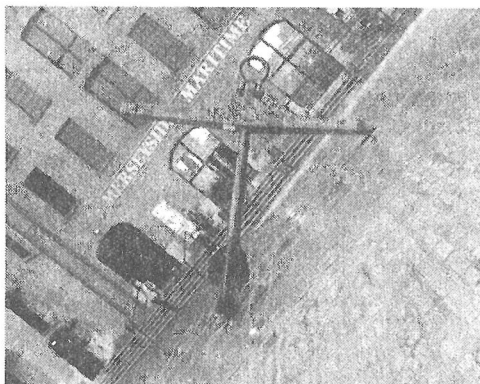
Warnings!

- This is not an organised procession and you are responsible for your own safety.
- Keep strictly to the footpaths - do not use the roadway.
- Cross roads only at designated points, using pedestrian operated traffic lights where possible.
- Be especially careful at the lower end of Duke Street and at Wapping where major reconstruction is taking place.



## ¶ 1.30pm PETALS OF PENITENCE

**“Grounded  
firm and  
deep in the  
Saviour's  
love.”**



As the people gather at the Quayside the following songs are sung, led by musicians from Ormskirk Parish Church

Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love in our eyes.  
May now your love sweep this nation;  
Cause us O Lord, to arise.  
Give us a fresh understanding ,  
Brotherly love that is real.  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love.

Let there be peace shared among us,  
Let there be peace in our eyes.  
May now your peace sweep this nation;  
Cause us O Lord, to arise.  
Give us a fresh understanding ,  
Sisterly love that is real.  
Let there be peace shared among us,  
Let there be peace.

Let there be hope shared among us,  
Let there be hope in our eyes.  
May now your hope sweep this nation;  
Cause us O Lord, to arise.  
Give us a fresh understanding ,  
Brotherly love that is real.  
Let there be hope shared among us,

Let there be hope.  
Let there be joy shared among us,  
Let there be joy in our eyes.  
May now your joy sweep this nation;  
Cause us O Lord, to arise.  
Give us a fresh understanding ,  
Sisterly love that is real.  
Let there be joy shared among us,  
Let there be joy.

Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love in our eyes.  
May now your love sweep this nation;  
Cause us O Lord, to arise.  
Give us a fresh understanding ,  
Brotherly love that is real.  
Let there be love shared among us,  
Let there be love.

-----  
Who can know the mind of our creator?  
Who can speak of wonders yet unseen?  
Who can reach the height of understanding  
To play the notes of wisdom's melody?

Who has weighed the dust of every mountain?  
Who has walked the mysteries of the deep?  
Who has laid the earth on its foundation?  
And who conducts the waves upon the sea?

*I stand in awe of you  
I stand in awe of you  
So glorious and true  
I stand in awe  
I stand in awe*

You have seen the end from the beginning  
You have been before the world began  
You have reached to me within my darkness  
And in the light of mercy now I see

I stand in awe  
Martyn Layzell. Copyright © 2005 Thankyou Music

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## ¶ LITURGY AT THE WATER

*Gathering Hymn*

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain—  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: th'immortal dies:  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

## ¶ Greeting and Introduction

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. **Amen.**

*Bishop James greets the people informally then the following is said:*

Blessed are you, God of compassion and grace,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

From the burdens of sin  
you set us free.

Amid our divisions and despair  
you heal and restore us.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,  
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
and open our lips to sing your praise:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### Collect

Let us pray

*(we pray together in silence)*

Heavenly Father,

let your freedom flow through those who call  
on Jesus' name today;

and flow to those whose hearts are heavy,

or whose minds are parched

or whose souls are bound. **Amen.**

Oppression takes various forms, the most common being political oppression. Until recently the world had many powerful despots who violated the human rights of the weak. To individuals and groups of people oppressed by a dictator, or by a sadist or by sin, the good news is that Jesus came 'to release the oppressed'. He is 'God with us' in all of our human experiences.

## ¶ Scripture Reading *Luke 4:16-19*

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

*As we reflect on the words of the Gospel Tayo Aluko will sing Deep River*

## ¶ Litany of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the life and witness of all the abolitionists, black and white; for those who led resistance; for those who stood up for what they saw to be right. We remember especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Clarkson and Ignatius Sancho, among others, we name Mary Seacole, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela and all those known and unknown who have worked for freedom and peace in the world.

**We are all brothers and sisters.**

We give thanks for the abundance of the Earth.

May we learn to equitably share its riches.

**We are all brothers and sisters.**

We give thanks for freedom of speech and action.

May we learn to use that freedom for the good of all.

May we not seek to restrict the freedom of those with whom we disagree.

**We are all brothers and sisters.**

We give thanks for the opportunity to work for a living wage.

May we learn to be generous with our sufficiency.

**We are all brothers and sisters.**

We give thanks for the freedom to elect our representatives.

May we learn to exercise that freedom wisely without fear or prejudice.

**We are all brothers and sisters.**

We have the plenty of the Earth.

Help us to appreciate its riches,

help us to conserve its resources for the generations yet to be born;

**Let us rejoice in the fruitfulness of the world.**

## ¶ Procession to the water's edge and Scattering of Rose Petals

*During this Tayo Aluko will sing Amazing Grace*

## ¶ Prayer of Commitment

As people redeemed by Christ, and made one with him in the water of baptism, do you commit yourself to:

Collaborating in telling the story fully, accurately, broadly, powerfully, sensitively, from all perspectives?

**We do.**

Maintaining the values of the abolitionists?

**We do.**

Addressing the legacies of slavery – racism and injustice – and working towards eradicating modern forms of exploitation?

**We do.**

*All say together:*

**Gracious and liberating God**

**Lift us beyond the burdens of pain and guilt**

**Build our memories**

**into life-giving resolutions**

**Give us the vision of a new creation**

**Strengthen us to act**

**for justice and human dignity**

**And set all free.**

## ¶ The Peace

There is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free; but Christ is all, and is in all. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

*(Colossians 3.11,15)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

*We share a sign of peace with those near us*



## Final Song

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God!  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

## ¶ Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

May the Christ who draws to himself all nation and tribes, peoples and languages. fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace and be witnesses to hope.  
Hope for a world made new.

**Thanks be to God!**