

Pride Week Liturgy
Church of All Nations, Monday 13th March 2000

Call to worship

We come together to worship God the Creator,
The Artist, who formed this gloriously diverse world,
The Designer, who made us woman and man, black and white, queer and straight.
We gather together to worship as the rainbow people of God.

Amen.

Time of Lament

It is usual to begin a service of worship with a time of confession, in which we acknowledge the things we have done wrong, individually and collectively, and receive forgiveness. This is an appropriate way to approach God.

However, there are also times when it is appropriate to approach God with lament. To recognise that there is sorrow for which we are not responsible; that there is evil in the world that we have not done. Tonight, instead of a confession, we will hear stories of lament from queer people and those who love them.

*The stories used in this service were from **Erin Shale (ed), Inside Out, Bookman Press, Melbourne, 1999.***

If members of your group know each other well and are comfortable with it, you could invite them to share their own stories of lament. Otherwise, books and newspaper articles are useful sources.

*Another good book is **Bryce McDougal, My Child is Gay, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, 1998.***

Psalm 22:1-11

Music: Instrumental

Readings (following the lectionary)

Psalm 22: 23-31

Mark 8: 31-38

Reflection on the readings, followed by discussion

Music: 'Come at this hour' by Jane Dyson

Prayers for Others

You are invited to light a taper and place it in the prayer bowl, praying silently or naming your prayer aloud.

Loving God,

As these candles burn, so burns our desire for peace and justice,

As these candles glow, so glows your love for us and for all the world.

We pray that the candles' flames remain in our hearts when we leave this place.

Amen.

Affirmation

At the beginning of the service you were given a small candle. You are invited to light the candle of the person next to you, saying: **The light of God shines in you.**

Music: 'Go with God's Peace' by Jane Dyson

Blessing and Dismissal

Go in freedom and faith,

And know that the God of David and Jonathan,

The God of Ruth and Naomi,

The God who created you and loves you,

Goes with you, always.

Amen.