

## Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to respectful living and faithful service.  
Will we strive for all that makes for peace  
in our communities, towns and cities on this island and beyond?

### **With the help of God, we will.**

Will we seek to heal the wounds of the past,  
and work for a hopeful and peaceful future?

### **With the help of God, we will.**

Will we work for a just future for our country and for all humanity?

### **With the help of God, we will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, And live lives of justice, light and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen**

## The Prayers

### The Lord's Prayer

We have chosen to walk in the light of Christ's forgiveness and healing.  
As children of the light we pray together in the words that he taught us:  
**Our Father.....**

### The Peace

Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

### **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

*Hymn 504 – O let us spread the pollen of peace*

## The Blessing

### The Dismissal

We go into the world  
**to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.**

Let us bless the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God**



**St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

## **A Service of Reflection in Memory of The Holocaust and other Genocides**

The Gathering of God's People

### Greeting

Your word is a lamp to our feet  
**and a light to our path.** *Psalm 119: 105*

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with us all  
**and with all who walk in his way.**

As our prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down on us  
to cleanse our hearts and set us free  
to sing your praise now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Hymn 293 - Breathe on me Breath of God*

### Introduction

Dear friends in Christ, our Lord Jesus Christ has called us to be his body, the church, in this place. We come together before God to remember the lives torn from our world, in penitence and in commitment to the future.

We prepare ourselves in scripture, song and prayer, to join with our fellow disciples in Christ, bringing before God our history, our sad divisions and a sincere commitment to moving forward together in faith and the service of our Lord.

Here, we seek God's forgiveness for past hurts.  
Here, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our future witness.

So let us pray that we may be fervent in prayer, honest in confessing and sincere in the promises we make to each other.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation, gathers into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill us with his love and peace. **May we walk in his way, seek his light, and shine as witnesses to his way.**

### Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Lord God,  
you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself and to one another.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you heal the wounds of sin and division.  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
through you we put to death the sins of the body – and live.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
**Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

### The Collect

Lord God our Father,  
in Christ you have given us the light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
Help us to walk united in that light and serving together in his love,  
that the fullness of his presence may be seen in us.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The First Reading - John 15: 12-17

Jesus said: 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another'.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### The Lighting of Candles in memory of The Holocaust and of other Genocides

God our Creator,  
your Son our Saviour came as a powerful light  
shining in the darkness and brokenness of our world.  
Your Spirit calls us to walk in the light of your forgiveness and healing.  
May these candles be symbols of our unending commitment  
to be agents of your light in our community  
and to shine as lights of hope and peace in the world.  
We ask this in your holy name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*Hymn 642 - Amazing grace*

### The Second Reading – Mark 12: 28-34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"  
"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."  
"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."  
When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### Sermon

#### Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in One God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.**