



Liturgy for 2021 Anglicare Sunday

Opening Service (We change from our normal service and church calendar to partner in Prayer with the work of Anglicare.)

In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said: "Let there be light."

And there was light. [The sign of light—a lighted candle—is placed on a central table.]

In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

And the Word was God. [The sign of the Word—an open Bible—is placed on the table.]

When the time was right, God sent his Son.

He came among us and was one of us. [The sign of the Son—a cross—is placed on the table.]
—from Iona Abbey Worship Book (Wild Goose Publications, 2001), 171.

In the beginning of this service we ask that God would be our light and Hope in this new day.

In the beginning of this service we ask that God would quiet our heart with the Word.

When the time is right, we thank God for the encounter with the Resurrected Living Christ full of Grace & Truth.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We gather to give thanks to the God who sustains the weak and loves the poor and whose heart bleeds for the vulnerable. We ask you to pray for the work of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & the ACT, to pray for its ministry in our communities and hear anew the call of God on our lives to be people who love in deed as well as in word. We seek to encourage each other to put Christ's Love into Action.

Psalm 33

The Greatness and Goodness of God

1 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

2 Praise the LORD with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

3 Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

4 For the word of the LORD is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

5 He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,

and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;

he put the deeps in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spoke, and it came to be;

he commanded, and it stood firm.

10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever,

the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,

the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

13 The LORD looks down from heaven;

he sees all humankind.

14 From where he sits enthroned he watches

all the inhabitants of the earth—

15 he who fashions the hearts of them all,

and observes all their deeds.

16 A king is not saved by his great army;

a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

17 The war horse is a vain hope for victory,

and by its great might it cannot save.

18 Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

19 to deliver their soul from death,

and to keep them alive in famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD;

he is our help and shield.

21 Our heart is glad in him,

because we trust in his holy name.

22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

even as we hope in you.

Confession and Absolution:

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
(Joel 2:13)

Have mercy on me, O God
According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51: 1-2

Father God, would you shine a spotlight now on the shadows of my motivation and the darkness of my deeds. I take a moment to confess my sins before you now.

(Pause for a time of quiet confession)

God of grace, thank you that when I confess my sins, You are faithful and just, forgiving and purifying me from all unrighteousness. (1John1:9)

Anti-Poverty week Video clip 2min created by Students at Canberra University
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2OF6IUGIAg>

Bible Readings

Jeremiah 29:11 & Romans 5:1-5

Sermon (Horizons of Hope)

(Video of Gordon Community insert link or read the sermon text of the story provided)

Let us pray:

Christ who fed the hungry:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might nourish the lives of others.

Christ who welcomed the outcast:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might be a community of acceptance.

Christ who touched the leper:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might reach out to the lonely and the broken.

Christ who overturned the money-changers' tables:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might stand against injustice.

Christ who offered living water:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might share the precious gift of faith.

Collect:

God of love,
you call us to care for the widow and the orphan,
to support the weak, and strengthen the fainthearted.

We give thanks for the work of Anglicare,
which brings your love to those in need
and embodies hope in action.

Enable us to work together to build communities of
Hope, respect and compassion, integrity, fairness and inclusiveness;
that your kingdom might be present on earth. Amen

Intercessory Prayers:

Let us pray to our God who welcomes all, in whose image we are made and who hears the desires of our hearts.

Anglicare Prayer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT:

God grant us the compassion to care deeply for others; the wisdom to discern how best to help; the energy to transform emotion into action, and the joy of wholehearted, loving service. For Christ's sake. Amen.

We pray for us as a church here in this community entrusted with God's Hope
Faithful God,
Bless us with wisdom and grace to do our work well.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the pioneers and benefactors of Anglicare who began the work that continues today.
Make us all faithful in keeping your vision alive.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the skills and service of Anglicare Board members, praying for them and their Chair Lynette Glendenning.
Bless them with insight and energy as they work together.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We pray for the CEO Jeremy Halcrow and give thanks for the dedication and compassion of Anglicare staff as they work closely with clients.
Bless them with fairness, resilience and love.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for all volunteers who contribute so richly to the work of Anglicare, and for the time, skills and care they offer.
Bless them with strength and refreshment in their labours.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We pray for the least, the last and the Lost in our communities may we genuinely care for others.
We give thanks for everything that is received and learnt from them.
Bless us all with grace that we may see Christ's face in all your children.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the contribution parishes make to the life and work of Anglicare, in addressing the needs and

hopes of local communities.
Strengthen these relationships and bless them with a common sense of your love for all people.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for Anglicare partners in government and community who shape policy and direct resources, particularly as funding is so crucial and limited.
Bless them with understanding, integrity, inclusiveness, and justice.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for others who support the work of Anglicare, financial donors, those who pray, and for their desire to reach out in loving service.
Bless them with empathy, courage and passion.
Generous God,
pour out your love.

We make our prayer through the one who came among us as the friend and Saviour of sinners high and low alike, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A blessing on you who are poor,
Yours is the kingdom of God.
A blessing on you who mourn,
You shall be comforted.
A blessing on you who hunger for justice,
You shall be satisfied
A blessing on you who make peace,
You shall be called children of God.
A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,
Yours is the kingdom of Heaven. Amen

Greeting of Peace:

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

Benediction

I ask that God would be your light and Hope in this new day.
I ask that God would quiet your heart with the Word.
I thank God for the encounter with the Resurrected Living Christ full of Grace & Truth.
May your soul wait for the LORD;
for he is your help and shield.
May your heart be glad in him,
because you trust in his holy name.
May the Lord's steadfast love be upon you,
as you fix your hope in him. Amen

Additional Resources if needed

Offertory Prayer:

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
Accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Preface:

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere;
for you see the plight of the oppressed
and your ears are open to the cries of the poor.

Throughout the ages you have called your people
to reach out in compassion
to the widow and the orphan,
to provide for the poor and for the dispossessed.

In your great love you entered our humanity,
embracing our poverty and knowing our frailty.
Son of God, born of Mary, Jesus lived our human life
and loved with your divine love.
He welcomed sinners and outcasts
and proclaimed that the little and the least
are great in the Kingdom of God.
Though rulers and powers turned against him
and he was killed, you raised him to new life.
And now you have called us to follow him,
walking his way of compassion and justice
and drawing others into your love.

And so we praise you,
joining with your faithful people of every time and place,
singing the eternal song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
[Blessed is he/the One who comes in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.]**

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful God
may we who have gathered at your table, be nourished
by your life.
We who have tasted of your love, bear witness in the
world.
Inspire us by your Spirit, that celebrating the work of
Anglicare today,
our eyes may be opened, and our hearts stirred,
that we may go forth to [local community name] your
kingdom on earth. Amen.

Anglicare Prayer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT:

God grant us the compassion to care deeply for others; the wisdom to discern how best to help; the energy to transform emotion into action, and the joy of wholehearted, loving service. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Anglicare Australia Prayer:

God of Life Giving Creation,
You call us to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you.
We pray for the member organisations of Anglicare Australia
working across this vast and ancient land.
Enable us as we strive to meet human need through loving service
and to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.
Encourage us to work in mutual partnership to effect positive change.
Empower the people we serve to reach their full potential,
especially those who experience disadvantage and injustice.
Guide us in our advocacy for social justice
and strengthen our determination to respond with compassion.
Remind us to care for ourselves and each other
as we face the challenges of our work,
and as we seek reconciliation, healing and community transformation.
All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
our servant leader and friend.
Amen.

Final Blessing:

(A Franciscan Benediction as adapted at Anglicare Australia National Conference 2016)

May God bless you with discomfort:
At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships
so that you may live a life of depth.

May God bless you with anger:
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears:
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and violence,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness:
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
and bring justice and kindness to all.

May God bless us with delight:
At our diversity, in the richness of the cultures of our ancient land,
so that we may all dance the spirit of our dreaming
expecting to be surprised at the beauty of the other.
And may the blessing...