

The candle is lit.

A young person/ young people lead(s) the Litany:

Litany of remembrance

Hear us, Lord Jesus Christ, when we cry to you for all the women and girls who are victims of violence. Hear us, Lord Jesus Christ, for they are stripped and beaten as you were stripped and beaten, they are humiliated and used as you were betrayed and shamed. For the beaten girls and the battered women, blamed and bruised by angry men, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the victims of rape who are killed or take their own lives, and for the rape survivors who live with its scars, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the girls and women sold or tricked into the sex trade, and for sex workers exposed to disease and violence, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the girl-children who are unwanted and rejected, the first to be aborted or abandoned, the last to be fed: **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women bashed in their own homes, and for their children who see and hear the violence, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women trapped in destructive relationships, manipulated, controlled, justifying their abusers, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women who hide their bruises and lie about their injuries for fear of the next attack, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women bullied in their workplaces, belittled, underpaid, threatened with losing their job, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

For the women attacked because of their sexual identity, targets for physical or spiritual assault, **we cry out to you: bring justice!**

We cry to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for our sisters, our daughters, our mothers, ourselves. **Bring justice.**

Bring healing.

Bring hope.

And so we light this candle in memory of our sisters who have died:

Uyinene, Jesse, Leighandre, Janika, Lynette, Meghan, Nathlia: **we speak your name.**

Noxolo, Aneen, Hope, Jodene, Courtney: **we speak your name.**

Reeva, Karabo, Zara, Lekita, Zanele, Desiree: **we speak your name.**

Hannah, Chanelle, Naledi, Stacey: **we speak your name.**

The countless other women and girls: **we remember and we speak your name.**

Wounded God, you took defenceless flesh and died on a cross. Forgive us for our failure to confront the forces of death. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you. Amen.**

Introduction and welcome

Call to worship

As we come to worship, we come as vessels:

Ready to be filled, willing to be poured out again and again.

We come as students:

Open to learn.

We come as instruments

Waiting to be tuned, in order to make fine music.

We come as tools:

Available to be sharpened, so that we may be effective and precise.

We come as ships:

Eager to be driven by the winds of God's Spirit.

Call to penance

Please sit or kneel as you are able.

God, we acknowledge you as Father, completely to be trusted, loving each of us as your child. We have ignored you and your call to love you with all our heart and soul and our neighbour as ourselves.

Forgive us, dear Lord.

And have mercy upon us.

God, we know you as Son; as one who shared in the dust and joy of our human existence. You have come to demonstrate to us what it means to be fully human. We confess that we have ignored you by excluding, turning a blind eye and judging.

Forgive us, dear Lord.

And have mercy upon us.

God, you live in us as the Holy Spirit and you are always prompting us to do your work of reconciliation, love and peace. We have ignored your nudging within us. We have not allowed you to lead us into right and just actions.

Forgive us, dear Lord.

And have mercy upon us.

Let us confess our sins (*silence may be kept*)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in penitence we confess, that we have sinned against you through our own fault, in thought, word and deed and in what we have left undone!

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, forgive us all that is passed and grant that we may service you in newness of life, to the Glory of Thy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Collect Faithful God, you never forsake those who make their boast in the cross of Christ: grant us the grace not to rely on our own strength but to trust in you with all our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.	All
The First Reading: Jeremiah 18: 1-11	1st Reader
Psalm: 139: 1-5, 12-18	Psalm
The Second Reading: Philemon 1-21	2nd Reader
Gradual Hymn	Chorus
The Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33 Gospel dramatised	Young People
After the Gospel	Chorus

Affirmation of faith

Please stand.

We believe that God is our Father, our creator and our shepherd. God is loving, forgiving and within us all. God is real and gives life to everyone and everything.

We believe Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead.

Jesus is a healer, a forgiver and our saviour.

We believe the Holy Spirit is always a part of us.

The Holy Spirit binds us together, gives us hope, and hears our prayers.

We believe as a human beings, we are not perfect.

Sometimes we mess up and do things against God, but we are forgiven for our sins.

We believe the church is a safe haven to worship and be close to God.

It is a place of forgiveness where you can be yourself.

We believe as disciples of Jesus, we should cherish our calling as Christians.

We will love, care, be kind, have integrity, and spread God's word as we go out to be one of God's people in the world. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the church

Holy Jesus, you call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies and those whom we don't like, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy

way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Your Word calls us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent in the face of disrespect, bullying and violence whether on social media, at school or in our homes. Give us the courage to be bold and stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

You call us to be your hands in this world and we keep them hidden. May we be generous and caring for those who have less than we have at school or at home. In this way we give thanks to God for the abundance of blessings we receive. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

You call us to be your feet in this world and we go our own way. May we listen the call of Jesus to leave all the distractions of this world behind, be it our cell phones, games, social media and to follow Jesus' way of love, kindness, patience, compassion and peace. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us. Show us, dear Lord, how to care like you do: for the sick and dying, for the neglected and unloved, for the outcast and marginalised. May we open our eyes to see those around us in our classroom, school, friendship circles and church to whom we need to show love. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

When we are called to take up your cross and yet we carry nothing, forgive us. Give us the strength to allow change to be accepted without difficulty. We ask you Lord to grant us the ability to be wise when change is handed to us that we may step forward in faith trusting in your grace for us. May we remain humble when change brings great opportunities and to be hopeful when it does not. Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Like clay in the potter's hand, so we are to you, O Lord! You take the ordinary and often imperfect, and make something beautiful, moulding us into the people you envisioned us to be. In your hands we are made new, perfected Lord, by you. In your hands we are made useful in service Lord, for you. May we answer you in faith when you call us to take up our cross and follow you. **Amen.**

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