

A Service for Rededication Sunday

Based on the Five Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Mission originated at the 1988 Lambeth Conference and were endorsed by the Forum of Churches Together in England in 1997. They are to proclaim the good news of the kingdom (tell), to teach baptise and nurture new believers (teach), to respond to human need by loving service (tend), to seek to transform unjust structures of society (transform) and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation (treasure).

Objects symbolising the five marks may be brought forward, perhaps during the prayer of confession or the renewal of commitment. The service may conclude with the Lord's Supper.

1. Call to Worship
2. Hymn or Song
3. Prayer of Approach
4. Prayer of Confession
5. Assurance of Pardon
6. Theme introduction
7. Reading from Scripture
8. Hymn or Song
9. Reading(s) from Scripture
10. Hymn or Song

11. Prayer for the Day
12. Sermon or other proclamation of the Word
13. Hymn or Song
14. Prayers of Intercession
15. Hymn or Song
16. Renewal of Commitment to Mission
17. Blessing

1. Call to worship

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Psalm 19:7-9

2. Hymn or Song

3. Prayer of approach

Powerful, ever present God,
you make yourself known to us
through the mystery and energy of your creation.
Help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

You reveal your purposes
in the ministry and mission of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose to life again.
Help us to trust in him as our Lord and saviour.

You send your Holy Spirit
to help us glimpse your kingdom
and give us hope to strive for it.
Enable us to work with you
for your rule of justice and peace.

Amen.

4. Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,
we confess we have failed to answer your call to mission.

You invite us to tell others the good news;
yet too often we have been silent and fearful.
For our unwillingness to share your gospel
forgive us, we pray,
and help us to start again.

You call us to teach others
and to keep growing in faith ourselves;
yet we have settled for easy answers
and avoided challenging issues.
For our resistance to your teaching
forgive us, we pray,
and help us to start again.

You show us in Jesus
what it means to care for others;
yet we would sooner sit on our hands
than offer them in your service.
For our slowness to follow the example of Jesus
forgive us, we pray,
and help us to start again.

You give us this world
and all living things as gifts to treasure;
yet we have damaged and despoiled them
by ignorance, impatience and greed.
For our failure to take care of the planet entrusted to us
forgive us, we pray,
and help us to start again.

You challenge your people
by your prophets, old and new,
to confront the injustice in their lives and communities;
yet we feel uncomfortable
when our double standards are brought home to us.
For our failure to work for peace with justice
forgive us, we pray,
and help us to start again.

Amen.

5. Assurance of Pardon

The God of new beginnings
releases us from past wrongs,
refreshes our energy in the present
and renews us for the future.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

6. Theme introduction

7. Reading from Scripture

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):
Isaiah 65:17-25 or another appropriate passage.

8. Hymn or Song

9. Reading from Scripture

New Testament:
Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 10:5-15 or another appropriate passage.

10. Hymn or Song

11. Prayer for the Day

O God, who calls us in Jesus not to be afraid,
but to tell others the good news,
confirm us in our love for you
and in our dedication to your service
that we may be filled with new energy
for the task of mission which you give us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

12. Sermon or other proclamation of the Word

13. Hymn or Song

14. Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, present in all creation,
we pray for your world and your Church.

Awaken us to the pain of those in poverty,
the distress of those in nations burdened by debt,
the sick, the sorrowing, victims of violence and war.
May we discover our common humanity with them
and learn the art of finding Jesus in each sister and brother.

Where your people have lost their way
and fallen into decline or complacency,
give them eyes to see
and ears to hear your summons to mission.
Where your Church is vibrant and growing,
give your people confidence to share with others
the lessons they are learning.

Give us courage and humour for what lies ahead.
Fill us with wisdom to face the world
and childlike trust in the power and goodness
of your ultimate purposes for all you have made.
In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

15. Hymn or Song

16. Renewal of Commitment to Mission

The congregation may be invited to stand.

We will delay our mission no longer.
We will live in ways that show those around us
the good news of God's love in Jesus.

We will demonstrate by our actions
as well as by our words how much God longs
for the healing and wholeness of the world.

We will build one another up in love,
so that those who encounter our common life
will find in our sharing a foretaste of God's kingdom on earth.

Amen.

17. Dismissal and Blessing

We entrust to God
our companions on the road,
this place from which we journey,
and the neighbours who will share our work of mission.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, (*Creator, Christ and Spirit*)
rest upon us now and always.

Amen.