

## Worship Service Template for PIE Day

By Rev. Murray Pruden



So often we as trans, non-binary, gender queer, queer, Two Spirit, intersex people, and many more, are made invisible in worship. We become part of generic welcome to everyone, or are cast as being welcome “regardless” or “despite” our diversity, not because of it. This is especially true for many racialized and Indigenous LGBTQIA+people, and LGBTQIA2S+ people with disabilities.

So be creative in how you interpret and contextualize these resources! Customize them for an online service or event - make it your own! Take the time to name us and celebrate us in all our diversity. May these resources and many others challenge us to embrace and en flesh the radical, prophetic, deeply inclusive call of the Good News.

- Affirming Connections and Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble

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### **Opening and Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

Let us walk together and welcome the day that is given to us. Let us greet each other with compassion and with welcoming embrace. The day is new, the day is ours, the day is a gift and let us light our flame to ignite the truth, guidance and love, which is Gods presence. Let us believe once again.

(LIGHT the Candle)

Let us Pray,

I believe and keep my trust and hope in Our Creator God and with our saviour, Jesus Christ my friend and the power of the Holy Spirit my energy.

With the pure power of the element of water, blessed by God and given to us through our Mother Earth, we live in a fundamental and life-giving world and path of everlasting wisdom and respect.

The gift of prayer by all God’s creatures is a unified and given blessing for all to sustain and keep sacred. The Spirit of God unites us with the Spirit and henceforth unites us with the universal placement of our unique path given life and continuous blessing.

The knowing and unknowing of God's acceptance and call to us is pure love, a bond that can never be broken.

God our Creator, walks with us on our path in life, trusts us, loves us, answers us and allows us to grow. We give thanks. God blesses us. God forgives us. God unites us. God enters us. God brings us harmony.

Nevermore shall I be alone, as I live in God's world with God's creations. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Acknowledgement of the Land:**

We proudly and lovingly acknowledge the land and territory that we stand and pray on as a congregation and family of the church. We acknowledge and pray for the peoples, ancestors and presence of the Indigenous peoples of... (stated people of the area). We also acknowledge all the Indigenous, Metis and Inuit of this great land of Turtle Island and their ancestors and all seven generations before and after us in this place, this church and country of Canada. Thanks be to God for all creation.

**Opening Prayer:**

Our loving God, our Creator,

You have brought us here with our fellow family, friends and community to learn and experience the wonders of this great world you created for us to live on. You have brought us to our church (Name Your Church) and give you thanks. This experience and our travels will be many and varied. Please, look after us and allow us to accept the journey and the many blessings that face us each day. God, I ask you to continue to bless our Mother, she grants us her grace to live with her. Allow our relationship with her to continue. She is a great teacher to mankind. And of course, dear God, I ask for the support and guidance of our ancestors and the ancestors of this land to be with us now and through our time here on Earth. We have lit our flame, now I ask that you light the eternal flame within each one of us. Let us be given the respect, truth and love that is meant for all for creation, including me as we say individually to you God. My spirit and heart are placed here as well for the respect of all your creations. Thank you, God. May Jesus walk with us and our congregation on our path today, tomorrow and for days to come. The light and life are with us now and forever more. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness:**

I call upon the Light, God's Light. The Light shall shine upon me and within me.

**The Light is God and it is great.**

It shall encourage me, strengthen me, guide me, protect me, shield me, love me, empower me, ground me, give me wisdom and actions of God's Holy Spirit.

**The light is calm. The Light is never rushed. The Light knows no time. The Light is the Holy Spirit.**

You sense the Light; you know feel and smell the Light. It is like pure Joy. Jesus was created by the light, truly God's Light.

**It shall never leave me.**

Forgive Us loving God, with all you have given and taught us. Allow us to accept the wellness and creation of the life we each lead.

**We Love you God. We Love you Holy Spirit. We Love you Jesus.**

With Peace and Forgiveness, in Jesus name, **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

MV (More Voices United)- 179 Sisters Let Us Walk Together

**Scripture Readings:**

**First Story:**

Two Wolves

The story of two wolves is a Cherokee Indian legend illustrating the most important battle of our lives—the one between good and bad within us. Here is how the story goes:

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy.

"It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

( <https://www.virtuesforlife.com/two-wolves/> )

**Second Story:**

Matthew 5: 14-16 "You are the Light of the World"

**Third Story:**

## John 16: 12-15 “The Spirit of Truth”

### **Reflection:**

#### Being of Light & Creation

People need to realize to have truth in their lives, one should ask for forgiveness. But once that act of forgiveness occurs, then the movement toward change should occur. If that change doesn't happen, then the forgiveness hasn't occurred as well. It's a hard process because people fear positive change. God has made us all as unique individuals and creations of this world. God has the all knowing as to each one of our abilities and sensations as beings of light and energy. God does not make mistakes, it is only man who has defined the word “mistake”, so we only dictate ourselves and our livelihood in that unfortunate definition. We should leave the mystery of God to God and let the concept of mistake to God, because God has made each creation a worthwhile intention.

The church is a foundation of the people, accepting the word of Jesus as teacher and guide to God's unconditional love. God wants all nations, people, those that are different from one another to accept him by their ways and that is celebrated in our way as Christians in the church, which is a place of worship but more profoundly, a people of different lifestyles and cultures and ways of living to celebrate and love God and one another through the gift of Jesus Christ. A church where all are different but are the same in the eyes of God and within the Christian faith, a people of light and commitment to the celebration of life and love.

As a people of love, the way Jesus has taught us to be, we commit that message as a Christian family of the church. As it states in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be restrained; where there is knowledge, it will be dismissed. For we know in part and we prophesy in part”.

Our teacher, Jesus, tells us to love one another, to give good measure to our neighbors. In other words, treat others as you would want to be treated. Compassion and humility as people of the Christian family announces the ideals that we as a church community should and shall welcome all who enter the house of God.

We place judgement of what we believe is the truth of God or what should be the given truth of God. Acceptance of all creations is a must as a Christian, but we tend to limit that acceptance because we fear the unknown.

It is alright to believe you are a flame, a light of God. It is alright to say, “I am gifted. And I am here to learn of this world, but also to change and lead it. I will continue to express when I see fit of the experiences, both good and bad of the life I live, and I thank God for all of that she has placed in my life. For I am light.”

So, let us as all people of Christian faith accept each other as neighbours and part of the same church family, whether we are a gay couple with a family to raise, a person going through a transition or identity exploration, or a person of ethnicity, old, young, physically or mentally challenged, we are the church together. We create the community that we want to live in, but if we create the community with closed eyes and hearts, I sense that one is not really following the spiritual and moral teachings of Jesus and the truth of love from God. Acceptance is hard but can be achieved when we see the world and all of God's creations as what God has made us to be, Gods truth. Amen.

**Responsive Hymn:**

Your Love is Amazing- MV26

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

Creator of Heaven and Earth,

We thank you for all your creation and the rebirth of life. We thank you for this new day and each day, week, month and season. We gather in unison through prayer to celebrate the flame we have created to be this day. Allow us the time to continue this journey together as Christian and United people, as Gods people, people and nations of the land, humble and spiritual people.

Creator, this day we ask for blessings for all our communities across this land- the many nations with our many languages, teachings, with our many identities and good ways of living in solidarity, acceptance and abundance. Allow us to see one another in a good way, in an accepting and loving way. Lift our spirit to be enlightened by your love and encouragement.

Creator, this day we ask for blessings for all our newborn and enfant children and their needed care and nourishment. For all our youth and young adults. Lead them to good experiences and relationships in their lives. For all men, women, two-spirited, transgender, gender neutral, non-binary, A gender, pangender, genderqueer, third gender and non-gender specific humankind. We are one with each other. For all those that need healing, support, guidance and most of all love in our communities. For those that need mental healing, those in care facilities, relations in hospital care, relations on the street, and relations who are strangers to us who need a friendly acknowledgement. Allow our flame to ignite joy to others in our world.

Thank you, Creator, for it is a new day! Today we celebrate a new life, a birth of a new start of a dying soul, a reactivation of the steps we walk on this path which we call life.

People of the land, my relations, wake up. Look to the east, the sun is rising. It is a good day! Do not be afraid. The sun will bring light to the dark. And we can all praise the Creator for all the sacred and loving gifts that we have in our life. The air we breathe to sing, the water we replenish our bodies with, the fire that creates warmth, and the land that supports us when we dance in celebration. All of Creation Sings!

In Jesus name. Amen.

**The Lords Prayer:**

(Said and delivered in your own way and language and style)

**Closing Hymn:**

Draw the Circle Wide- MV145

**Blessing and Benediction:**

It is time to let go.

Time to let go of the past,

My past, the past that doesn't exist anymore.

But, more importantly,

It is time the past let's go of me.

I have made wondrous steps

To my future, to good and

Blessed things in my life. And,

I need to continue to dance that path,

Embrace my continuous song,

Move forward and on with my life.

God, Spirit that is Holy,

Jesus, my friend.

It is time to let go.

It is time to help me move forward,

with the love and grace,

and wonder that is my life.

Love and bless me.

Empower me greatly.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. (Rev. Murray Pruden)

Let us go as lights into the world to speak the truth and live the truth and be great and humble people,  
and love one another once again and be the Hope we need in this world:

Surround yourself in the Spirit,

God is with you.

Surround yourself in the Light,

God is with you.

Surround yourself in the Wisdom,

God is with you.

Surround yourself in the Love,

God is with you.

Be Brave. Be Strong. Be Humble.

Be God.

Peace be with Us.

In Jesus name, Amen.