

participant can mention evangelists and martyrs who have transmitted the faith of the apostles.)

Lector 2: We pray that we may be faithful to this faith we have been entrusted with, and creative, so as to together to open up new paths of the gospel.

A: Kyrie eleison.

Lector 1: God of compassion, we give you thanks because you have reconciled the world through the cross of your Son.

Lector 2: Increase our faith, that it may give our churches and each of us, with Christ and following his example, the strength to always to stand more effectively alongside people in their lives, suffering and death.

A: Kyrie eleison.

L: God, we put our hope in you and praise you for Jesus' promise, "See, I am with you always even unto the end of time." You see the doubts which beset our hearts on the path to Christian unity. Following the example of the ecumenical pioneers of the Edinburgh conference of 1910, give us courage to denounce together our current fears and clarity to regain trust in 2010 on the path to the fulfilment of your will.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Each in his or her own language, let us pray together in the words Jesus gave us:

A: *Our Father...*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

L: Let us pray.

A: Take us from where we are, to where you

want us to be; make us not merely guardians of a heritage, but living signs of your coming Kingdom; fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people; fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one. That the world may believe, that your name may be enthroned in our nation, that your church may more effectively be your body, we commit ourselves to love you, serve you, and follow you as pilgrims not strangers (*ACTS commitment, taken from the Inaugural Service of Action of Churches Together in Scotland*).

BENEDICTION

L: The Lord who conquered darkness with light, give peace to you.

The Lord who conquered death with life, give peace to you.

The Lord who conquered loneliness with love, give peace to you.

A: Amen.

Or another blessing.

SENDING FORTH

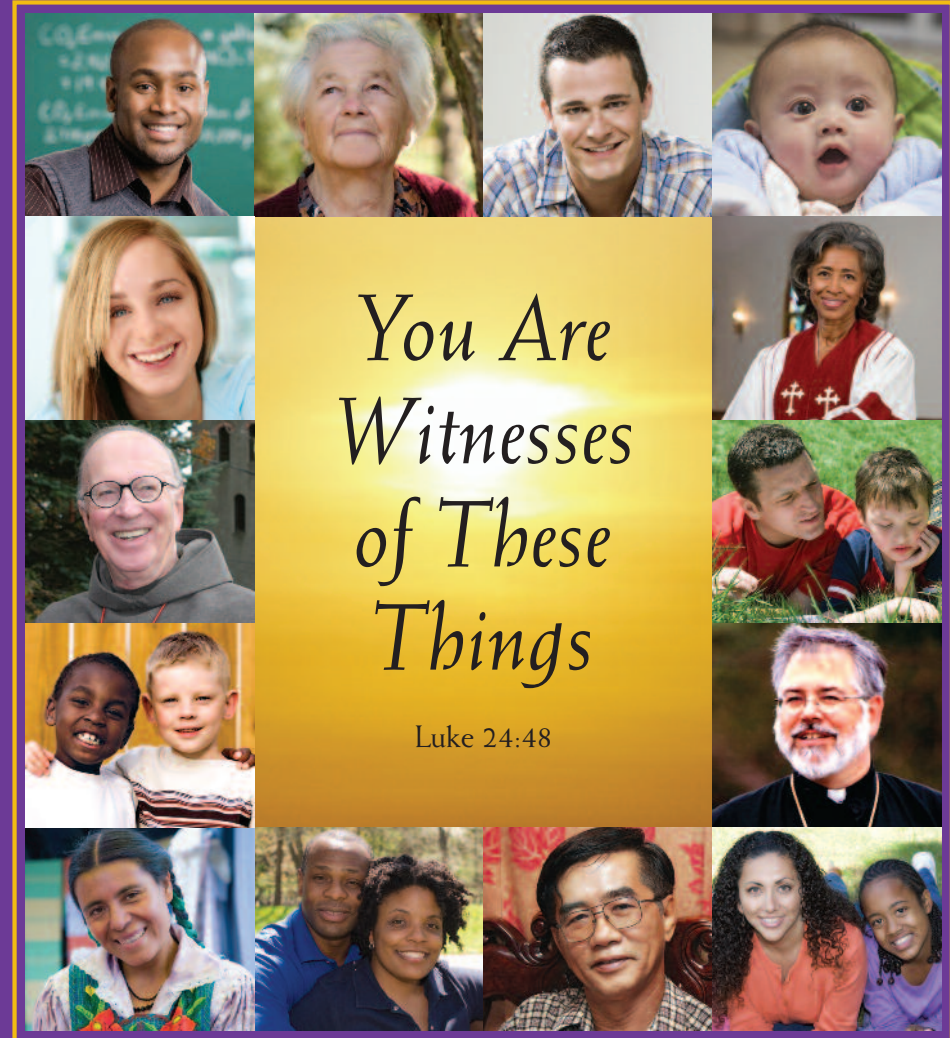
L: Today the risen Christ says to us, "As the Father sent me, so I send you."

A: Amen.

L: We have been told the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus, "We are the witnesses of these things." Go then in the peace of Christ. Alleluia!

A: Thanks be to God. Amen, Alleluia!

FINAL HYMN



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010

An Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God • Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010

You Are Witnesses of These Things (Luke 24:48)

“L” refers to the leader(s) of worship and are chosen from the churches present at worship. “A” refers to the assembly gathered for worship.

GATHERING

A gong or bell is sounded three times to indicate the beginning of the service followed by a moment of silence.

The worship leaders enter together with those participants carrying the Bible, a simple cross and possibly a symbol inspired by the text of Luke: 24.

L: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling...

A: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

L: It is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem...

A: We are the witnesses of these things.

OPENING HYMN

“Love Divine, all Loves Excelling”

(Planners may wish to use this hymn or select another appropriate hymn.)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us your humble dwelling;
All your faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, source of all compassion,
Love unbounded, love all pure;
Visit us with your salvation;
Let your love in us endure..

Come, Almighty to deliver,

Let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more your temples leave.
Lord we would be always blessing,
Serve you as your hosts above,
Pray and praise you without ceasing,
Glory in your perfect love.

WELCOME

The worship leader or the pastor of the host congregation welcomes the assembly and briefly introduces the 2010 celebration, placing it within the framework of the chosen theme.

OPENING PRAYER

A: O risen Christ, On the road to Emmaus you were the disciples’ companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith on life’s pathways and at every encounter, engender our compassion so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word. May it illumine us and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our eyes to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our sisters and brothers may know you through us and that we may know you through them. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Alleluia: *Sung*

L: *The Gospel is proclaimed.* Luke 24

THE SERMON

It is customary to invite a guest to preach in the host church’s pulpit.

HYMN

THE SIGN OF PEACE

L: Jesus said to his disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” Do not look upon our sin but on the faith of your church. To fulfil your will, grant this peace to your church and lead it to perfect unity, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

A: The risen Christ is indeed among us.

THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPLE CREED

L: Let us join together in professing the Creed.

A: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING AND HYMN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lector 1: Creator and savior God, we praise you for all our different communities who together want to confess, through word and deed, their faith in the risen Christ, who brings us life.

Lector 2: May we make such progress in our ecumenical commitment that we become more united both in our thanksgiving for creation and in our concerted action to uphold life.

A: Kyrie eleison (*or an alternative sung response*).

Lector 1: God, you have made yourself known to us in our story, we give you thanks for being with us and for having given us your Son to reveal your love and share your glory.

Lector 2: Guide the steps of all who bear witness to the gospel toward perfect unity, in careful and patient listening to cultures and peoples’ histories.

A: Kyrie eleison.

Lector 1: God, you who never abandon us, we give you thanks for the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus with the risen Christ.

Lector 2: Grant that we may feel Christ’s presence with us on our journey. Warm our hearts and open our understanding, that we may bear witness to your active presence in the power of his resurrection.

A: Kyrie eleison.

Lector 1: God, from whom every perfect gift comes, we give you thanks that from the dawn of time from generation to generation you have never ceased to awaken that cloud of witnesses which transmitted the faith of the apostles. *(At this point each*