

Prayer Resources for the Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31)

Keynote theme prayers/collects

Loving source and light of all creation,
your life and wisdom is gloriously revealed
in gender diversity
and in the kaleidoscopic beauty of human difference.
We give you thanks for gender diverse people.
Bless them with assurance of your love.
Grant them strength and joy
in their lives, bodies and relationships.
And enable everyone to celebrate their gifts:
that all may flourish
as full and equal expressions of embodied love.
In the power and mystery of your presence and peace. Amen.

*Kaleidoscopic God,
beyond gender and embodied in all,
thank you for your love and your assurance that
we have been fearfully and wonderfully made.
Grant us strength and joy in being the people
whom you have created and called us to be.
Give us patience and loving persistence in the
face of struggle and adversity, and help us
always to live fully as blessed images of you.*

particularly also appropriate for the Trans Day of Remembrance (20 November):

God of all genders and none,
Source of our glorious difference and true harmony,
Bearer of all pain and Spirit of transformation,
we give you thanks that you have created us in your own image,
in the many-splendoured forms of our human diversity.
Hear us as we remember and affirm gender diverse people.
Transform the violence, pain and struggles of the past and present,
bring new life out of death, hopelessness and despair,
and empower us with your grace, strength and joy.
May we be like kingfishers catching fire,
dragonflies drawing flame,
beautiful butterflies shining with your love.
In the name of Christ incarnate in a thousand places, and more. Amen.

Intercessions

God of kaleidoscopic love,
we give thanks this day for the wonder and diversity of your Creation,
and especially for the glorious gender diversity of humanity, created in your image.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray for those in need, for a deeper understanding of your joy and purpose for us all,
and for the fulfilment of your vision of dynamic unity: in which 'there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is
no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female' for we are all 'one in Christ Jesus' (Gal 3.28).
As we celebrate the work of your grace in making us new creations, help us come home to your peace and
enable others to be at home with you, with themselves, and with all that you have created.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy
hear our prayer

We pray for welcoming hearts and arms to embrace.
Like the father in Jesus story, who rushed out to meet his offspring with your profound mothering love,
enable us to let go of our inherited prejudices and inhibitions., that we may joyfully receive one another's
diverse gifts and thus be fully reconciled and renewed together in your love.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Celebrating Gender Diversity – Coming Home with Generous Hospitality

We pray for the Church, that it may fully recognise, affirm and celebrate the lives, bodies and gifts of its gender diverse members. Enable the Body of Christ to support those who suffer, to enable those who seek to thrive, and to employ all that is fruitful in joyful ministry, welcoming all fresh insights into what it is to become a new creation in God's love.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for our wider communities and world, that they too may embrace the gifts of gender diversity. We ask for a true spirit of listening and commitment to the real needs for gender diverse people, on the part of politicians, media and other opinion formers. Strengthen those who bring light rather than heat and lift the clouds of ignorance, fear and oppression.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy

hear our prayer

We pray for healing and renewal for all who struggle with gender dysphoria, particularly those who have been rejected by family and other loved ones. We give thanks for those who minister with them: for families and loved ones who are supportive; for informed and caring health professionals; for life-giving support networks, agencies and individuals; and, above all, for fellow gender diverse people who walk in solidarity.

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy

hear our prayer

God of kaleidoscopic love, we give thanks for all those who have gone before us, especially our gender diverse forbears who are numbered among the saints.

Inspired by their love, faith and courage,
grant that we, and all your people, may come home to your abiding love,
know your peace, strength and joy,
and flourish more fully in your eternal presence,

God of generous hospitality, in your mercy

hear our prayer

Litany/chorus of Thanksgiving

For the image of God in every person

Thanks be to God

For human diversity and its joys and life-giving challenges

Thanks be to God

For women in their diversity

Thanks be to God

For men in their diversity

Thanks be to God

For transgender, non-binary and gender fluid people in their diversity

Thanks be to God

For those loved ones who share the lives of gender diverse people

Thanks be to God

For professionals who help bring support and strength to gender diverse people

Thanks be to God

For those who give voice and expression to gender diversity

Thanks be to God

For those who work for justice and empowerment

Thanks be to God

For religious leaders and congregations who are fully affirming

Thanks be to God

For continuing revelation and life-giving grace

Thanks be to God

Sending out prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. (Anglican post-communion prayer)

Blessing

May the kaleidoscopic delight of God fill your souls with joy
and give you strength to celebrate and embody Christ's love in the world:
and the blessing of God – creating, transforming, and making new -
bring you to your true and loving home, now and always.

Additional prayers

Loving Creator,
Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the heart, and neglect.
Then O God, let the sun come out and fill the sky with beautiful rainbows.

Let the warmth of the Sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that each of us sees each other clearly: so that we can move beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender, sexual orientation, or skin colour.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness: so that we can share the joy and sorrow of
our neighbours. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbours.

Let the Earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with your beauty, and let the mountains
teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.
Then, dear God, grant us comfort, give us peace, and allow us strength to enable us to Stand up,
Fight for, and be a Voice for Equality. In Jesus' name, Amen!

*(prayer by Rev. Debra J. Hopkins, Black trans woman, Minister at Sacred Souls Community Church in Charlotte, NC,
sourced from <http://religiousinstitute.org/resources/prayers-weekend-trans-justice/>)*

Creator God, the world you gave us is so diverse
that its complexities may never be unravelled,
so extravagant that it's riches may never be spent,
and so extraordinary that we find it a constant source of amazement.
Yet when we come to people, we expect it all to be simple,
as if everyone made in your image should look and act the same.

God of many faces, help us rejoice in our diversity,
to be prepared to be understanding about other people's complexities,
to be generous in our dealings with others,
and to be amazed at the new revelations you give us each day.

We cannot all agree about everything – that would be unrealistic –
but we can follow the pattern set by Jesus,
who accepted all who were prepared to take up his cross
and be obedient to your will.

Understanding and all knowing God,
as we travel this road together, keep our minds open and our hearts united,
so that barriers fall and images fade
as we join in the work of your kingdom.

(adapted version of a prayer by Marjorie Dobson in

Courage to Love: liturgies for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, (ed) Geoffrey Duncan)
resources written or compiled by the Revd Dr Josephine Inkipin (www.transspirit.org)