

**Kindle a flame to lighten the dark  
And take all fear away**

With the women who seek to create life beyond the shadows we bring  
into the light;

The life sought by women and men working to ensure  
Justice and compassion in official responses;  
The life sought by women and men  
Struggling to reach the perpetrators of violence;  
The life sought by women and men  
Struggling to pray with integrity for abuser  
As well as abused

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**Lighting candles**

In the peace and security of this holy place, we each lay our prayers  
before God, by lighting a candle.

**Drama—Jean's story**

**Closing prayers**

**Loving Lord,  
who has created us all in your image,  
you have called us to love our neighbour  
as ourselves.**

**Help us to treat all with dignity and respect  
as we follow Christ's example of selfless love. Amen**

**Blessing**

Go into the world  
to love the Lord  
and to serve his people  
in the name of Christ. **Amen**

Everyone is invited to refreshments in the hall.



**A service to raise awareness of  
16 days of Activism against  
Gender Violence and Domestic Abuse.**

We draw near to Christ in whom we are all  
children of God through faith,  
and equally loved by him

**Welcome**

**Opening prayers** *Let us pray*

Loving Lord,  
who has created us all in your image, open our eyes to see your face  
in those of our sisters and brothers. Loving Lord, who has created us  
all in your image, make us ready to value each other as beloved  
children of God. **Amen**

**Collect**

Tender God, touch us and be touched by us.  
Makes us lovers of humanity,  
Compassionate friends of all creation.  
Gracious God,  
Hear us into speech, speak us into acting;  
And through us recreate the world.

**Amen**

May God who loved his people so much that he sent his Son to be  
our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the  
world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Old testament reading**

Isaiah 32:9A, 16-18

Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice .....

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,

And righteousness abide in the fruitful field.

The effect of righteousness will be peace,

And the result of righteousness,

Quietness and trust for ever.

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,

In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.

### **Singing— Sister, brother, let me serve you**

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh

I'll laugh with you;

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,

Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

### **New testament reading**

Mark 12:28-31

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

### **Intercessions** *Let us pray*

In the name of the Redeemer of Shadows

And to the Creator of Light

We offer prayers for lives touched by violence.

With the women who suffer the torture of the shadows we bring into the light:

The suffering of children who are powerless

To protect their mothers from abuse;

The suffering of police and hospital workers

Whose senses are not yet numbed by the job;

The suffering of the men who cannot endure

The brutality committed in the name of manhood

### **Kindle a flame to lighten the dark**

**And take all fear away.**

With the women who refuse to remain in the shadows we bring into the light:

The refusal of colleagues and neighbours

To collude with cover-ups and lies;

The refusal of campaigners to accept

That the law gives women adequate protection;

The refusal of protesters to believe

That the flame of anger should be extinguished.

### **Kindle a flame to lighten the dark**

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With the women who seek healing from the shadows we bring into the light:

The healing offered in the practical support

Of advice centres, help-lines and refuges;

The healing offered in the patient listening of counsellors, ministers and friends;

The healing offered in the courage, dignity

And understanding of sister survivors.