

National Affirming/PIE Day

Worship Service Template

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Affirming PIE Day!



www.pieday.ca

A note from the founders of National Affirming/PIE Day:

“So often we as trans, non-binary, queer, Two Spirit, lesbian, bisexual, gay, asexual, 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 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people with disabilities.

We invite you to 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 our communities 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 Divine.”

—Affirming Connections and Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble

Opening song / or way that is familiar to your context

Then Let Us Sing! 153: Que esta iglesia sea un árbol / May this church be like a tree/Comme un arbre du jardin

Welcome and Acknowledgement

Welcome to our National Affirming/PIE Day service. Each Sunday closest to March 14 (3.14 pi), we recommit to Public, Intentional and Explicit acts of being a welcoming community to all. On this 8th Annual PIE Day, themed “[Crafting Community](#),” we gather to name, repair, and reimagine how we gather as people of faith. We acknowledge the lands we meet on and honour 2S and LGBTQIA+ people as full members of God’s household.

Territory Acknowledgement

[Please acknowledge the Traditional Territory and Indigenous Peoples of your region who have lived on and cared for the place in which you gather since time immemorial.]

Lighting the Christ Candle

We come to celebrate the love of the Creator—for us, for this community, for all Creation. This love reaches into our lives, inspiring us to reach out across social divides—around the corner and around the world. Will we answer the invitation to share this love to make a difference? We light this candle to celebrate the light of Christ, the one who offers unconditional love and acceptance.

Call to Worship

One: We come from many places, with different stories and hands ready to work.

All: God who made us calls us to weave life together.

One: Let us worship in the delights of diversity, and to God who knits community from thread and grace.

All: We come to craft community, to listen, to heal, to commit.

One: Come let us worship God who calls us together today.

Opening Prayer (spoken)

[Leader: Short prayer invoking the theme: gratitude for companions, courage for truth-telling, blessing on hands and hearts as we craft.]

Children's Moment

Prop: A basket of colourful scarves or yarn.

Ask children to choose a colour and say what it reminds them of (joy, kindness, courage).

Explain: "Paul says we 'put on' kindness and patience like clothing." Invite them to place all scarves/yarn together in a basket.

Conclude: "Look at all of these colours! Each one is different and beautiful. Paul says kindness and patience are like clothes we put on—they show on the outside.

When we bring our colours together, we help make God's community beautiful. You belong in this picture!" When we bring our colours together, we help God create a beautiful, caring community. You belong in the picture!"

Scripture Reading

(Options)

Colossians 3: 12–15

Intentional welcome and practices that hold community together—compassion, humility, patience, active peacemaking.

Corinthians 12: 12–27

Diversity as strength—Paul's metaphor of the body as a powerful affirmation of inclusion—recognizing, celebrating, and protecting the dignity of each member, especially those often overlooked.

Isaiah 58: 6–12

Repair, restoration, rebuilding, justice as communal practice—Isaiah moves community from theory to action—loosening injustice, sharing bread, sheltering the marginalized.

Hymn Suggestions

- "Okay with me" by Angela Pahlow (she/her)

Angela's song won first place of the PIE Day Song Contest (2024). Angela is a special education teacher, mama, wife, and friend, who recently discovered her love for songwriting and playing guitar.

- "You Can Be the Voice of Justice" by Chris Bowman (he/him) and Valerie Kingsbury

Second-place winners of the PIE Day Song Contest (2024). Chris enjoys making music in many ways—as a conductor, solo and choral singer, educator, and composer. Valerie is an ordained minister in The United Church of Canada who taps into the spirit as a storyteller, songwriter and author.

- Your Love Is Amazing (More Voices 26)

Sermon

[Customize on this theme as you see fit]

A concise message: metaphors of weaving, repairing nets, mending garments; note the prophetic call to name exclusion as harm, invite practical commitments. Offer a short question for reflection: Where is my thread needed in this tapestry?

Colossians gives us a wardrobe for community—garments we must intentionally put on: compassion, patience, humility, and forgiveness. These are not passive virtues; they are daily choices. As a PIE community, we clothe ourselves not only in words of welcome but in practices that bind us together in love. We choose the thread that repairs, the stitch that includes, the garment that protects. What will you put on this week? Which thread is yours to offer?

Paul's image of the body teaches us that no one is optional in God's community. Every person—every identity, story, and gift—is needed for the body to flourish. PIE Day reminds us to be public, intentional, and explicit in saying what God has always said: *You are needed. You are honoured. You belong.* What is your part of the body? What gift can you offer to help our community breathe, move, and love more fully?

Isaiah calls us repairers—people who mend what harm has torn. Crafting community means restoring justice, sharing generously, and building places of safety. For 2S and LGBTQIA+ people who have been pushed out or harmed in God's name, this work is urgent and holy. PIE Day invites us to step into this identity as “repairers of the breach,” making pathways where all can live, love, and flourish.

Community Crafting Ritual:

[Purpose: embodied symbol of interdependence, remembrance, and covenant.]

Provide pre-made strips of fabric/paper, with a string looped through a hole with a piece of string /or yarn. Invite participants to write a name—of someone they commit to welcome, a memory, a pledge, or a plea for healing. Add that they can include names of marginalized or persecuted people or communities globally. Collect the strips into the communal basket.

[Music: gentle song, humming, or Taizé chant during activity.]

Leader: As we have crafted these strips, may we remember that community is made stitch by stitch. Together, these threads become a visible sign of our shared life, our joys, our hopes, our commitments to one another. This is the fabric of our community.

[After everyone places strips, a small team (or volunteers from different ages/identities) will tie them onto a branch or a frame that shall remain as a visible symbol in the church for a period of time as decided.]

Musical Response Option

- Draw the Circle Wide (More Voices 145)

Prayers for the World and the Church

We begin with words from the South Korean poet Yugudang, who was gay, an activist, and a devout Christian. He tragically took his life at 18, but his work and legacy led to some legal reforms for LGBTQIA+ rights, and continue to inspire LGBTQIA+ people in South Korea and around the world.

This poem was translated into English by Korean Rainbow United (KRU), a network of The United Church of Canada for Korean queer people and allies, lay and clergy and their co-creating relationship.

낙원가 / 번역 박하나

어서오라 어서오라
 평화로운 세상이어
 어두컴컴 암흑세계
 잡아먹고 어서오라

은하수가 흐르듯이
 꽃잎타고 흘러오라
 평등평화 아름다운
 세상이어 어서오라

동성애자 보호받고
 장애인도 존중받고
 흑인또한 사람대접
 받는 세상 낙원이여

그런날이 온다면은
 모든이가 밤낮없이
 덩실덩실 춤을추며
 기뻐할 것이다.

The Song of the Paradise

Come already, Come already, the world of peace!
Come already, eating up the world of dark night

Come flowing on the Milky Way, like the flower petal on the river
Come already, the world of beauty, equality, and peace

The world that protects homosexuals
The world that respects the disabled
The world that is hospitable to all Black descendants

Dear Paradise, when your day comes
Everyone will rejoice day and night
Dancing merrily with all peoples
In the joy of the paradise.

(Translated by Ha Na Park)

Leader:

Holy One,
You who gathers every nation, every language, every people into Your wide embrace
we turn our hearts toward the world You so deeply love.
In a time when violence rises,
when we retreat from justice,
when 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities are threatened,
and when creation groans under the weight of human harm
grant us courage equal to this moment.

All: God, make us public, intentional, and explicit in love. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Options from *Then Let Us Sing!*

- 142: As a parent holds a child
- 29: When Jesus sets the table

Option from More Voices

- Your Love Is Amazing (More Voices 26)

Blessing