

**Transgender Day of Remembrance  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 5.30pm  
St George the Martyr, Shirley**



Corrymeela is Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation centre, with over 50 years of witnessing to faith and peace. Since the early 1980s Corrymeela has been a venue for LGBT groups of people who are working for a fairer and more just structures of society and faith. Corrymeela runs annual retreats for LGBT affirmative faith leaders, and also provides resources and runs dialogues for those Christians who wish to understand LGBT lives and stories more.

[www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org)

With acknowledgement to the Corrymeela Community for the use  
of this Order of Service

## Transgender Day of Remembrance: 8 WAYS TO BE AN ALLY

1

Challenge discriminatory language and actions when you hear it or see it.

2

Introduce yourself with pronouns whenever you meet new people.

3

Include pronouns in your email signature and the displayed name on your video calls.

4

Never assume another person's pronouns and always use the ones you are asked to.

5

Apologize quickly and sincerely if you accidentally use the wrong pronoun, then move on.

6

Admit when you don't know something rather than making incorrect or hurtful assumptions.

7

Listen to trans stories to better understand their experiences.

8

Learn more about the history of trans and gender non-conforming communities

*To work for a more understanding society*

Lord, we have all failed in our understanding by embracing the historic presumptions and traditional teaching that transgender people are following a lifestyle choice in pursuit of sexual rewards; and not of identity instead. We have failed in the treatment and management methods that have been prescribed because of the medical misdiagnoses that have been made. We recognise the harm that this has brought. Help all of us, God, to create a greater understanding in society and to promote a future which is not bound to the attitudes of the past but one which can move forward to promote the fullness of life in all

God in your wisdom : **Hear our Prayer**

*For forgiveness and Love*

Loving God, Creator of the Universe, you know our inner hearts. Too often we have failed to follow your ways. Forgive us for our past failures. Grant us fresh hearts and new minds so that we can celebrate the full richness and diversity of human experience in the Love of Christ.

#### **BLESSING**

May the blessings of God's Love  
And the joy of God's Peace  
Be found in us all  
Now and Always  
**Amen**



#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Be with us Lord in all of our journeys  
**From near and from far and histories unknown**

Be with us Lord in strength and in weakness  
**The lost and forsaken the proud and the strong**

Be with us Lord in all of our beings  
**Where life in our genders can truly belong**

Be with us Lord in all of our actions  
**Fulfilling your Kingdom where all people come**

Be with us Lord in all of our wishes  
**That rest in your love, when all are as one**

#### **READING**

Paul Said: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus". (Galatians 3:28)

#### **COLLECT**

God of all creation, whose wisdom and love is boundless. You have many names and you are beyond all divisions of gender.

We have many names for our sexual and gender identities. We give you thanks for the diversity of sexuality and gender. At times we deny that diversity by holding too strongly and tightly to the divisions that we ourselves create.

As we come together to remember those transgender people who have been killed, taken their own lives or been injured, help us to honour their identities, and the identities of all people. Help us to create a world where everyone can live with authenticity and dignity.

Help us all; who belong to every sexuality and gender, to live our own lives in true fulfilment of our different identities, in fellowship with each other and in the Love of Christ.

**Amen**

## READINGS

Romans 8: 31-39 and/or Matthew 22:30-40

## REFLECTION

We now remember those transgender people who have been murdered and killed during the previous year because of the hate that has been generated by these misunderstandings and through the prejudice and discrimination that occurs.

## LIST OF NAMES

## INTERCESSIONS

### *For Loss*

Let us pray for all those who have been killed or died because they have not conformed to the gender roles that society expects. Grant them peace and bring to those they leave behind them your comfort in the knowledge that all people, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation are enfolded and are precious in the Love of Christ.

God in your wisdom : **Hear our Prayer**

### *For Understanding*

As we reflect on this list of names and the deaths of so many people, help us Lord to think afresh about what it means to belong to our own gender and to be transgender; for we are all as one in your love. As far as we are able, help us to listen, and to learn to understand what it means to be transgender, so that we and all transgender people always, and in harmony, live to the full, the Gospel of Love in our everyday lives

God in your wisdom : **Hear our Prayer**



### *For Self-Acceptance*

We acknowledge the harm that our prejudice and ignorance has sometimes unknowingly created. We recognise the feelings of guilt and self-loathing that transgender people themselves feel when they apply these negative messages about transgender people in general to themselves. It is your love that transcends all genders. Grant us wisdom, care and concern that all of us, whatever our genders and backgrounds, are fellow companions on our journeys and that we are all equally accepted for who we are in the Love of Christ.

God in your wisdom : **Hear our Prayer**

### *For the support of other people*

For transgender people the journey across genders crosses many divides. Help not only transgender people, but their friends, spouses and supporters make that journey together to find a true meeting place beyond these divides. For transgender people who are rejected by their families or lack social support we ask you to give all people involved the strength and understanding to overcome these obstacles, and to bring new opportunities for relationships to be restored

God in your wisdom : **Hear our Prayer**

### *For an end to discrimination and Abuse*

Despite gender equality legislation, discrimination still occurs. Transgender people can find it difficult to gain employment. Unemployment rates are high. The attitudes of others may make it impossible to continue in any employment that is held. Transgender people are vulnerable to attacks on their homes and on the streets. Verbal abuse is common. Lord, we ask you to grant wisdom, care and compassion to all people who engage in these disruptive activities; so that we may all live together in peace.

God in your wisdom :

**Hear our Prayer**

