



Transition

A contemplative service

based upon Hope and Renewal in times of change: four Exodus liturgies,

by Kathy Galloway

Taken from

The Pattern of Our Days

Liturgies and resources for worship Edited by Kathy Galloway

Desert

Leader: The Lord says: When the time comes,
I will answer the prayers of my people

I will betroth you to myself for ever
With integrity and justice, with tenderness and love

I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness
And you will come to know me.

I will say: You are my people
And you will answer: You are our God

For once you were outside mercy
But now you have been given mercy

**All: This is our hope, our living hope
We shall be glad**

Leader: The Lord says: I will woo you, and lead you into the wilderness and speak
to your heart

Reading:

Exodus 16, vs 1-6, 35-36 and 17. vs 1-6

Song: Come wander with me (*Emilie Satt*) See end of Service sheet for lyrics

Symbols of the desert

Silence to reflect

On the varied meanings that 'desert' has for each one of us.

**All May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts, be acceptable to you,
God our strength and our Redeemer. Amen**

Blessing and repentance

Leader: God of strangeness and desire we bless you for enticing us
to the last place we wanted to be
the place where we can hide no longer where we must face our own emptiness and
see our false gods fall.
We bless you for the immeasurable relief of self-exposure
for the miracle of survival
and for coming to us in unexpected guises

**All: Blessed are you
God of strangeness and desire**

Leader: But if we have turned in upon our emptiness refused the risks you require of us
idolized our self-sufficiency and clung to our captivity

**All: Have mercy on us,
God who wrestles and embraces us shatter our illusions,
refuse not your comfort of angels.
Feed our hope and our hunger
with the adventurous faith of your spirit
until grace is our only sufficiency.
Amen**

Reading:

Luke 4, vs 9-13

Prayers of concern

- for those who experience life as a wasteland

**All: I waited, I waited on the Lord
I waited, I waited on the Lord
He bent down low and remembered me
When he heard my prayer**

- for those who are lost, or without meaning or value in their lives
- for stateless, dispossessed or migrant peoples

Closing responses

Leader: The desert will sing and rejoice

All: and the wilderness will blossom with flowers

Leader: All will see the Lord's splendour

All: see the Lord's greatness and power

Leader: Tell everyone who is anxious

All: be strong, and don't be afraid

Leader: The blind will be able to see

All: The deaf will be able to hear

Leader: The lame will leap and dance

All: Those who can't speak will shout

Leader: This is the promise of God

All: God's promise will be fulfilled

**All: Send out your light, Lord, send your truth to be our guide,
then let them lead us to the place where you reside.**

Promised land

Leader: The Lord says: When the time comes,
I will answer the prayers of my people

I will betroth you to myself for ever
With integrity and justice, with tenderness and love

I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness:
And you will come to know me.

I will say: You are my people
And you will answer: You are our God

For once you were outside mercy
But now you have been given mercy

**All: This is our hope, our living hope
We shall be glad**

Leader: The Lord says: When the time comes,
heaven and earth will answer each other
and I will love the unloved

Reading:

Joshua. 5, vs 10-12

Song: Will it ever be the same (Young Summer) See end of Service sheet for lyrics

Symbols of the promised land

Silence to reflect

On the varied meanings that 'promised land' has for each one of us.

**All: May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts, be acceptable to you,
God our strength and our Redeemer. Amen**

Blessing and repentance

Leader: God, our passionate life
we bless you for the infinite beauty of created things
sand, wind, wave and the wings of the eagle
for the love of land and people
for the vine and the fruit and the good wine
We bless you for the endurance of hope
for the promise of renewal
and for fleeting moments on the mountaintop

All: Blessed are you, God our passionate life

Leader: But if we have forgotten those who bear the marks of exile,
desert, home, upon their hands and feet
and suffer them to go on bleeding
if we have dismembered the body of God

**All: Have mercy on us, God who brings us
down to earth.
Ground us in justice,
root us in right relationship
Give flesh to our words and worship
with the breath and peace of your spirit
until joy is our only holy, common ground.
Amen**

Reading:
John 15, vs 16-17

Prayers of concern

- for all sick or grieving people
- for new or renewing communities and nations

**All: Through our lives and by our prayers
Your Kingdom come.**

- for those caught up in war or violence
- for those who are especially dear to us
- for co-operative relationship with the earth, and one another

Closing responses

Leader: Look at your hands
See the touch and the tenderness

All: God's own for the world

Leader: Look at your feet
See the path and the direction

All: God's own for the world

Leader: Look at your heart
See the fire and the love

All: God's own for the world

Leader: Look at the cross
See God's Son and our Saviour

All: God's own for the world

Leader: This is God's world

**All: We will serve God in it.
Amen**

Leaving song: Behold, I make all things new (Cheryl & Bruce Harding)

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Come wander with me (emilie satt)

He said come wander with me love

Come wander with me

Away from this sad world

Come wander with me

He came from the sunset

He came from the sea

He came from my sorrow

And can love only me

Oh where is the wanderer

Who wandered this way

He's passed on his wandering

And will never go away

Come wander with me love

Come wander with me

Away from this sad world

Come wander with me

He sang of a sweet love

Of dreams that would be

But I was sworn to another

And could never be free

Will it ever be the same? (Young Summer)

Falling underneath what we have become

And we battle, then we break it, and we run

Easy doesn't seem to play this game

And we struggle in slow-motion and we fade

[Chorus]

How do we hold on, now?

Can we find our way out?

Will it ever be the same?

Shadows coming over

Memories grow colder

Will it ever be the same?

Silence; I don't get to hear your voice

In the chaos, in the fire, watch it blaze

Helpless; why'd you have to pin us down

We've been hiding, we've been seeking, now we're found

[Chorus]