

**Thursday, 21 March 2013  
10h00**



**Welcome to this Human Rights Day Service  
at St Cyprian's Anglican Church, Umbilo,  
where we pray to end gender violence  
against women and children**

**Opening Hymn - The Servant Song**

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| 1.<br>Brother, sister, let me serve you,<br>let me be as Christ to you;<br>pray that I may have the grace to<br>let you be my servant too.            | 2.<br>We are pilgrims on a journey,<br>and companions on the road;<br>we are here to help each other<br>walk the mile and bear the load.                    |
| 3.<br>I will hold the Christ-light for you<br>in the night-time of your fear;<br>I will hold my hand out to you,<br>speak the peace you long to hear. | 4.<br>I will weep when you are weeping;<br>when you laugh I'll laugh with you;<br>I will share your joy and sorrow<br>till we've seen this journey through. |
| 5.<br>When we sing to God in heaven<br>we shall find such harmony,<br>born of all we've known together<br>of Christ's love and agony.                 | 6.<br>Brother, sister, let me serve you,<br>let me be as Christ to you;<br>pray that I may have the grace to<br>let you be my servant too.                  |

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**Opening Prayer**

Loving God, You revealed that those who work for peace will be called your sons and daughters. Help us to work without ceasing for that justice, which brings true and everlasting peace. We ask this through our Sovereign, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 13: 1-23 and 27-29**

Adapted from The Common English Bible (CEB)

*Amnon rapes Tamar and Absalom kills Amnon*

**Psalm 72:1-7 and 11-14 (A Psalm of Solomon)**

Adapted from the Common English Bible (CEB)

*(Read in alternate verses)*

**72** God, give your judgments to the ruler. Give your righteousness to the ruler's offspring.

**<sup>2</sup> Let your people be judged with righteousness and your poor ones with justice.**

**<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bring peace to the people; let the hills bring righteousness.**

**<sup>4</sup> Let the ruler bring justice to people who are poor; let the children of those who are needy be saved, but let the oppressors be crushed!**

**<sup>5</sup> Let the ruler live as long as the sun, as long as the moon, generation to generation.**

**<sup>6</sup> Let them fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass, like showers that water the earth.**

**<sup>7</sup> Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives, and let peace prosper until the moon is no more.**

**<sup>11</sup> Let all the rulers bow down before God; let all the nations serve God.**

**<sup>12</sup> Let it be so, because our God delivers the needy who cry out, the poor, and those who have no helper.**

**<sup>13</sup> God has compassion on the weak and the needy; and saves the lives of those who are in need.**

**<sup>14</sup> God redeems their lives from oppression and violence; their blood is precious in God's eyes.**

***Glory be to our God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer – as it was in the beginning, is now, and always will be, from age to age. Amen.***

1. Breathe on me, breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.	2. Breathe on me, breath of God, Until my heart is pure, Until with Thee I will one will, To do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, breath of God, Blend all my soul with Thine, Until this earthly part of me Glows with Thy fire divine.	4. Breathe on me, breath of God, So shall I never die, But live with Thee the perfect life Of Thine eternity.

**Matthew 12:15-21** Adapted from The Common English Bible (CEB)

***Healing the crowd***

**Homily:** Rev Dr Jenny Sprong

## Hymn - Prayer of St. Francis

1. Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury, your pardon God  
And where there is doubt true faith in You

2. Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is despair in life let me  
bring hope  
Where there is darkness only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

*Refrain: Oh, Jesus grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

3. Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
It is in giving to them all that we receive  
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**Time of reflection** – Rev Dane Elsworth

### Prayers

Loving God, we pray for healing for all those who have been abused, in any way – verbally, physically, spiritually and sexually. No one should have to suffer, God. We pray for the many children and infants who have been raped and abused. We pray for those who have lost their lives at the hands of their parents or partners.

**Help us to work for you, dear God, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves**

We hold up to you the growing trend of raping the elderly and the disabled. God, we beseech you to curb this madness, taking hold of society. We know that no one is immune. Men and women, young and old are abused. Help us all to identify and change all underlying causes that give rise to violent and inappropriate behaviour.

**Help us to work for you, dear God, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves**

We pray for a health system that caters for all our health needs, And especially for a system that is sensitive to issues of abuse. May they have the resources necessary for helping all those in need, Through counselling, ARVs and suitably trained personnel.

**Help us to work for you, dear God, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves**

We pray for our government, that appropriate laws are developed and enforced, which protect all who have been violated.

May the justice system prosecute fairly,

And have the necessary evidence that is needed to ensure more prosecutions

**Help us to work for you, God and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves**

We pray for the police, who need to deal with domestic abuse and violence on a daily basis. We pray for justice for those who abuse their own power within this institution. Too often we are hearing that the perpetrators are members of the police – an institution that is meant to protect our country's citizens.

**Help us to work for you, dear God, and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves**

We pray for the many organisations that assist children, survivors, the weak and the vulnerable – may they have the resources to continue their work.

**Help us to work for you, God and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves**

We pray for the church, whose ministers support survivors of abuse in an empowering way. We ask for forgiveness for any collusion the church may have in keeping silent on this issue.

**We pray for the strength to break the silence and an end of all gender abuse and violence. Through Jesus, who is the Christ, Amen.**

**The Diakonia Hymn** (*Sung to the tune of "When I survey the Wondrous Cross"*)

1.	2.
You gave us God, by word and deed	It was Your joy to call them blest
The way of love Creator willed	Who poor in spirit choose to be,
That those who go where'er You lead	And find themselves of earth possessed,
May find in You a life fulfilled.	The gentle heirs of all they see.
3.	4.
And blessed too are those who mourn,	Your blessing, God, embraces too
The merciful, the pure of heart,	All those who strive that peace may reign,
And those by thirst and hunger torn	Who right uphold and justice do
That justice hold its rightful part.	And face withal contempt and pain.
5.	
We humbly ask Your pardon, God;	
The ones that hear are all too few.	
So speak again Your healing word,	
Our sin forgive, our heart renew.	

Many thanks to Rev Dane Elsworth and members of St Cyprian's Anglican Church for working with us on this important issue.

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