



**The Catholic Women's League
of Newfoundland and Labrador
Prayer Service Booklet**

"Women of Peace and Hope"



Women of Peace and Hope

(Have the room decorated with white doves and colourful butterflies.)

Opening Hymn: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman Glory & Praise (No. 87)

Welcome everyone to our service today. Our theme today will be “***Women of Peace and Hope.***”

Opening Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, source of all peace and hope. We ask that you bless all the women of our community.

Reading: Mark 7:24-30.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful CBWIII (Page 52)

Reflection: 14I CBWIII (Instrumental only)

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the church and those who minister to your people. We pray.
2. Bless our soldiers – especially the women who are bringing hope and peace to people in war torn countries. We pray.
3. For the deceased members of our parish, especially those of the Catholic Women`s League. We pray.
4. Bless the Sisters for their never ending dedication and service. We pray.
5. For all those named in our Book of Life. We pray.

Please extend a sign of peace with each other.

Prayer: Our Father.

Concluding Prayer: Our Lord and God, we thank and praise you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us.

Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing (pause for a moment of silence).

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and to serve one another.

Closing Hymn: Immaculate Mary CBWIII (No. 463A)

Women of Peace and Hope

Theme: Women of Peace and Hope

Opening Hymn: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman Glory & Praise (No. 87)

Greeting:

The Lord nurtured her and taught her; He guarded her as the apple of His eye. As the eagle spreads its wings to carry its young, He bore her on His shoulders. The Lord alone was her leader. (Deut. 32:10-12)

Opening Prayer:

God our Father, you have promised your kingdom to those who are willing to become like little children. Help us to follow the ways of Ste. Therese with confidence so that by her prayers we may come to know your eternal glory. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: Luke 1:39-45.

Response to Reading:

Speak of women in our lives who influenced us; ex. Nano Nagle, Catherine McAuley, Mother Teresa, our own mothers, grandmothers, Diana, June Caldwood, etc.

Reflection: Recite the "Hail Mary".

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: "O Lord, answer my prayer".

1. For the church, that it will continue to guide and inspire us to do great things in our daily lives. We pray to the Lord.
2. For the women who dedicate their lives in the service of others, especially for the less fortunate in our own and underdeveloped countries. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the sick and suffering, especially members of our own families as well as for those in the world who have no one to support them. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all the deceased, that God will grant them eternal life. We pray to the Lord.
5. For peace and hope in the world and especially for women who endure great hardships in their daily lives. We pray to the Lord.

Ritual Action:

Have a real tree, (ex. As you would use for a Jesse tree). Have soft music playing as each participant puts a name on a symbol, for example a bird or butterfly with strings attached, and write the name of a woman who has influenced them throughout their lives. These will then be hung on the tree.

Lord's Prayer

Final Prayer, Blessing and Dismissal:

Lord, bring to perfection within us the communion we share with each other. May our celebration have an effect in our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Though the Mountains May Fall Glory & Praise (No. 244)

Women of Peace and Hope

Opening Hymn: We Walk by Faith CBWIII (No. 495)

Opening Prayer: 13A CBWIII

Presider: Lord, open our lips. **All:** And we shall proclaim your praise.

Presider: Glory to God in the highest.

All: And peace to God's people on earth.

Opening Prayer:

Almighty and ever-living God, our source of power and inspiration, give us strength and joy in serving you as followers of Christ.

First Reading: Second Letter of John: 1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who hope in the Lord. CBWIII (Page 129)

Gospel: John 8:1-11

This gospel will be acted out as women dressed in rags stand in the center. All members have a "stone". Jesus is marking in the dirt. Act out the gospel as it is read.

Reflection:

Prepare a reflection on the virtue of hope. The adulteress woman thought she would be stoned and condemned, but Jesus gave her hope.

Intercessions (sung): Hear our prayer.

1. (For the Church): Let us pray for the church on earth under the leadership of Pope Benedict, may our church continue to grow. Let us pray.
2. (For the world and society): Let us pray for leaders of nations who work to bring peace to troubled parts of the world. Let us pray.
3. (For the sick and suffering): For the sick, the lonely and the forgotten. Let us pray.
4. (For the deceased): For those who have died, especially for our CWL members, for our families and friends. Let us pray.
5. (For special intentions): In the deep recesses of our heart, let us pray for our special intentions (out loud or silently). Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer:

Loving Father, in your goodness you give us life. Help us now to grow in love and faith. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sign of Peace

Women of Peace and Hope

Setting the scene: The Word of God, Prayer Table, Lectern, 5 Candles and plant. During the opening song, the Word of God can be enthroned.

Leader: Call to quiet. (Sign of the Cross).

Response: (Sing or recite) – “Spirit of the Living God – fall afresh on us.”

Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. (Pause)

Repeat Response

Theme Song: Peace Prayer Glory & Praise (No. 191)

First Reading: John 20:19-23

Reflection: (Quiet)

Leader (guide idea): What doors of our hearts are not open to peaceful living?

5 Candles: *Representing*

- *Peace in self*
- *Peace in home*
- *Peace in community*
- *Peace in country*
- *Peace in the world*

Sing while lighting – Let There be Peace on Earth Glory & Praise (No. 139)

Psalm: **Response:** The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

1. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him; that his glory may dwell in our land. **Response**
2. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground and hope will look down from the sky. **Response**
3. The Lord will give what is good and the land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and peace will follow along his path. **Response**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Reflection (guide idea): (Quiet)

God and I can take care of everything that’s going to happen to us today.

*Plant representing **HOPE** placed on prayer table with candles while singing “All My Hope on God is Founded” (CBWIII No. 479), sung to the tune of Come Adore (CBWIII No. 688).*

Intercessions:

Let us ask God's blessings and guidance as we pray to be women of peace and hope.

Response: Spirit of God, fill us with peace and hope.

1. For the Church, called to be witnesses of peace and hope in our world. We pray to the Lord.
2. For world leaders, working to promote justice, equality and peace for all people. We pray to the Lord.
3. For all victims of poverty, abuse and violence. We pray to the Lord.
4. For the young children of our world who suffer from hunger and all kinds of neglect. We pray to the Lord.
5. For the members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada called to witness to the peace and hope that Christ promises. We pray to the Lord.
6. For the deceased members of the Catholic Women's League, especially those of our own councils and for all who mourn their loss. We pray to the Lord.

Concluding Prayer:

Let us praise God our Father for his gifts of peace and hope as we pray... Glory be to the Father..... Amen.

Closing Hymn: Lord of all Hopefulness CBWIII (No. 497)

Sign of Peace

(This Prayer Service was prepared by Hazel McGrath, Philomena Carroll, Joan Hatch, Theresa Cole and Sister Geraldine Mason, November 18th, 2008, St. Catherine's Renewal Centre, Grand Falls-Windsor.)

Women of Peace and Hope

“Women of Today”

Opening Hymn: Peace is Flowing like a River Glory & Praise (No. 190)

Opening Prayer: League Prayer

Reflection: *“Today’s Women in the 21st Century Finding Peace.”*

Have soft music playing in the background. Close eyes and put everything out of your mind. Help the ladies to relax their minds and talk people through this relaxation period.

Scripture Reading: Rev. 12:1-6

Mary was having such a hard time dealing with her demons – she turned to God and he took her through and helped make her the good person she is. The stress of today’s women is different from back then. We take on too much...also we have jobs, run a household; we have a family to bring up; we turn to God for guidance and strength.

Special Intentions:

You would include all your regular intentions, but you would also include a few for the women of today and of course, the League.

Closing Hymn: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman Glory & Praise (No. 87)

(This Prayer Service was prepared by Lavern White, Deer Lake, Rona House, St. Alban’s, Gertie Tilley, Deer Lake, Elizabeth Westcott, St. Patrick’s, St. John’s and Helena Younge, St. Alban’s, November 18th, 2008, St. Catherine’s Renewal Centre, Grand Falls-Windsor.)

Women of Peace and Hope

Opening Song: People of Peace Glory & Praise (No. 192)

Greeting:

Good evening, welcome to our gathering to celebrate our theme, "Women of Peace and Hope" (or variation as necessary).

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God our Father, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, we ask you to bless each one of us here present today. We pray also for others afflicted by war and poverty in our world. We thank you God for bringing us here today.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians: 13, Cor. 2:1, Thessalonians 4:12

Response: Psalm P. 24 Glory & Praise #89; #33 Year A, #146 Year B.

Reflection: *Optional – Quiet meditation, music or prepared reflection.*

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: O Lord, answer my prayer.

1. We pray for the Church, that all leaders will embrace women as people of Peace and Hope. We pray to the Lord.
2. We pray for all women to be witness to Christ in today's society as we reach out to the disadvantaged. We pray to the Lord.
3. We pray for the sick and suffering. We pray to the Lord.
4. We pray for all deceased people. We pray to the Lord.
5. We pray that all women of the world will become bearers of Peace and Hope. We pray to the Lord.

Ritual Action:

Candle lighting; greet each other, a table set up with significant symbols, exchange telephone numbers. Use the symbol of "Women of Peace and Hope" and have them place a dove or a butterfly on our picture. Have us bless each other with Holy water.

The Lord's Prayer – then offer the sign of Peace to each/"Shalom"/the sign of peace on the forehead.

Concluding Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for gathering us here today as women of Peace and Hope. May we be ever mindful of our need for the Holy Spirit in our lives every day.

The Blessing:

We ask God to bless and strengthen the people who have gathered here today for this service.

Dismissal:

We are all sent forth to be disciples of Jesus in the world.

Closing Song: Now Thank We All Our God CBWIII (No. 535)
or a hymn to Mary, Hail Queen of Heaven CBWIII (No. 458)

Women of Peace and Hope

Opening Hymn: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman Glory & Praise (No. 87)

Symbol:

“I can make a difference” – sign. Have a large bowl of water on a table surrounded by small rocks which each person places in the bowl. Yellow cloth or ribbons, as yellow is a symbol of peace. (While music is being sung, this activity can take place.)

Greeting:

This prayer service is to introduce the new theme for the next two years – Women of Peace and Hope.

Opening Prayer:

See missalette.

Scripture Reading: The Wedding Feast at Cana.

Response: *Sing hymn again – Hail Mary, Gentle Woman or quiet reflection.*

Reflection:

Women of Peace and Hope – display and reflect on theme logo.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Have a different person read each petition.

Ritual Action:

The placing of stones in the water.

The Lord’s Prayer.

Final Prayer.

Closing Hymn: Peace is Flowing Like a River Glory & Praise (No. 190)