# Day 1 - "Reconciliation and ... TRUTH"

## **Resources for the service:**

# - a plain and empty clay flower pot

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# **Musical preparation**

#### **Silence**

(stand)

# Greeting

Leader: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,

All: And my mouth will declare your praise.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

All: And put a new and right spirit within me.

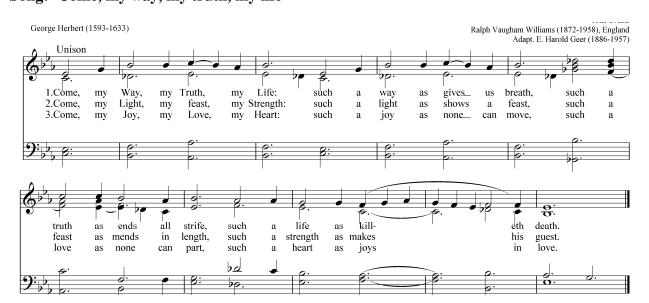
Leader: Do not cast me away from your presence,

All: And do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

All: And sustain in me a willing spirit.

## Song: Come, my way, my truth, my life



(sit)

# **Psalm 15** (read antiphonally)

- L: God, who has the right to enter your tent, or to live on your holy mountain?
- I: Those whose way of life is blameless, who always do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart,
- II: whose tongue is not used for slander, who do no wrong to friends, cast no discredit on neighbours,
- I: who look with contempt on the reprobate, but honour those who fear you, who stand by a pledge at all cost,
- II: who do not ask interest on loans, and cannot be bribed to exploit the innocent.
- L: If they do all this, nothing can ever shake them.

#### The Essence of Truth

L: Jesus says: The truth will set you free.

(John 8:38)

(The person who is leading this part of the service now takes up the flower pot, holding it in his/her hands while continuing the reading.)

Truth is difficult, ambiguous, offensive, helpful, essential, liberating.

Truth is like this: ...

(Here, the prayer leader raises the pot and smashes it into pieces. The broken pot remains on the ground until the end of the service.)

## **Prayer**

L: Grant, O God, that we your followers may seek the truth hear the truth learn the truth tell the truth hold the truth

and defend the truth to the death; for it is by the truth that we will be saved from sin, from the power of the Evil One, and from the death of the soul. We pray in the name of our blessed Lord, who for truth's sake died and rose again.

#### All: Amen

(based on words of Jan Hus, 1370-1415)

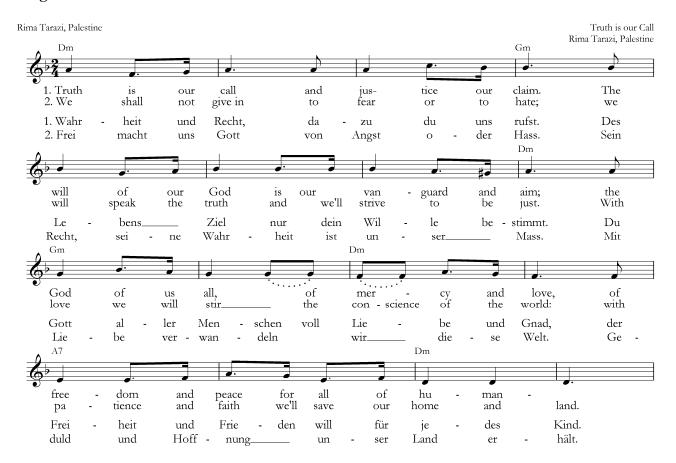
# Bible Reading – Zechariah 8: 16

These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the Lord.

## Meditation

(stand)

# Song: Truth is our call





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(sit)

# **Intercessions**

## L: Gracious God,

make your people a loving people, show us how to walk in love; to be open to you in the very depths of our being. Fill us with truth and love, so that we might be your heralds in this world.

In a world where many feel unloved, where the truth of who they are is hidden from them, make us heralds of truth.

In a world where millions suffer because the truth is not known; where media and governments and business create unreal pictures of the world, hiding those who suffer, along with the reasons for injustice and the possibility of solutions: make us heralds of your truth.

We pray for those who are victims of their own success, who suffer because they have sought only the happiness and peace that the world offers. Make us heralds of your truth. Remake us as we worship you, so that our nature is transformed, so that actions of truth and love come naturally, so that our habits and ethos be deeply shaped by you, so that our way of engaging with the world reflects your ways. Fill us with grace and truth,

Fill our world with grace and truth,

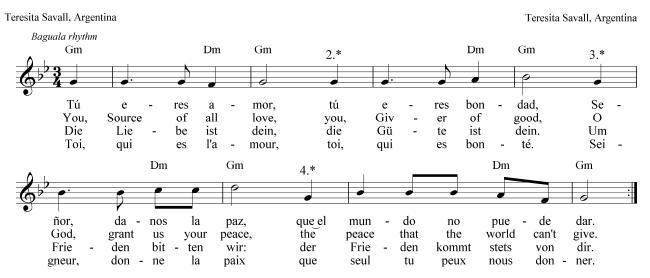
And make us faithful heralds of grace and truth.

#### All: Amen

(http://www.baptist.org.uk/prayer\_worship/downloads/poi\_may08.pdf)

(stand)

# Song: Tú eres amor



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# Lord's Prayer

## **Blessing**

All: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us and have mercy on us.

Amen.