



**OPEN TABLE**  
Come as you are

Safe sacred space for LGBTQIA+ Christians  
& all who seek an inclusive Church

# Order of Service

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA**

**MAY 17**

A Worldwide Celebration of Sexual and Gender Diversities



OneBodyOneFaith

**St Bride's**

Creative / Progressive / Inclusive

In 70 countries, loving someone of the same sex is illegal and, in 7 countries, it is punishable by death. In many more countries citizens are denied their right to live as their true gender identity, and 369 murders of trans and gender-diverse people were reported worldwide in 2018. As well as legal discriminations, social homophobia, biphobia and transphobia daily serve to deny millions of people across the world their basic human dignity.

### **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**

(IDAHOTB) was created in 2004 to draw the attention of policymakers, opinion leaders, social movements, the public and the media to this issue. The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. IDAHOTB is now celebrated in more than 120 countries. LGBTQIA+ organisations, governments, cities, human rights organisations, corporations and celebrities have all taken action on May 17th to:

- Draw media attention to the issue of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
- Demand attention from policymakers and engage in lobbying activities
- Network with like-minded organizations and develop new partnerships, at home or beyond.

The theme for IDAHOTB 2019 is 'Justice and protection for all':  
[may17.org/globalissue2019](http://may17.org/globalissue2019)

For more information about IDAHOTB visit:

Web: [may17.org](http://may17.org)

Twitter: [@may17org](https://twitter.com/may17org)

Facebook: [@may17.org](https://facebook.com/may17.org)

2019 also marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riot, a spontaneous demonstration by LGBTQIA+ people against a discriminatory police raid on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York. The riot, which lasted five nights, was a galvanizing moment for the LGBTQIA+ activist community to unite in a movement fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights. The following year of action culminated on the anniversary of the Stonewall Riot in the Christopher Street Liberation Day March, considered to be the first Pride. **Read more: [stonewallforever.org](http://stonewallforever.org)**

Welcome to Open Table, an ecumenical Christian worship community which offers a warm welcome to people who are: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer / Questioning, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+), and all who seek an inclusive church. Open Table aims to create a safe sacred space for you to explore your faith and what it means for you. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome here.

Open Table meets on the first and third Sundays of every month in St Bride's CofE Church, Percy Street, Liverpool, at 6.30pm with refreshments from 6pm.

**We hope you enjoy your time here. We welcome feedback on how we can improve and grow, so please contact us at any time:**

email: [liverpool@opentable.lgbt](mailto:liverpool@opentable.lgbt)

phone: 07501753618,

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/opentableliverpool](https://facebook.com/groups/opentableliverpool)

Twitter: [@opentableLIV](https://twitter.com/opentableLIV)

For support, please email or call - we can't do this on social media.

For more about the Open Table network, visit: [opentable.lgbt](http://opentable.lgbt).

For more about St Bride's visit: [stbridesliverpool.org.uk](http://stbridesliverpool.org.uk)

Tonight, Open Table network coordinator Kieran Bohan will guide us in a reflection on what Peace, Reconciliation & Activism mean for us as an LGBTQIA+ Christian community. Our Rector Miranda Threlfall-Holmes will lead us in celebrating the Eucharist. #AllAreWelcome #ComeAsYouAre

The liturgy for tonight's service was adapted from multiple sources, particularly the National Coming Out Day materials, Human Rights Campaign 2006, unless otherwise stated.

Welcome

**Leader:** We gather in the name of God,  
peace-maker, reconciler, activist.

**All: Amen**

**Leader:** Blessed are the peacemakers.

**All: For they will be called children of God.**

**Leader:** Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness' sake.

**All: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

- *Matthew 5:8-9*

**Leader:** Come in peace, breaking down old misunderstandings,  
welcoming strangers, learning new languages,  
greeting one another as children of God!

**All: We come, praising God!**

**Leader:** Praise the God who made us all, who loves us all,  
who calls us together so that we might sing 'Alleluia'!

**All: Praise God! Alleluia! Amen.**

*Song: 'We Sing a Love' by June Boyce Tilman  
(to the tune "Woodlands")*

**We sing a love that sets all people free,  
that blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,  
enfolds the earth, springs up like water clear:  
come, living love, live in our hearts today.**

**We sing a love that seeks another's good,  
that longs to serve and not to count the cost,  
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new:  
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.**

**We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid  
to be itself, despite another's wrath,**

**a love that stands alone and undismayed:  
come, strengthening love, live in our hearts today.**

**We sing a love that, wandering, will not rest  
until it finds its way, its home, its source,  
through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed:  
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.**

**We sing the Holy Spirit, full of love,  
who seeks out scars of ancient bitterness,  
brings to our wounds the healing grace of Christ:  
come, radiant love, live in our hearts today.**

*Confession*

**Leader:** Holy One who knows us well,  
who cherishes our deepest yearnings,  
channelling our desires toward the great end of your love,  
we confess our fear of passion,  
our shame over our deepest needs,  
grant us courage to speak uncomfortable truths,  
to confront the lies that tinge love with shame;  
assure of us of your embrace of all of us,  
even those parts of ourselves that the world treats with  
scorn, lift us up, make us strong,  
that we might be a light that sheds your truth before all,  
that speaks through our lives of your surprising grace.

**All: Amen**

*Act of reconciliation: Come and place a stone at the foot of the tree to  
represent what has caused you to stumble on your  
journey towards peace and reconciliation, especially  
around your faith, gender and sexuality.*

*Take a leaf from the tree to represent what has helped  
you to grow.*

*Meanwhile music plays  
'I'll stand by you' by The Pretenders.*

**Leader:** Thank you Lord,  
that even though we have all fallen short of your glory,

we still walk in the light of your grace and love.  
Thank you Lord,  
that you are kind, tender-hearted and forgiving of us  
so that we can be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving  
of others and ourselves.  
In the name of Christ, our Lord,

**All: Amen.**

- *Adapted from Coventry Cathedral evening prayer of reconciliation*

*The Peace Candle is lit*

**Leader:** God who opens doors and dismantles barriers,  
open our hearts to praise you  
that we might live the full truth of who we are,  
that we might live as neighbours and friends,  
no longer strangers and enemies;  
open our hearts to the transforming power of your love  
that we might forgive and reconcile,  
making peace and learning war no more,  
that we might be your people, one body in one Spirit,  
to tell your grace to all the world.  
We pray in the name of the One  
who walked among us as brother and friend,

**All: Amen.**

*First reading:*

This Bible verse has been chosen to help fight homophobia. Most LGBT people are more used to the Bible being used against them, but these LGBT Christians draw upon it for support. An Italian LGBT Christian Network have chosen this particular Bible verse for use at vigils and other services to mark this year's International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

The Italian LGBT Christian network *Progetto Gionata* recently held an online poll to choose a Bible passage appropriate to use at services and vigils to commemorate this campaign. The winning passage comes from the book of Isaiah, chapter 43:1-4:

‘Have no fear, for I have taken up your cause; naming you by your name, I have made you mine. Because of your value in my eyes, you have been honoured, and loved by me.’

*Please stand, as you are able, to greet the Gospel*

**Cantor:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**All:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Reader:** Hear the Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Mark

**All:** Our hearts and minds are open

*Gospel: Mark 5:1-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

**Reader:** The Gospel of Jesus

**All:** Thanks be to God

**Cantor:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**All:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Please sit for the reflection, which will conclude with :*

*Prayer for courage by Pádraig Ó Tuama, Corrymeela Community*

**All:** Courage comes from the heart  
and we are always welcomed by God,  
the heart of all being.

We bear witness to our faith,  
knowing that we are called to live lives of courage,  
love and reconciliation in the ordinary and extraordinary  
moments of each day.

We bear witness, too, to our failures  
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.

May we be courageous today.

May we learn today.

May we love today.

**Amen.**

*Intercessions: What does peace, reconciliation and activism mean  
for our community as LGBTQIA+ Christians?*

*Come and place on the tree a word, phrase or image drawn on card shaped like fruit, to represent the ways in which our hurt and anger have been or may be transformed into passion for justice and equity for LGBTQIA+ people everywhere, and especially in our faith communities. Meanwhile music plays.*

*Music: Take O take me as I am by John Bell*

**Leader:** Into your hands, O God,  
we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Leader:** Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
neither let them be afraid.'  
The peace of God be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let's share in the peace of Christ here among us.

- cf John 14.27

*Please sit.*

*Song: 'Lord, make us servants of your peace'  
by James Quinn (to the tune 'O Waly waly')*

**Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
where there is hate, may we sow love;  
where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
where there is strife, may we make one**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
where all is night, may we sow light  
where all is tears, may we sow joy..**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
to be consoled, but to console,**



**nor look to understanding hearts,  
but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return,  
but seek to love unselfishly,  
for in our giving we receive,  
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live, and are reborn  
through death's dark night to endless days;  
Lord, make us servants of your peace  
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

*Please sit for the Eucharistic Prayer*

**Leader:** God is here

**All:** Her Spirit is with us.

**Leader:** Blessed be the names of Love.

**All:** They touch our hearts with grace.

**Leader:** We open our hands in thanks.

**All:** Our song is one of welcome.

- Steven Shakespeare

*Eucharistic Prayer II for Reconciliation  
adapted from the 1975 Roman Missal*

**Leader:** Father, all powerful and ever living God,  
we praise and thank you through Jesus Christ our Lord  
for your presence and action in the world.

In the midst of conflict and division,  
we know it is you who turns our minds  
to thoughts of peace.

Your Spirit changes our hearts:  
enemies begin to speak to one another,  
those who were estranged join hands in friendship,  
and nations seek the way of peace together.

Your Spirit is at work when understanding  
puts an end to strife,  
when hatred is quenched by mercy,  
and vengeance gives way to forgiveness.

For this we never cease to thank and praise you.

We join with all the choirs of heaven  
as they sing for ever to your glory:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Leader:* God of power and might,  
we praise you through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who comes in your name.  
He is the Word that brings salvation.  
He is the hand you stretch out to sinners.  
He is the way that leads to your peace.

God our Father, we had wandered far from you,  
but through your Son you have brought us back.  
You gave him up to death  
so that we might turn again to you  
and find our way to one another.  
Therefore we celebrate the reconciliation  
Christ has gained for us.

We ask you to sanctify these gifts  
by the power of your Spirit,  
as we now fulfil your Son's command.

While he was at supper on the night before he died for us,  
he took bread in his hands and gave you thanks and praise.  
He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

‘Take this, all of you, and eat it;  
this is my body which will be given up for you.’

At the end of the meal he took the cup.  
Again he praised you for your goodness,  
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

‘Take this, all of you, and drink from it;  
this is the cup of my blood,  
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.

It will be shed for you and for all  
so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.’

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All:                   When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*Leader :*           Lord our God,  
your Son has entrusted to us  
this pledge of love.  
We celebrate the memory  
of his death and resurrection  
and bring you the gift you have given us,  
the sacrifice of reconciliation.

Therefore, we ask you, Father,  
to accept us, together with your Son.  
Fill us with his Spirit through our sharing in this meal.  
May he take away all that divides us.

May this Spirit keep us always in communion  
with all your people.  
Father, make your Church throughout the world  
a sign of unity and an instrument of your peace.

You have gathered us here around the table of your Son.  
In that new world  
where the fullness of your peace will be revealed,  
gather people of every race, language and way of life  
to share in the one eternal banquet  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours,  
almighty God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

*Leader :* Formed by divine wisdom  
and following the example of Jesus,  
let's pray together:

**All: Eternal Spirit: Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever.  
Amen**

- *The Jesus Prayer by Jim Cotter*

*Breaking of bread:*

*Leader:* When we break this bread we share in Christ's body;

**All: We are many but we are one body  
because we all share one bread. Amen.**

All are welcome to receive communion here.

*The bread is gluten free and the wine is non-alcoholic.*

*Communion Song: - John Bell*

**Take, O take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be.  
Set your seal upon my heart, and live in in me.**

*Post-communion prayer (after a time of stillness):*

**Leader:** Once again you have given us what we need:  
sacrament, one another, hope for a better day.  
With renewed energy we offer ourselves  
to be sent out in your name;  
hopeful, grateful, useful, leaders of liberation,  
proclaimers of your love.

**All: Amen**

- Rev LeeAnne Watkins

*Please remain seated for the notices.*

*Please stand to sing if you are able*

*Song: Inspired by Love and Anger, by John Bell  
(to the tune 'Salley Gardens')*

**Inspired by love and anger,  
disturbed by need and pain,  
Informed of God's own bias we ponder once again:  
'How long must some folk suffer?  
How long can few folk mind?  
How long dare vain self-interest  
turn prayer and pity blind'.**

**From those forever victims of heartless human greed,  
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:  
'Where are the fruits of justice?  
Where are the signs of peace?  
When is the day when prisoners  
and dreams find their release?'**

**God asks, 'Who will go for me?  
Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?**

**And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?  
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?**

**Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,  
attuned to what the ancients exposed,  
proclaimed and wrote,  
a saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools  
has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Blessing*

*Leader:* Blessed be God who calls us all out of our tombs of fear,  
who bids us live with yet more spirit, in yet more truth,  
who surely did not bring us this far to leave us!

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

*Leader:* Holy One, as we bless your name, bless us.  
Sustain all those who risk speaking truth despite the risk,  
witnesses to Your love and hope and mercy.

**All: Blessed are those who 'come out'!**

*Leader:* Temper the hearts of those who receive  
'coming out' stories,  
that disappointment may become honour,  
confusion and shame may become empathy and support,  
all according to your great mercy!

**All: Blessed are those who have ears to hear, whose hearts are  
open, to those who 'come out'!**

*Leader:* Embrace those who cannot 'come out'  
because jobs or housing might be lost,  
because of fear of rejection from those they hold dear,  
because of hostility and threats of violence,  
because they might lose family, children,  
security or shelter!

**All: Blessed are those who cannot 'come out'!  
May they one day be free!**

*Leader:* Encourage those who are weary of ‘coming out’,  
stand by them, nourish their tired spirits,  
sustain them in the long journey toward truth and justice!

**All: Blessed are those who keep ‘coming out’!**

*Leader:* Build up this community in acceptance, faithfulness,  
forbearance, solidarity and love,  
make us one Body,  
that we might serve neighbours, strangers  
- even our enemies -  
in your gracious name.

**All: Blessed are we, members of the Body,  
to go out and serve! Amen.**

*Dismissal:*

*Leader:* As you speak truth and work for justice,  
you can be sure that God goes with you,  
ahead of you to clear the way,  
beside you to sustain you when the road is rough,  
and behind you to pick you up when you are weary!  
You do not walk alone! Go in peace with courage!

**All: Amen!**

*You are most welcome to stay for refreshments after the service.*



**MAY 17**

**CELEBRATE** THE  
**FREEDOM** TO  
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