AN ACT OF PARTING FOR LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIPS

Notes

This service has been prepared by the Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain.

It is recommended that those presiding and preaching at this service are not drawn from the ministry and life of the Ecumenical Partnership that is to be concluded.

Some key aspects of this service require careful scrutiny and may need to be adapted before being used in particular circumstances.

Great sensitivity will be required as each particular service is drawn up and it may be helpful to consult Denominational Ecumenical Officers.

INTRODUCTION

In these or similar words:

We have met to give thanks to God for the worship, fellowship and witness of {name} local ecumenical partnership and to acknowledge the reasons that have brought the partnership to a close. Let us remember those who prayed and worked in the days of its foundation and those who contributed to its years of strength and success. As we call to mind our regrets let us also give thanks for those whose honesty and courage has enabled the partnership to end.

HYMN

An Act of Penitence

Sisters and brothers, as this part of our shared history draws to its close let us call to mind our sins:

Silence
If we have failed in our hopes and our visions:
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

If we have lost courage and forgotten our promises:
Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

If we have abandoned the path of unity and love:
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in life eternal. Amen

HYMN

First Reading
Genesis 13.8 to18    - The Separation of Abram and Lot

PSALM
Psalm 121

Second Reading
Acts 15.36 to 41      - The Separation of Paul and Barnabas

HYMN

Gospel
John 10.1-16           - The Good Shepherd

Address

HYMN
AN ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Other appropriate issues may be included

Let us pray

First Voice

God our Father,
we give you thanks
for your goodness and love in all creation
by which we are continually nourished and sustained.
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Voice

Father, we bless you for your revelation in history
and for your covenant of salvation
with all your people.
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

First Voice

Father, we praise you for your prophets
and for the Word made flesh in the coming of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
We give you thanks for his saving death on the cross,
for his mighty resurrection from the dead,
and his glorious ascension into heaven.
Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Voice

Father, we bless you for the out-pouring of your Spirit on all nations.
for our life together in your kingdom,
and for our calling to serve you in the world.
With your whole people, on earth and in heaven, we give you our thanks and praise, now and for ever. Amen
AN ACT OF INTERCESSION

Other appropriate issues may be included

Let us pray:

First Voice

Spirit of the living God,
you came as wind and fire upon the apostles, bringing the church to birth
and empowering it for mission and service.
Pour out your Spirit on those who seek your will
that we may be blessed anew for the work you set before us.

O Lord, the Giver of Life. Answer our prayer.

Second Voice

Spirit of the living God, through the breath of your being all creation came to
birth. Pour out your Spirit on the nations and inspire their leaders in the ways
of justice and peace, that the hungry may be fed, the homeless find a
welcome and the oppressed be brought to liberty and fullness of life.

O Lord, the Giver of Life. Answer our prayer.

First Voice

Spirit of the living God, you anointed your Son Jesus Christ to bring sight to
the blind, hearing to the deaf, and healing to the sick and the sorrowing.
Grant the comfort and grace of your Holy Spirit to those who are ill, to those
filled with anxiety and to all who stand in need of our prayers.

O Lord, the Giver of Life. Answer our prayer.

Second Voice

Spirit of the living God, at the Father’s command you raised Christ from the
dead. Grant us this day the assurance of eternal life and the joy of the
communion of saints, as we rejoice in every memory of them and as we
continue to be strengthened by their fellowship.

O Lord, the Giver of Life. Answer our prayer.
THE LORD’S PRAYER

AN ACT OF PARTING

*Quiet Music*

A central candle provides light for two or more candles to be lit and it is then extinguished.

Any symbolically appropriate liturgical items which can easily be carried for use in the worshipping life of one or more of the future congregations may be handed over.

THE PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.
In the one Spirit
We were all baptized into one body.
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
*And also with you.*

HYMN

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*