

Jewish-Christian Relations



Insights and Issues in the ongoing Jewish-Christian Dialogue

Celebrating Christian-Jewish Relations

| The United Church of Canada

A Service of Christian Worship. Celebrating Christian-Jewish Relations.A Liturgy.

A Service of Christian Worship

Celebrating Christian-Jewish Relations

This resource was recommended by the United Church of Canada to its congregations. The church had some years ago approved a theological study document called Bearing Faithful Witness: United Church-Jewish Relations Today and developed a statement on United Church-Jewish relations which has been recommended to its congregations for discussion and will be presented to its General Council for approval. This worship service is an additional resource that builds on the ones mentioned. All these resources are available at the Web site of the United Church of Canada. They are presented here as encouragement for other churches, Christian groups and individuals to participate in the renewal of Christian-Jewish relations.

Contents

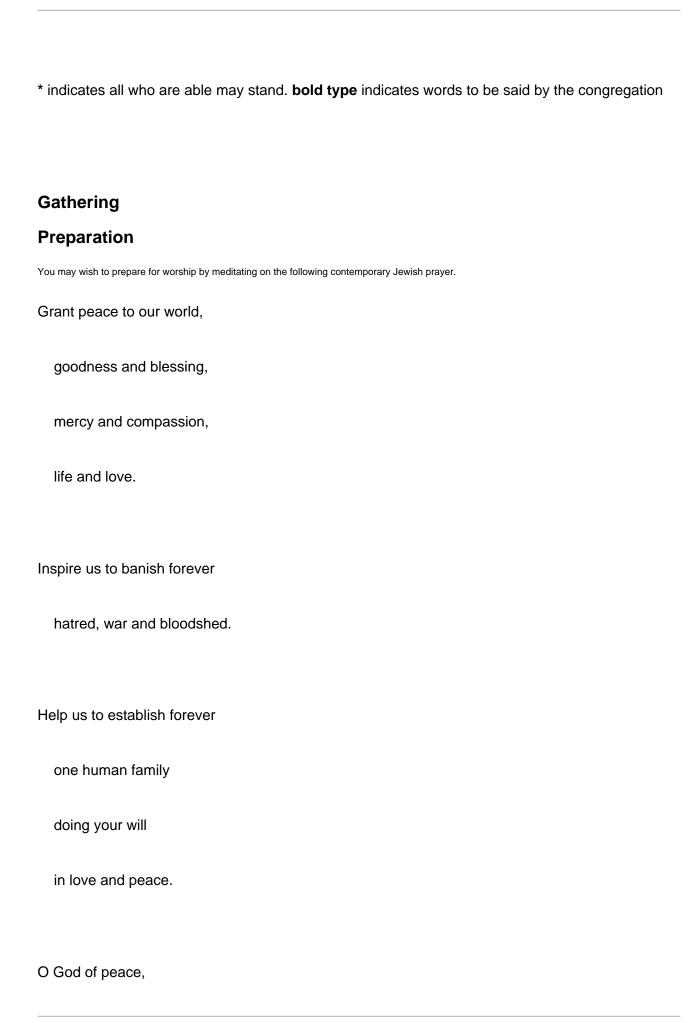
Gathering

Word

Thanksgiving

Notes: The word "Shoah" is the preferred term for the Holocaust. In Hebrew, Holocaust refers to a burnt offering in the context of faithful worship. The Hebrew term 'shoah' means 'ruin.'

Going Forth



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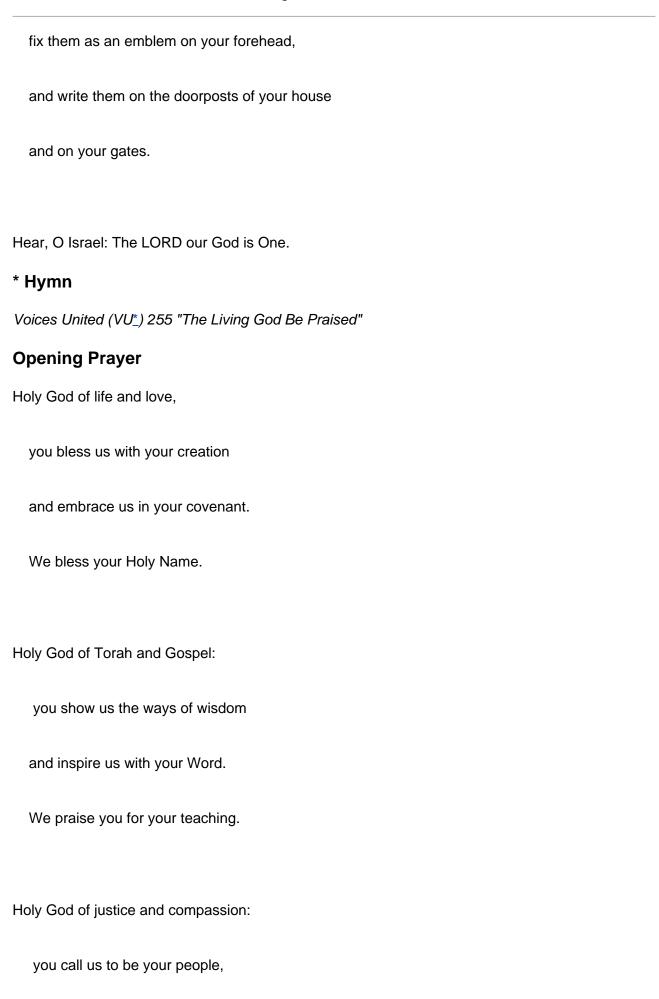
bless us with peace.	
* Call to Worship	
Based on Deut. 6:4-9	
Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is One.	
You shall love the LORD your God	
with all your heart,	
and with all your soul	
and with all your might.	
Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is One.	
Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.	
Recite them to your children	
and talk about them when you are at home	
and when you are away,	
when you lie down	

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is One.

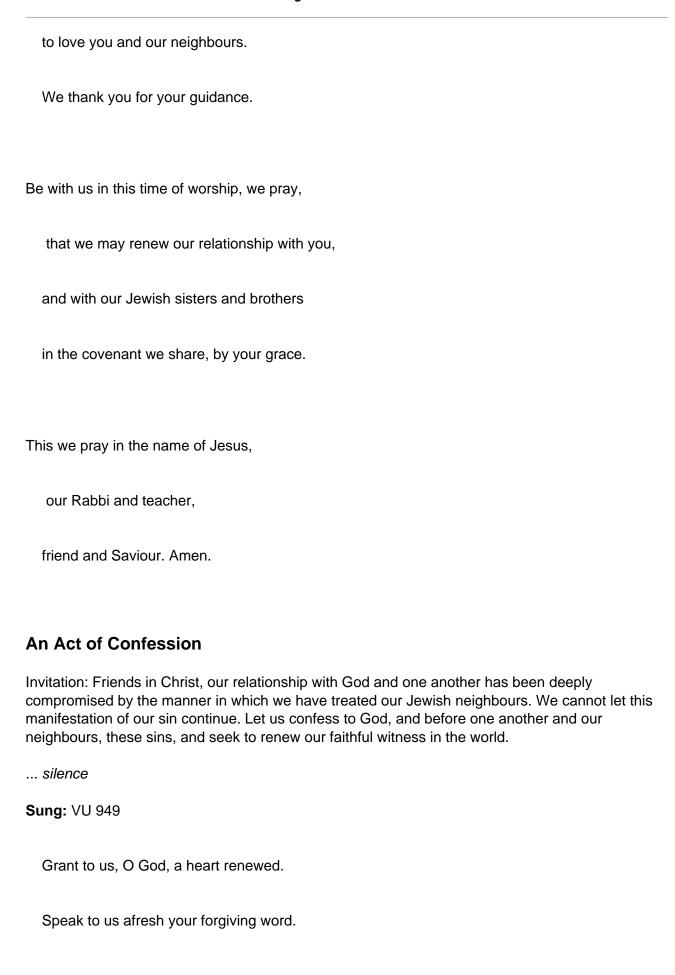
Bind them as a sign on your hand,

and when you rise.

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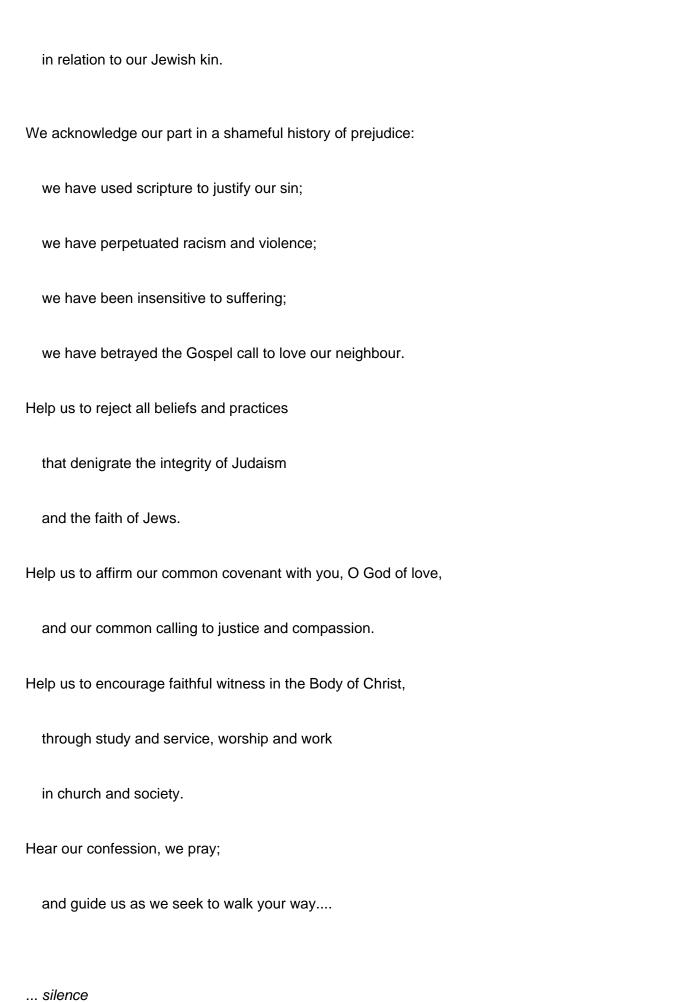


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We confess, O God, our unfaithfulness

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Sung : VU 949
Grant to us, O God, a heart renewed.
Speak to us afresh your forgiving word.
Assurance of Grace:
The Lord God is merciful and gracious,
endlessly patient, loving and true,
showing mercy, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin,
and granting pardon.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.
trad. Jewish
* Response of Praise:
VU 717 "Hallelujah"
Children's Time
"Dayeinu! Enough!" (using "Refrain" of VU 131)
Word
God offers to us, through prophets and apostles,
words of life and living Word.

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Let us listen for that Word.

Sung: Word of Life and Living Word, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

VU 167 Word of Life among us, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

First Reading: Micah 4:1-4

A prophetic vision of reconciliation and peace.

This is the witness of Israel

Thanks be to God.

Sung: God is speaking through the prophets, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

VU 167 God's Word through the prophets, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

Psalm: 133

The blessing of unity.

How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

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which	falle o	n tha	mountains	of Zion
WHILLI	ialis u	11 LITE	ппошнащь	OLZIOH.

For there you ordained your blessing,

life forevermore.

How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

* Hymn or Anthem:

VU p. 856, Psalm 133, "Behold, How Pleasant"

Second Reading: Romans 15: (1-6,) 7-13

Paul's vision of harmony between Jews and Gentiles.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sung: God is speaking to the churches, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

VU 167 God's Word to the churches, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

Third Reading: Mark 7:24-30

The inclusive vision of a Gentile woman challenges Jesus.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sung: Word of Life and Living Word, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

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Sermon

silent reflection

* An Affirmation of Faith: "God is Faithful"

Friends in Christ,

let us bear faithful witness to the Holy God of heaven and earth,

the Sovereign One of our forebears in the faith;

and in so doing, let us seek also

to bear faithful witness to our Jewish neighbours.

We believe that God is faithful.

We believe in the faithfulness of God.

We believe

that the God whom we know in Jesus Christ

is the One who called Sarah and Abraham,

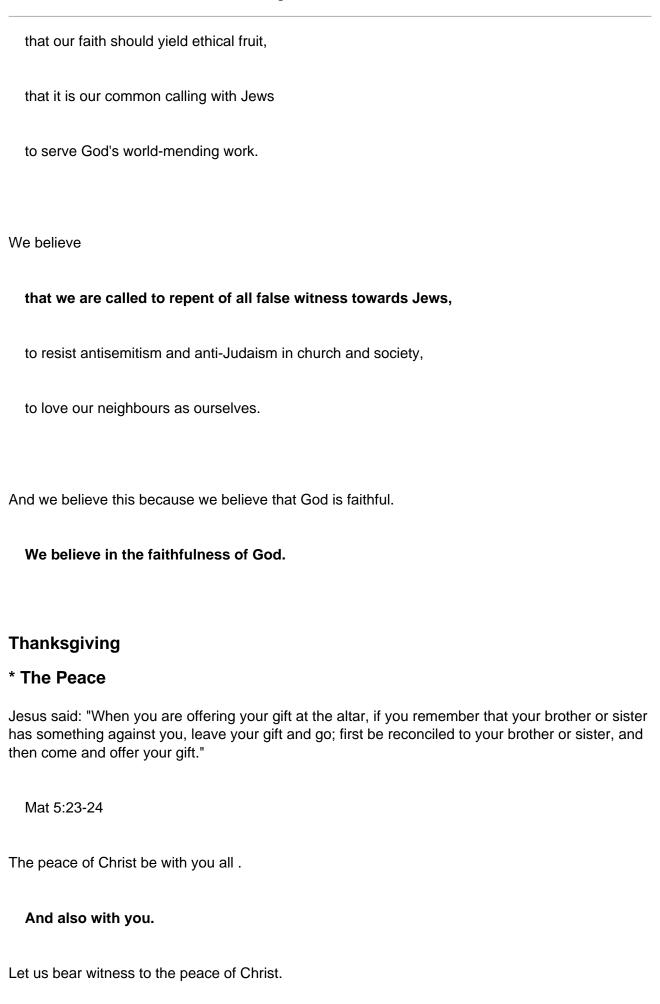
the One who gave the Torah to Moses,

the One who put passion for justice

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into the hearts of the prophets.
We believe
that the Eternal Word became flesh
in the person of Jesus,
who lived as a Jew,
died as a Jew,
and was raised as a Jew.
We believe
vve believe
that the Holy Spirit calls us to bear faithful witness
to God's reconciling mission in Jesus Christ,
that in Jesus Christ
God has grafted us into the vine of the covenant.
We believe
that God will never abandon the covenant with Israel,
that the love of God is expressed
in the giving of both Torah and Gospel,

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Gestures of peace and reconciliation are shared

Offering

* Dedication Hymn

VU 697 "O For a World"

Dedication Prayer

Eternal Source of good, we thank you for the numberless gifts and blessings that fill our days: for life itself and its endless variety; for all that sustains body and mind; for love and friendship; for the delights of the senses; and for the excellence of your Word, which deepens our life and enriches our days. Help us, O God, to work for a just and compassionate society, where all may share your gifts in the joy of freedom. Amen.

-- contemporary Jewish

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Let us give thanks to the God of the Covenant,

always and for everything, saying,

we thank you God.

For Abraham and Sarah, who in faith began a journey

into an unknown future,

and for the people Israel, who received the gift of the covenant

as a treasure of infinite value,

we thank you God.

For the judges, who helped the people of God

to remain faithful,

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and for the prophets, who called the people back when they had strayed, we thank you God. For Mary and Joseph, who remained faithful to the Law of Moses, and for Jesus, who rejoiced in the tradition of his forebears, praying the Psalms and worshiping among his brothers and sisters, we thank you God. For the grafting of Gentiles onto the vine of the faithful, accomplished by the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, we thank you God. For all who, in following the Way of Jesus over the centuries, have understood the spiritual indebtedness of Christians to Jews, and have stood against the intolerance of unjust laws, the bigotry of hateful accusations, the deliberate attempts to harm members of Jesus' own family,

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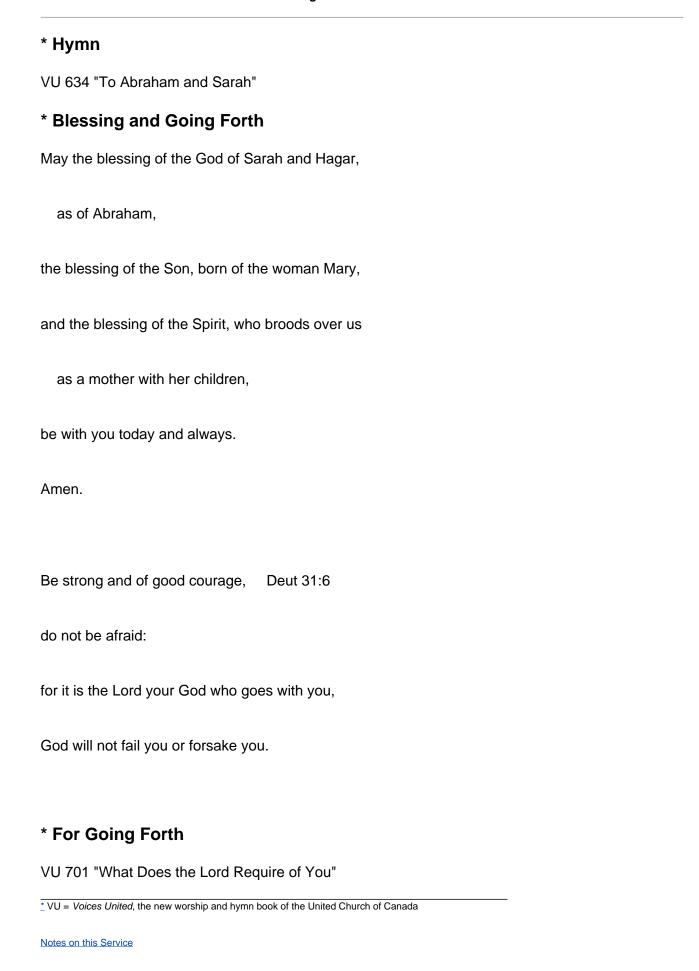
we thank you God.

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For all Jewish men, women, and children,
who in the face of unbearable pressure
have refused to desert their covenant faith,
we thank you God.
For Jews and Christians, who during the Shoah,
remained faithful to the call to "let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,"
we thank you God.
For all who, since that dark time,
have refused to let the shadow of the Shoah
overwhelm the light of life, of hope, and of love,
we thank you God.
God of the covenant,
these and all our prayers we offer through Jesus,
faithful sign of your covenant and our Saviour:
we thank you God.
Prayers of concern may follow, with a special focus on relations among Christians and Jews.

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