

**Order of worship for
International Women's Day, 8th March 2024**



**Let us "Inspire Inclusion to help
forge a better, more inclusive world
for women.**

**To show solidarity click your pic & tag us @
#IWD24NCCI #InspireInclusion**
To know more please contact us on
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For order of worship please visit our website:
ncci1914.com/downloads

**Theme: let's Inspire Inclusion: All are created in the image and
likeness of God.**

Note & Suggestions for the worship:

** This order of worship is a template and can be adapted according to the specific traditions, preferences, and resources of the church. Additionally, incorporating personal testimonies, liturgical dance, or other creative elements can further enhance the theme of inclusivity. It can be used in the Lord's Supper as well after the worship order section for prayer for preparation for Lord's Supper can be introduced before Offertory Prayer or Sharing of Peace.*

** The Prayers and sections can be used according to the tradition wherever required. Some are additional prayers to the already existing sections of worship.*

** You can observe the day on 8th March 2024 or on the nearest Sunday.*

** The songs lyrics are at the end of the Worship order.*

Call to Worship:

Leader: "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." - Psalm 96:1-2 (NIV)

Opening Song: "We are one in the spirit"

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to gather as a community of faith. Gracious God, who created us in your image and likeness, we thank you for the gift of diversity among your people. Help us to recognize the sacred worth of all individuals, especially women, and to grow in love as we journey together in faith. We gather as one body in Christ, celebrating the diversity and inclusivity of God's family. Open our hearts and minds to the beauty of diversity and the call to inclusivity. Help us to be instruments of your love and acceptance in our world. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Reading from Proverbs 31:10-31

Reading from Galatians 3:28

Reading from Luke 10:38-42

Hymn: "For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table"

Sermon by Pastor

Reflection on the biblical examples of women's inclusivity and growth in love.

- Special Presentation if any, -Instrumental music or special performance reflecting the theme of women's inclusivity and love, recognising the work of women

Affirmation of faith for women

Affirmation of Faith for Women in the Community:

Leader: As women of faith, let us affirm together our beliefs and commitments.

All: We believe in a God who created us in love, each of us fearfully and wonderfully made.

Leader: We believe in a God who values and cherishes us, regardless of our gender, race, or background.

All: We believe in a God who calls us to use our gifts and talents for the building up of the community and the spreading of love and justice in the world.

Leader: We believe in a God who empowers us to speak out against injustice, to stand up for what is right, and to support one another in times of need.

All: We believe in a God who walks with us through every joy and every sorrow, who comforts us in times of despair, and who rejoices with us in times of celebration.

Leader: We believe in a God who calls us to love one another and our sisters, partners to support and encourage each other, and to work together for the common good.

All: We believe in a God who sees us, hears us, and values us for who we are, and who calls us to live out our faith with courage, compassion, and grace.

Leader: Let us go forth in faith, knowing that we are beloved daughters Sons of God, called to live lives of purpose, meaning, and love. Amen.

Prayers for Intercession: special prayer for women in our society:

Leader: We gather on this Special Day to celebrate Women's Day to lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, celebrating the unique gifts and contributions of women in our community of faith.

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." - Proverbs 31:31 (NIV)

People: We honour the women among us today, recognizing their tireless dedication, unwavering faith, and transformative love that enriches our lives and strengthens our community.

Leader: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." - Proverbs 31:25 (NIV)

People: With hearts full of gratitude and reverence, we lift up prayers of blessing and affirmation for the women who inspire us with their resilience, wisdom, and grace.

Leader: Let us enter this time of worship with joy and anticipation, embracing the presence of God in our midst and the sacred journey we embark on together as a diverse and inclusive community of faith. Amen.

Confession of Sin Against Women in Our Churches: *Add this Confession along with the usual confession prayer of your church.*

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God, acknowledging the ways in which we have fallen short in honouring and affirming the dignity and equality of women in our churches.

All: Gracious and loving God, we come before you with humble hearts, recognizing the ways in which we have failed to uphold the sacred worth of women in our communities of faith.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have perpetuated harmful stereotypes, discriminated against women, or marginalized their voices in our worship, leadership, and decision-making processes.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have failed to listen to the experiences and perspectives of women, dismissing their concerns or minimizing their contributions to the life of our churches.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have condoned or turned a blind eye to sexism, harassment, or abuse within our congregations, failing to create safe and inclusive spaces for all.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have valued tradition over justice, perpetuating systems and structures that uphold male privilege and perpetuate gender inequality in our churches.

Leader: Merciful God, we confess these sins and ask for your forgiveness and guidance. Help us to repent of our complicity in perpetuating sexism and discrimination, and empower us to work towards a more just, inclusive, and equitable community of faith. Amen.

Offering:

Offertory Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Offering Collection (Supporting ministries focused on women's empowerment and inclusivity)

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers for the empowerment, affirmation, and inclusion of women in all aspects of church and society. Prayer for offering.

Closing Hymn: "We Are Called" or "Bind Us Together, Lord"

Benediction:

Leader: May the God of compassion and grace, who cherishes each one of us and calls us by name, inspire us to create communities of love and inclusivity. May we honour the contributions of women, embrace their leadership, and grow in love as we journey together in faith. And the Blessing of God Almighty the Triune God be with us and remain with us always. Amen

Song.

We are one in the spirit.

1. We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
will one day be restored

Refrain:

and they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
and they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

2. We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land.

(Refrain)

3. We will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
we will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride.

(Refrain)

4. All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus,
who is God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one,
(Refrain)

Song.

For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table,
For Everyone Born, Clean Water And Bread,
A Shelter, A Space, A Safe Place For Growing,
For Everyone Born, A Star Overhead.

And God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice And Joy, Compassion And Peace:
Yes, God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice, Justice And Joy.

For Woman And Man, A Place At The Table,
And God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice And Joy, Compassion And Peace:
Yes, God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice, Justice And Joy
For Young And For Old, A Place At The Table,
A Voice To Be Heard, A Part In The Song,
The Hands Of A Child In Hands That Are Wrinkled,
For Young And For Old, The Right To Belong.

And God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice And Joy, Compassion And Peace:
Yes, God Will Delight When We Are Creators
Of Justice, Justice And Joy.

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Song

Bind Us Together, Lord
Bind Us Together
With Cords That Cannot Be Broken
Bind Us Together, Lord
Bind Us Together
Bind Us Together In Love

There Is Only One God,
There Is Only One King
There Is Only One Body,
That Is Why We Sing.

Bind Us Together, Lord
Bind Us Together
With Cords That Cannot Be Broken
Bind Us Together, Lord
Bind Us Together
Bind Us Together In Love

Made For The Glory Of God,
Purchased By His Precious Son;
Born With The Right To Be Clean,
For Jesus The Victory Has Won.