

Pride in Prayer & Worship

LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Resources and Themes for Pride Season

CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

Inclusive Christian Prayers, Readings, Music and Service Resources for Pride Season Worship

CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

Open hearts for an open Church

Changing Attitude Ireland exists to promote love, understanding and justice for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly within the life of the Church of Ireland. Its vision is of a Church in which LGBTQIA+ individuals and couples may express their faith openly, be fully accepted, loved and valued, and participate without restriction in all aspects of the Church's life.

Edited by Dr Scott Golden
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CHANGING ATTITUDE
IRELAND

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Introduction

CAI's own phrase - Open hearts for an open Church - gives simple and generous expression to that calling. This booklet has been prepared in that spirit.

It is offered as a practical and prayerful resource for clergy, lay ministers, chaplains, celebrants, pastoral workers, worship leaders, parishes, families and communities who wish to mark Pride month in life with language that is both faithful and affirming.

Its purpose is to support the Church's pastoral imagination by providing prayers, readings, music suggestions, symbolic actions and service templates that honour LGBTQIA+ people, couples, families and communities with dignity, theological seriousness and joy.

At its heart lies a simple conviction: that Christian worship should never require people to diminish, conceal or apologise for the truth of who they are before they can stand in the presence of God. The God who creates, calls, heals, blesses and welcomes does not ask human beings to become less fully themselves in order to be loved.

The Church is at its most faithful when it recognises that grace is not rationed, mercy is not grudging, and love rooted in faithfulness, mutuality and truth is not a problem to be managed, but a gift to be received.

This resource is anchored by two texts of particular importance to Changing Attitude Ireland: The CAI Prayer and The CAI Hymn. Together, they express something of CAI's liturgical heart: the prayer calls us to relationship, patience, bridge-building and neighbour-love; the hymn proclaims the generous breadth of divine mercy against every narrowness that would make God smaller than God is.

May these prayers, readings, songs and symbolic actions help open hearts, deepen faith, honour truth, and widen the welcome of the Church.

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The Gospel Pattern of Welcome

In the Gospel accounts, Jesus is found again and again in the company of those whom others avoided, judged, feared or excluded. He touches the unclean, eats with sinners, welcomes women as disciples and witnesses, blesses children, commends the faith of outsiders, restores the sick, comforts the grieving, and calls the overlooked into friendship and dignity.

His ministry does not show a grudging tolerance of those at the margins, but an active, costly and compassionate movement towards them. In Christ, the holiness of God is revealed not as distance from human vulnerability, but as love drawing near.

This Gospel pattern gives the Church a searching test of its own faithfulness. Jesus did not build community by protecting the respectable from the marginalised. He built it by restoring the marginalised to the centre of God's concern. He did not treat wounded people as theological problems, nor did he require the excluded to become acceptable before offering them mercy. He drew near, listened, healed, blessed, ate, wept, and called people by name.

For that reason, any Christian approach to LGBTQIA+ people must be measured against the life and ministry of Christ. Where the Church welcomes, blesses, honours, protects and listens, it reflects something of his compassion. Where it excludes, shames, silences or diminishes, it must ask whether it has mistaken religious caution for faithfulness to the Gospel.

The resources in this booklet are offered in that spirit: not as a departure from Christian faith, but as an attempt to speak and pray more faithfully in the company of the Christ who draws near.

The Changing Attitude Ireland Prayer

This prayer stands at the heart of Changing Attitude Ireland's witness. It gathers together the themes of relationship, welcome, reconciliation, patience, bridge-building, neighbour-love and service in Christ's name.

Lord of our relationships:

Comfort and sustain all in our community who feel marginalised and open our hearts to those who are in any way different.

Bless all our relationships that in and through them we may recognise more clearly the greatness of your love.

Give us patience and understanding as we seek to build bridges between those who disagree.

Help us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to serve family, friend and stranger in your name, loving one another as you love us; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Changing Attitude Ireland Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Words: Frederick William Faber
Tune: Corvedale, Beecher, St Helena, or another suitable setting

Adopted as the CAI Hymn, in the same spirit that Jerusalem has long served as the anthem of the Women's Institute, There's a Wideness in God's Mercy gives voice to our conviction that the mercy of God is broader, deeper and more generous than the mere tolerance too often practised in God's name.

Reproduced in full at page 21

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Suggested Template for Pride Service

1. Gathering music
2. Welcome and introduction
3. The Changing Attitude Ireland Hymn
4. Prayer of gathering
5. Act of lament or confession
6. Assurance of grace
7. Biblical reading
8. Non-biblical reading
9. Homily or reflection
10. Prayer of thanksgiving
11. Act of commitment
12. Prayer of commitment
13. The Changing Attitude Ireland Prayer
14. Prayers of supplication
15. The Lord's Prayer
16. Blessing and sending out
17. Closing music

A possible core sentence for the homily:
Pride is not a celebration of sin; it is a refusal to let shame have the last word over people whom God has called beloved.

Commending Our Prayers

Alternative Endings for Use in Worship

Christian prayer is offered within the life and love of the Holy Trinity: to God the Father, source of mercy and life; to God the Creator, maker of all that is, seen and unseen; in the sustaining and renewing power of the Holy Spirit; and through Jesus Christ the Son, in whom the compassion, welcome and reconciling love of God are made visible among us.

When Christians pray 'through Jesus Christ our Lord', we are not simply using a familiar liturgical formula. We are commending our prayers to God through the one who shared our human life, welcomed the excluded, blessed children, touched the wounded, ate with the judged, comforted the grieving, restored dignity to the shamed, and opened the way of mercy, reconciliation and peace.

The endings offered on the following pages may be used to conclude prayers throughout this resource. Some are traditional and simple. Others recall particular aspects of Christ's ministry and may be chosen to reflect the theme of the service or the prayerful intent of the occasion.

They are offered to help worship leaders shape prayers that are both recognisably Christian and pastorally attentive.

Where a prayer is addressed to Almighty God, Loving Father, Heavenly Father, Creator God, or Holy Spirit, it may appropriately conclude with one of the endings beginning 'Through Jesus Christ our Lord...'.

Where a prayer is addressed directly to Lord Jesus Christ, Loving Jesus, or Saviour Lord, it may more naturally conclude with one of the endings beginning 'For you...', acknowledging Christ's life and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

These endings may be used as printed, shortened, or adapted with care.

Endings Reflecting the Welcome of Christ

Christ Who Welcomes the Excluded
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who welcomed the stranger,
restored the excluded,
and made room at the table for all.
Amen.

Christ Who Makes Room
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who welcomed the outcast
and called all people into the household of grace.
Amen.

Christ Who Calls Us Home
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who gathers the scattered,
receives the rejected,
and calls each person home.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Christ's Table Fellowship

Christ Who Ate with the Judged
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who ate with the judged and the rejected,
and made every table a place of mercy.
Amen.

Christ Who Shared Bread
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who shared bread with the despised,
and revealed the wideness of God's mercy.
Amen.

Christ Who Makes Fellowship Holy
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who turns strangers into neighbours
and meals into signs of grace.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Christ the Healer

Christ Who Touched the Wounded
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who touched the untouchable,
healed the wounded,
and restored the forgotten to community.
Amen.

Christ Who Heals Shame
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who drew near to the wounded
and brought healing where others had brought shame.
Amen.

Christ Who Restores Wholeness
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who restores the broken-hearted,
strengthens the weary,
and calls us into wholeness.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Dignity, Voice and Witness

Christ Who Honoured the Silenced
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who listened to those others silenced
and raised up faithful witnesses to grace.
Amen.

Christ Who Honoured Women as Witnesses
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who honoured women as disciples,
received their witness,
and entrusted them with good news.
Amen.

Christ Who Sees the Overlooked
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who sees the overlooked,
hears the unheard,
and calls the forgotten beloved.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Outsiders and Boundaries

Christ Who Recognised Faith Beyond Boundaries
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who recognised faith beyond familiar boundaries
and gathered strangers into blessing.
Amen.

Christ Who Praised Faith in Unexpected Places
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who praised faith where others saw only difference.
Amen.

Christ Who Breaks Down Barriers
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who broke down dividing walls,
gathered the scattered,
and made peace by his love.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Restoration from Shame

Christ Who Restores Dignity
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lifted shame from the bowed down,
restored dignity to the judged,
and called each person beloved.
Amen.

Christ Who Refuses Shame the Final Word
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who refused to let shame have the final word.
Amen.

Christ Who Calls Us into Freedom
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who calls us from fear into freedom,
and from tolerance into love.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Friendship and Covenant

Christ Who Calls Us Friends
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who called his disciples friends
and taught us to love one another.
Amen.

Christ Whose Friendship Restores
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
whose friendship restores, strengthens,
and sends us out in love.
Amen.

Christ Who Teaches Faithful Love
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who teaches us to abide in love
and to bear fruit in faithfulness.
Amen.

Endings Reflecting Service and Justice

Christ Who Came to Serve
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who came not to be served but to serve,
and calls us to do likewise.
Amen.

Christ Who Sends Us in Love
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who sends us to love, serve, heal and bless.
Amen.

Christ Who Makes Mercy the Measure
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who welcomed the excluded,
challenged the self-righteous,
and made mercy the measure of holiness.
Amen.

Optional Rituals and Symbolic Actions

These rituals are offered as symbolic actions of prayer, remembrance, blessing, commitment and healing.
They should not compete with authorised sacramental rites where those apply.

Candle of Welcome
We light this candle as a sign of welcome. May its light remind us that no one is invisible to God, no one is outside the reach of grace, and no one should be made a stranger in the household of faith. Response: Christ our light, gather us in.

Candles of Remembrance
Candles may be lit for those who have died, those whose lives were cut short, those who suffered rejection, or those whose names are known only to God. Response: May light perpetual shine upon them.

Candle of Healing
A candle may be lit after an act of lament or confession, naming wounds carried in silence, Scriptures turned into weapons, families divided by fear and souls taught to hide from the love of God.

Water of Baptismal Remembrance
A bowl of water may be placed centrally as a reminder that in Christ no one is half-welcomed and all are called into fullness of life. Response: We are one in Christ Jesus.

Water of Tears and Healing
Water may be poured slowly as a symbol of tears, grief and cleansing. Response: God of tenderness, receive our tears.

Prayer Cards
Participants may write a prayer, name, grief, hope or thanksgiving. Cards may be placed in a basket, near a candle, at the foot of a cross or on an altar/table.

Blessing Cards to Take Away
Cards may carry a short blessing, the CAI Prayer, or a line inspired by the CAI Hymn, such as: You are beloved of God. You are not outside the circle of grace. Go in peace, dignity and joy.

Rainbow Ribbons of Prayer
Participants may tie ribbons to a prayer frame, branch, rail, cross or designated structure as signs of healing, courage, joy and justice.

Stones of Burden
Participants may hold small stones during a prayer of lament and then place them down as a sign that no burden need be carried alone before God.

Seeds of Hope
Seeds may be blessed and taken home or planted in a parish garden as signs of hope growing in justice and love.

Litany of Names
Names may be read aloud, followed by a bell, candle or silence. Possible response: Beloved of God; Rest in peace and rise in glory; or Your name is held in love.

Blessing of Hands
Bless hands that comfort, serve, build, hold, work for justice and offer peace.

Prayer Stations
Possible stations include Welcome, Healing, Thanksgiving, Commitment and Blessing. These work especially well for Pride services, retreats, cathedral events and youth gatherings.

A Note of Pastoral Care

Symbolic actions can be deeply healing, but they should never be imposed. In services involving spiritual harm, grief, trauma, family rejection, contested identity or bereavement, participants should always be free to take part, watch quietly or refrain.

The purpose of ritual is not performance, but grace: to give outward form to prayer, memory, truth, healing and hope.

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Prayers of Gathering

Gathered in Rainbow Hope

Creator God,
you made the world in richness, colour, difference, and delight,
and called it good.

We gather in this Pride season
to celebrate the beauty, courage, and diversity
of your beloved children.

We come with joy,
with memory,
with longing,
with gratitude,
and with hope.

May this service be a place of welcome,
where no one is diminished,
no one is merely tolerated,
and all are invited into the fullness of your love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Home for the Wounded and the Joyful

Lord Jesus Christ,
you welcomed the excluded,
healed the wounded,
and called the burdened into rest.

We gather today as people carrying many stories.

Some come rejoicing.
Some come weary.
Some come proud.
Some come wounded by the Church.
Some come wondering whether faith can still be home.

(A Home for the Wounded and the Joyful, contd.)

Meet us as we are.
Heal what has been harmed.
Bless what has been hidden.
Celebrate what has been made in love.

For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Courage to Belong

Almighty God,
we gather not to ask whether we belong,
but to remember that we already do.

You have called each person beloved.
You have made each life sacred.
You have given gifts through every member of your people.

Give us courage to stand together,
to worship without shame,
and to rejoice in the holy diversity of your creation.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A People Called Into Joy

Loving Father,
gather us today as your beloved people:
diverse in story,
rich in gift,
and united in the hope of your kingdom.

Let this Pride service be a celebration of life,
a witness against prejudice,
and a sign of your delight
in every person made in your image.

May joy rise among us,
not as denial of pain,
but as holy resistance to shame.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

For Lives Lived in Truth

Loving Father,
we give thanks for LGBTQIA+ lives:
for love, friendship, creativity, resilience, tenderness,
and the courage to live in truth.

We thank you for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex,
and questioning people,
and for all whose lives have widened the Church's understanding
of grace, dignity, and belonging.

For these gifts,
we give you thanks.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Those Who Came Before

God of memory and justice,
we give thanks for those who came before us:
those who marched, prayed, protested, sheltered, loved, and endured.

We remember those who lived in secrecy,
those who were punished for honesty,
those who created chosen families,
and those whose names are known fully only to you.

May their courage bless our present,
and may their hope guide our future.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Joy That Survives

God of delight,
we thank you for joy that survives shame,
for laughter that outlives cruelty,
for love that grows after rejection,
and for communities that become family.

We thank you for music, colour, friendship, celebration,
and the holy defiance of hope.

May Pride be not only protest,
but praise.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Allies, Families and Faithful Friends

Heavenly Father,
we give thanks for all who have chosen love over fear:
parents and children, partners and spouses,
siblings and friends, pastors and teachers,
neighbours and allies.

We thank you for those who listen, learn, repent, advocate, and stand beside others.

May their faithfulness encourage those who are weary,
protect those who are vulnerable,
and help build communities of genuine welcome.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Commitment

To Make Welcome Real

God of truth,
we commit ourselves to make welcome real.

Not merely in words,
but in sacraments, leadership, language, pastoral care,
friendship, protection, and public witness.

Save us from the comfort of vague kindness.
Lead us into the costly work of justice,
where all may belong fully and freely.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

To Heal What Has Been Harmed

Saviour Lord,
we commit ourselves to healing what has been harmed.

Where the Church has caused shame,
may we speak truth.
Where it has excluded,
may we open doors.
Where it has silenced,
may we listen.
Where it has delayed justice,
may we act.

Make us courageous in repentance
and faithful in love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

To Stand With One Another

Lord Jesus Christ,
bind us together in mutual care.

Help us to stand with those who are mocked,
defend those who are threatened,
comfort those who are grieving,
and celebrate those who are coming into freedom.

May our commitment to one another
be patient, practical, joyful, and brave.

For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

To Build a More Faithful Church

Holy Spirit, breath of renewal,
stir up in us the courage to build a more faithful Church.

May our language be careful,
our welcome honest,
our leadership open,
our pastoral care safe,
and our worship a true sign
of the breadth of your love.

Help us to remove barriers
that deny full participation,
and to honour the gifts you have placed
in all your people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Supplication for Healing, Future Happiness and Service

Healing from Spiritual Harm

Loving Jesus,
you see every wound carried in silence,
and every hurt caused in your name.

We pray for all who carry wounds from faith communities:
wounds of rejection, silence, humiliation, fear,
or prayers that tried to change what you had already blessed.

Bring healing deeper than words.
Restore trust where it is possible.
Give peace where trust cannot yet return.
And teach your Church to do no further harm.

For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For Families Learning Love

For service to families
God of patient grace,
we pray for families learning how to love more fully.

For parents, children, partners, spouses, siblings, and friends,
give courage, humility, tenderness, and understanding.

Where there has been rejection, bring repentance.
Where there has been fear, bring wisdom.
Where there has been love, deepen it.

May every home become safer, kinder, and more truthful.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Flourishing of All

For service to each other, church, community and society
Almighty God,
we pray for LGBTQIA+ people everywhere:
for safety, joy, friendship, meaningful work,
faithful love, good health, and freedom from fear.

Bless their service to each other,
their families,
their churches and congregations,
their communities,
and society as a whole.

May their gifts be welcomed,
their leadership honoured,
their relationships blessed,
and their lives allowed to flourish
in dignity, equality, and peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Those Still Unsafe or Unseen

Heavenly Father,
we pray for those who cannot yet live openly,
those who fear rejection,
those whose homes or churches are unsafe,
and those who have been taught to hide what you have made.

Give them protection, courage, wise companions,
and places of safety.

May they come to know, in body, heart, and spirit,
that they are not a mistake,
not an embarrassment,
not outside your grace,
but beloved children of God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Work of Equality and Justice

Lord Jesus Christ,
you proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captive,
sight to the blind,
and freedom to the oppressed.

Strengthen all who work for equality, inclusion, safety, and justice.

Give courage to those who challenge prejudice,
wisdom to those who shape law and policy,
patience to those who teach,
and compassion to those who pastor wounded souls.

May our work for justice be rooted not in anger alone,
but in love, truth, mercy, and hope.

For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For the Future Happiness of the Community

Loving Father,
bless this community with future happiness:
not shallow happiness that avoids sorrow,
but deep joy born of truth, belonging, friendship, and peace.

May people find here companions for the journey,
healing for old wounds,
courage for new beginnings,
and delight in the life you have given.

Make us servants of one another,
friends to our families,
faithful members of the Church,
generous neighbours in our communities,
and witnesses to a society made more humane by love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Readings for Pride Season

This section offers biblical readings, classical or public-domain possibilities, and modern copyrighted works to list by title and author rather than reproduce without permission.

Bible texts

Genesis 1:26-31 - Made in the Image of God
Foundational for any Pride liturgy: human dignity begins in creation, not permission.
Especially suitable for: opening readings and Pride Eucharists

Isaiah 56:1-8 - A House of Prayer for All Peoples
One of the strongest inclusion texts in Scripture.
Especially suitable for: Pride services and inclusive church declarations

Luke 4:16-21 - Good News, Release, Recovery, Freedom
Jesus' manifesto of liberation.
Especially suitable for: services challenging spiritual harm, exclusion and prejudice

Acts 8:26-40 - Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
A crucial Pride reading concerning Scripture, baptism, gender/sexual otherness in the ancient world, and the Spirit's refusal to let human boundaries prevent full inclusion.
Especially suitable for: Pride services and baptismal reaffirmation

1 John 4:7-21 - God Is Love
One of the strongest theological readings for Pride season.
Especially suitable for: Pride services, healing services, inclusive Eucharists

Modern readings

List by title and author unless permission is obtained for reproduction.

Gerard Manley Hopkins - Pied Beauty
A glorious poem of praise for difference, variety and dappled things.
Especially suitable for: Pride services framed around creation and diversity

George Herbert - Love bade me welcome
A magnificent Christian poem of shame overcome by divine hospitality.
Especially suitable for: Pride Eucharists and services for those wounded by the Church

Mary Oliver - Wild Geese
A near-perfect Pride reading on belonging, self-acceptance and one's place in the family of things.
Especially suitable for: Pride services and healing liturgies

Maya Angelou - Still I Rise
Powerful for resilience, dignity, survival and public joy after oppression.
Especially suitable for: Pride services with justice and resilience themes

CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

The Changing Attitude Ireland Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in His blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

- *Frederick William Faber*

This hymn is adopted as the CAI Hymn and should be treated as a principal musical item in CAI services. Its theology directly challenges narrow, fearful or punitive religion and proclaims a divine mercy wider than human judgement.

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Music for Pride Season

Music listed in this resource is offered as a guide to tone, theme and pastoral suitability. Please check copyright status and licensing.

Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You
The Servant Song - Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You - Richard Gillard

A hymn of mutual care, humility, companionship and service. Its language of walking with one another through fear, sorrow, joy and need makes it suitable across many inclusive Christian occasions. In LGBTQIA+ worship, it can be particularly powerful because it moves the Church beyond abstract welcome into practical solidarity.
Copyright/licensing note: Modern hymn; lyrics should not be reproduced unless covered by the relevant licence or permission.

John Bell, Iona Community and Wild Goose Resources

John Bell's work is included here not only because of its theological and musical richness, but because his ministry has already formed part of CAI's story. Those who have encountered him will recognise in his hymns the same qualities of gentleness, courage, wit, compassion and spiritual depth that characterise the man himself.

In Bell's work, inclusion is rarely reduced to slogan. It is sung as tenderness, justice, lament, courage, hospitality and discipleship.
The music and worship resources of John L. Bell, Graham Maule, the Wild Goose Resource Group and the Iona Community are especially valuable for inclusive Christian worship. Their repertoire frequently addresses welcome, healing, justice, discipleship, lament, courage, community and the embodied compassion of Christ.

These works should normally be listed by title and author/composer, with lyrics reproduced only where the appropriate permission, licence or authorised hymn book use is in place.
For all songs listed below, copyright/licensing note: Check Wild Goose/Iona, GIA, ONE LICENSE or other relevant channels depending on territory and use.

Other Congregational Hymns and Sacred Songs

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
A grand, recognisable hymn of transforming love.
Copyright/licensing note: Words public domain; check tune/arrangement.

Come Down, O Love Divine
A deeply spiritual hymn invoking the Holy Spirit's fire, love and transformation.
Copyright/licensing note: Check setting/arrangement.
Ubi Caritas

For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table
One of the strongest inclusive hymns available, naming justice, dignity and shared belonging.
Copyright/licensing note: Modern hymn; licence required.

All Are Welcome / Let Us Build a House
A widely used contemporary hymn of inclusive church, justice and welcome.
Copyright/licensing note: Modern hymn; licence required.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
A theological corrective to narrowness and exclusion.
Copyright/licensing note: Check tune/arrangement.

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
A powerful hymn for those who need to hear that divine love does not abandon us.
Especially suitable for: services after spiritual harm
Copyright/licensing note: Check tune/arrangement.

God Welcomes All - **John L. Bell / Iona Community**
A short, simple, deeply inclusive song of welcome.

The Summons - **Will You Come and Follow Me** - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A powerful discipleship hymn framed as Christ's call and the singer's response.

We Cannot Measure How You Heal - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A profound healing hymn, especially apt where spiritual harm, shame, exclusion, trauma or grief need to be held tenderly before God.

A Touching Place - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A particularly strong candidate for this resource, recognising Christ in wounded, excluded or marginalised people.

Inspired by Love and Anger - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A justice hymn that refuses bland sentimentality and gives voice to righteous compassion.

Take This Moment, Sign and Space - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A gentle hymn of dedication, offering, repentance and openness to God's presence.

Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A strong gathering hymn with a recognisably Iona flavour.

Enemy of Apathy / Spirit of Justice - **John L. Bell / Wild Goose**
A justice and Spirit-themed song suitable for healing, freedom and social witness.

Come All You People - **Alexander Gondo / arranged by John L. Bell**
A lively gathering song widely associated with Iona/Wild Goose worship.

When Grief Is Raw - **John L. Bell / Graham Maule**
A sensitive song for grief and lament.

Modern Copyrighted / Popular Pieces

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These are modern or popular pieces that may be pastorally suitable when carefully placed and properly licensed.

True Colors - **Cyndi Lauper**
Especially suitable for: Pride reflection and affirmation

Born This Way - **Lady Gaga**
Especially suitable for: post-service Pride celebration or youth-focused gathering

You Will Be Found - **Pasek and Paul**
Especially suitable for: youth services and healing events

This Is Me - **Pasek and Paul**
Especially suitable for: Pride celebrations and community witness

Bridge Over Troubled Water - **Simon & Garfunkel**
Especially suitable for: healing services and pastoral support

Classical, Choral and Instrumental Music

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Tallis - **If Ye Love Me**
A beautiful motet linking love and faithful discipleship.
Especially suitable for: Pride Eucharists and choral services

Vaughan Williams - **The Lark Ascending**
Instrumental, expansive and full of freedom and longing.
Especially suitable for: reflection, arrival or extended meditation

CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND

Pastoral, Copyright and Permissions Notes

Language and Pastoral Care

- Use a person's chosen name and pronouns, especially in funerals, memorials, namings and pastoral services.
- Avoid assuming heterosexuality in preaching, prayers, examples or pastoral references.
- Recognise spouse, partner, family, friends and chosen family according to the reality of the person's life.
- Avoid language that merely tolerates LGBTQIA+ people while withholding full dignity, participation or blessing.
- Attend to bisexual, transgender, non-binary and intersex experiences rather than treating inclusion as solely gay and lesbian inclusion.
- Do not impose symbolic actions; always allow people to participate, observe or refrain.

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Music suggestions are offered as guidance only. Churches, choirs, celebrants and worship planners should check whether CCLI, ONE LICENSE, IMRO, Wild Goose/Iona, GIA, hymn-book permissions, direct publisher permission, sheet music purchase, performance rights or streaming licences are required for the intended use.

About the Editor

This resource has been prepared and edited by Dr Scott Golden, whose work brings together Christian pastoral practice, facilitation, mediation, communication and community engagement.

Scott has a long-standing interest in liturgy, worship, pastoral care, inclusion and the public language of the Church. His professional and voluntary work has included facilitation, mediation, governance advice, community leadership, interfaith dialogue and the crafting of ceremonies that seek to honour people's lives with dignity, truth and compassion.

As editor, his aim has been to gather and shape material that is theologically grounded, pastorally careful, liturgically usable and warmly affirming. The prayers and resources in this booklet are offered not as final words, but as living material: to be adapted with care, prayed with sincerity, and used in the service of love, justice, healing and welcome.

At the centre of this work is the belief that language matters. Words spoken in worship can either close doors or open them. They can repeat old wounds or begin to heal them. They can leave people standing at the margins, or they can help draw them into the circle of blessing where, in Christ, they have always belonged.

This booklet is offered in hope for the latter.

Pride in Prayer & Worship

This resource has been prepared for Changing Attitude Ireland to support Christian worship, pastoral care and community life where LGBTQIA+ people, couples, families and communities are to be honoured with dignity, tenderness, theological seriousness and joy.

It offers prayers, readings, music suggestions, service templates and symbolic actions for Pride Season worship.

Rooted in the Gospel pattern of Christ's welcome, compassion and friendship, this booklet seeks to help the Church speak words that heal rather than harm, include rather than exclude, and bless rather than diminish. At the heart of the resource is the conviction that every person is made in the image of God, called by name, and held within the wideness of God's mercy.

Open hearts for an open Church
Changing Attitude Ireland promotes love, understanding and justice for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, within the life of the Church.

www.changingattitudeireland.com

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Editor Dr Scott Golden Reviewer Karen Godfrey
Design Lucy Michael