Please cut and paste as desired to fit with your church traditions

Commitment for Life Service 2018- Economy of Life

Call to worship:

O Lord, open my lips,  
That my mouth may declare Your praise.

**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,   
for the rights of all who are destitute.**

Speak up and judge fairly;   
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

**O Lord, open my lips,  
That my mouth may declare Your praise.**

—verses from Psalm 51.15 and Proverbs 31.8-9

Hymn – see list of suggestions in separate file

Introduction to the service

Today, we remember again our commitment to life,  
to the fullness of life, the abundance of life,  
for which Jesus came.[[1]](#footnote-1)  
We will think about money, how it facilitates life, and how it can diminish it too.  
We begin by remembering that life itself is a gift from God.

A prayer of praise

Good and great God,   
the whole earth tells of your goodness.  
Your praise is sung, even by babies,  
and their babbling is lifted up into the heavens where it pleases you.  
These words of praise remove the power of evil words,  
silencing the evil one.

We look at the world you have made and wonder -   
why you would care about people like us,   
when you have stars and galaxies to contemplate?

But you have given us honour, and given us responsibility,  
to care for this world that you have made,   
for all the things that live and move and delight you.

Good and great God,   
the whole earth tells of your goodness,  
and so do we.  
—a free paraphrase of Psalm 8

Lord’s Prayer

Confession action: Chains of love choose either the active prayer or scripted prayerful action version.

**Gospel reading: Luke 12.13-21**

All age idea: see separate file

Hymn – see list of suggestions in separate file

**Offering and prayer:**

We have taken from our pockets, from our enough, and our plenty,   
and we commit it to you, to be used as you will.  
We pray for wise administration, and good stewardship  
that our Commitment for Life will be life giving,  
for partners across this world. **Amen.**

Bible reading: **Ecclesiastes 5.10-20**

Hymn - see list of suggestions in separate file

**Sermon** - see sermon notes in separate file

Prayers for the world:

God of the poor,  
remind us of our obligations  
to care for those on the edge,  
to feed the poor,  
clothe the naked,  
give succour to the hungry and thirsty,  
and,  
at the same time  
to do more than bandage the wounded,  
but to put a spoke in the machinery of evil,  
that your Kingdom will come  
**and your people will be free.**

Spirit who inspires,   
show us our world, not just as it is,   
but as it could be.  
Help us to imagine a changed world order,   
to make a difference in our own communities  
and across this planet,   
that your Kingdom will come  
**and your people will be free.**

Jesus of Bethlehem,  
never let us feel too little or insignificant,  
believe wrongly that nothing could come of our actions.  
For your church contains already what it needs  
to seek your heart and do your will,  
that your Kingdom will come  
**and your people will be free.**

Hymn – see list of suggestions in separate file

Sending out prayer:

Go from this place,   
strengthened by the image of God’s abundance,   
of life experienced in all its fullness,  
and encouraged that we can take our part  
in realising Jesus vision of the kingdom on earth.

Now to the one who by the power at work within us  
is able to accomplish abundantly far more  
than all we can ask or imagine,  
to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.[[2]](#footnote-2)**

*This service is prepared for Commitment for Life by Revd Dr Catherine Lewis-Smith. The first section of the prayers of intercession was written by Revd Andy Braunston for the Daily Devotions from the United Reformed Church email series.*

1. John 10.10 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ephesians 3.20-21. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)