

**Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg**  
**May 28, 2017 Litanies**

**Service of Contrition**

**Reader 1:** We have secrets, words unspoken. We have brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, children, aunts, uncles and friends who will not, cannot worship with us.

**R2:** We have uttered harsh words; we have not uttered any words at all.

**R3:** We have been burdened by anxiety, sadness and depression. We have been separated from one another.

**R4:** We lament our losses, the absence of so many gifted children of God from our church fellowship.

**People:** *We repent of negative attitudes, prejudices and practices of sexism lingering among us, damaging self-esteem and hindering our full collective human development and spiritual maturation.*

**Service of Reformation**

**Leader (L):** Recognizing our ongoing need to see the Christ in each other, we seek to grow in forgiveness, mutual forbearance and respectful love.

“Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people” (Proverbs 3.3-4).

**R1:** We are glad that God is present in relationships of reciprocity and mutuality.

**R2:** We are glad for new ways to work at becoming fully human in social, sexual, political, economic and spiritual rights and freedoms.

**People:** *With God’s help, we recognize, reframe and rewire our inner thoughts and intentions toward those who are other orientated.*

**R3:** The nonviolent servanthood way of Jesus does not attack nor condemn, but invites freedom for the soul, love for the heart, kindness and mercy to the other.

**R4:** The fellowship of Jesus is hospitable, open and welcoming, gathering all who desire to journey in faith, regardless of depth or degree of wholeness.

**People:** *We rejoice in hope that the Holy Spirit continues to nudge us at Bethel toward an ever-growing awareness, appreciation, inclusion, mutuality and blessed giftedness of our LGBTQ believers in Christ.*

**L:** In the same fashion that heterosexual persons minister in the congregation, we accept and affirm LGBTQ believers as servant members in the congregation.

**People:** *Imitating the inclusive welcome of Jesus, we seek to be a community marked by the love of God and our love for one another. Regardless of age, race, or gender orientation, we find Bethel to be our spiritual home. Sharing the peace of Christ, together we strive to reveal the realm of God in the world.*

**L:** Thanks be to God.