



Prayers for Trans Day of Visibility from TransEpiscopal and Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission

Introduction

[Trans Day of Visibility](#) (TDOV) has occurred annually on March 31st since its founding in 2009 by Michigan-based activist [Rachel Crandall](#). In contrast to Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR), which takes place annually on November 20th lifting up those who have died and calling attention to anti-trans violence, TDOV foregrounds trans joy and flourishing, celebrating the stories of trans lives in everyday as well as extraordinary circumstances. As the name suggests, the day creates space for trans people to be visible as we wish and are able, emphasizing our agency in that process. This invitation is in stark contrast to how trans people can be made visible in stigmatizing ways, very much not on our own terms. All too often news reports on trans people have made us visible only to sensationalize us or to report on violence against us in ways that foreclose a sense of possibility and life. It can be profoundly unsafe for trans people to be visible, and TDOV specifically acknowledges that reality with the intention that no one feel or be judged for their level of visibility.

In 2025 TDOV comes in the midst of an unprecedented wave of anti-trans legislation and policies at state and local levels as well as Executive Orders and related policy changes at the federal level. The EOs in particular are intent upon denying and actively erasing our existence, forcing us into dangerous forms of visibility in a variety of settings, depending upon where we live or other life circumstances. Anti-trans animus is being normalized in legislative and everyday language, even as other restrictions are being proposed or enacted, depending on location. Much of this activity is being undertaken under the banner of Christian theology, as an aspect of Christian nationalism.

In this context, it is more important than ever for Christians to affirm, embrace, and uplift trans, non-binary and two spirit people, to say loudly and consistently that the violence and demeaning actions being perpetuated against this community is *not in our name*.

For over fifteen years the highest level of authority in The Episcopal Church – the General Convention – has taken a very clear, strong position in support of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people, affirming our presence and leadership at all levels of ecclesial life. The foundation of this stance is a theology of the human person that is comprehensive, not complementarian or rigidly binary in its conception of gender. We acknowledge and uphold people who are nonbinary as well as binary. We celebrate the complexity of the human, reflecting the mystery of God's own image in which we are made. We honor the beauty of

creation replete with ambiguity and transformation. We seek to make space for the discernment of gender identity and the unfolding of its expression in various cultures and contexts. As a Church, we have committed to the ongoing work of equipping ourselves to answer our call to respect the dignity of the trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit communities in our congregational life as well as in the public square.

This worship resource is intended to be part of our response to God's call. Liturgically, it follows in the footsteps of the (2018) Service of Renaming in the [Book of Occasional Services](#), as well as the Anglican Church of Canada's (2023) "[Pastoral Liturgies for Journeys of Gender Affirmation and Transition](#)." The below prayers also express liturgically much of what we have passed synodically at General Conventions, beginning with legislation in 2009 that encouraged [flexible and expansive church forms](#), making space for the sharing of pronouns and names. The prayers reference the longstanding presence and leadership of trans, nonbinary and two-spirit people in The Episcopal Church, affirmed by our 2012 addition of gender identity and expression to our non-discrimination canons for [lay](#) and [ordained](#) leadership, further updated in [2018](#) and [2022](#). Among the organizations we had in mind when praying for God to strengthen those who are defending our lives, were those fighting bans on "gender affirming care in all forms (social, medical, or any other) and at all ages as part of our Baptismal call" ([2022-D066](#)). Similarly, we prayerfully support organizations fighting the rollbacks of non-discrimination legislation and the instantiation of discriminating policies ([2009-D012](#), [2009-C048](#)).

This resource is a collaboration between members of [TransEpiscopal](#) and [Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission](#) (APLM). While our groups have long been connected through the coalitional work of [The Consultation](#), this effort marks the first time we have created liturgical material together. The prayers below include a collect for Trans Day of Visibility and a special set of intercessions with a concluding collect. For congregations that use the Prayers of the People in the *Book of Common Prayer*, we have provided petitions adapted to each of the six forms. We intend for these resources to be used in flexible ways, as befits your community. We offer them for your use, consideration, and feedback.

On this Trans Day of Visibility, know that trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people as well as our families and loved ones, are present all across our Church. *We are here.*

Prayers for Trans Day of Visibility

Collect

O God, you are made visible through the incarnation of Jesus Christ our Savior, and you call us to make you visible in the world: we thank you for creating each of us in your image. Strengthen us to bear witness to your infinite beauty as we change from glory into glory, steadfast in the knowledge that we are your beloved children and celebrating the beauty in one another; through your beloved child Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Intercessions

The intercessor may use the bracketed, italicized pronouns 'our' or 'their', as appropriate.

In celebration of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in our lives and communities, we offer our prayers for the church and the world, responding “hear our prayer.”

We give thanks, O God, for trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in this community and in cultures and contexts throughout the world, bearing witness with [*our/their*] lives to the wondrous diversity of humankind. We pray that people of all genders would flourish in the sure and certain knowledge that we are beloved.

God of infinite beauty,

Hear our prayer.

Sustain and increase the lay and ordained ministries of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people who have served God’s church for generations, with gratitude for [*our/their*] courage in the face of adversity and witness to our shared vocation to grow into the full stature of Christ.

God of infinite beauty,

Hear our prayer.

Uphold all trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people who are struggling in this time of intensified persecution, knowing that, as St. Paul has written, “we are treated as imposters and yet are true; as unknown and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive.” We pray particularly for ____.

God of infinite beauty,

Hear our prayer.

Strengthen leaders in this nation and throughout the world [*especially ____*] who are defending the lives of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people, and witnessing to the power of love. We pray that laws and practices would reflect the conviction of the Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray that “all human rights are indivisible.”

God of infinite beauty,
Hear our prayer.

Defend, O God, organizations and communities working for the safety, dignity, and flourishing of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people. Inspire them with your grace, that their impact may daily increase. We lift up especially____.

God of infinite beauty,
Hear our prayer.

Surround with light perpetual all trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people who have died, with gratitude for the witness of their lives, and grant eternal rest to all whom we love but see no longer. Accompany our grief, Holy Comforter, and empower our lament. We remember especially _____.

God of infinite beauty,
Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect

God of glory, whose wisdom appears foolish to this world: illumine trans, non-binary, and two spirit people with the light of your love. Gather up our fervent prayers, entrusted to you in time of trouble. Give us the joy of your saving help and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit, for you are the source of our life in Christ Jesus who became Wisdom from God, and to you we give glory, one holy and undivided Trinity. Amen.

Petitions for Prayers of the People in the *Book of Common Prayer*, Forms I-VI

Form I

For trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in this assembly and in cultures and contexts throughout the world, whose lives bear witness to the wondrous diversity of humankind, and who invite us to glimpse God's infinite creativity and love, let us pray to the Lord.

Form II

I ask your prayers for trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in this assembly and in cultures and contexts throughout the world; that the light of God's glory may illumine their lives with gratitude for their beauty and witness. Defend them from all perils and shield their joy.

Form III

After "Let us pray for our own needs and those of others"....

On this Trans Day of Visibility, we celebrate the presence of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in our midst and throughout the world. We give thanks that their lives bear witness to the infinite beauty and diversity of humankind. We pray for their flourishing as beloved children of God.

Form IV

After "Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us."

On this Trans Day of Visibility, we celebrate the presence of trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in our midst and throughout the world. We give thanks for how their lives bear witness to the infinite beauty and diversity of humankind, and pray for their flourishing as beloved children of God.

Form V

Use this language to add in the space marked "For _____, we pray to you, O Lord."

For trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit people in our midst and throughout the world. We give thanks for how their lives bear witness to the infinite beauty and diversity of humankind, and pray for their flourishing as beloved children of God.

Confession of Sin: *We suggest using the language of *Enriching Our Worship I*. pp. 56.*