Confession Prayer

What this is: Prayer of Confession

Where it’s used: In any intergenerational gathering

Time: 2 minutes

Bible focus/theme: 1 Sam 3:1-10; Mark 2:23-3:6 Rest; Confession

What’s needed:
- Large ‘flip chart’ with 5 pages made to look like calendar pages (see below) clipped together at the top.
- Post it notes in various colours
- Markers
- Confession Prayer text on Screen or printed copies

Instructions

During the confession prayer (see liturgy below) display the large flip chart calendar in a prominent place. Make sure the pages can be flipped over the top easily.

Pre-arrange a small team of people to work on filling each page of the flip chart calendar with writing using markers, and post-it notes saying ‘busy’.

With each new section of the prayer at the response words ‘Your mercies are new every morning’, flip over to a clean new page, and begin filling it with post-it notes and writing until the next end of section.
With the final section

‘In your grace
we roll over a fresh page
and begin again to listen for your voice
and to learn your ways of love.

As we receive your mercy,
and gift of rest from striving,
may we leave space in our days
for you.’

...roll over the page, but leave this last page blank. The team of busy helper that have been filling the calendar pages sit down and rest.

Begin inviting the congregation to join on the responses in blue ‘Your mercies are new every morning’

Optional: divide the lines between several readers (A, B, C as suggested)
Confession Prayer

Lord of the Sabbath
the day of rest
You rolled up your sleeves and loved your work
Then you rolled over and rested
And your Sabbath rest was made for the benefit of humans
Not humans for the benefit of the Sabbath

Your mercies are new every morning

We have rolled up our sleeves
And rolled up to work
and the days have rolled on and on

(A) Forgive us for over-working our bodies
(B) Forgive us for over-working the bodies of others
(C) Forgive us for over-working the earth

Your mercies are new every morning

Young Samuel lived in the Temple day and night

(A) Forgive us for rushing in and out of worship
as if it's just another diary item
(B) Forgive us for missing your presence with us in the every day
(C) Forgive us for missing your voice when it comes to those who are small

Your mercies are new every morning

(A) Forgive us for filling our days with grudges and jealousies
(B) grasping for power and judging unjustly
(C) grumbling in our abundance and guarding our privilege.

Forgive us, Lord.

In your grace
we roll over a fresh page
and begin again to listen for your voice
and to learn your ways of love.

As we receive your mercy,
and gift of rest from striving,
may we leave space in our days
for you.

(Pause)
Amen