

*"A Time of Gifts."  
A Liturgy for the Gifting of Hymns between Catholics and  
Methodists in Aotearoa - New Zealand.*

**A Call to Worship.**

How very good and how pleasant it is when kindred  
live together in unity!

**It is like precious oil on the head, running down  
the beard, on the beard of Aaron,  
Running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the  
mountains of Zion,

**For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life  
forevermore.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever more  
shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**Welcome** – words of welcome and introduction will  
be offered by clergy and / or congregational leaders  
from both churches.

**A Hymn of the Undivided Church.** – Worship  
planners are encouraged to identify a hymn which  
predates the Reformation .

e.g. All Creatures of Our God and King (Francis of Assisi.)

**Prayer.**

God who calls us,  
who wills unity amongst us,  
we are here together,  
In celebration and song, word and prayer.

**May our sharing deepen the unity between us,  
and help us to see ever more clearly the depth of  
faith**

**and the wealth of spirituality we share.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus, who wills that all  
his followers be one. Amen.**

**Readings from the Catholic and Methodist  
Traditions on Hymn Singing.**

From *Musicae Sacrae*, Pope Pius XII, 1955.

From *Directions on Singing*, John Wesley, 1761.

**The First Catholic Hymn is Offered.**

**The First Methodist Hymn is Offered.**

*Each hymn will be preceded by some explanation of its  
origins and its significance in the life of the gifting  
Church.*

**From the Holy Scriptures.**

Philippians 2:1-11.

John 17: 20-26.

**A Brief Reflection.**

**The Second Catholic Hymn is Offered.**

**The Second Methodist Hymn is Offered.**

## **Prayer.**

We raise our voices in song and prayer today as  
Christians,

Followers of Jesus,

and as members of two distinct traditions,  
Methodists and Catholics.

We pray that our traditions and our distinctiveness,  
our particular witness

do not isolate us one from the other,

as they have in times past,

but serve to enrich one another,

and can be experienced as blessing and gift.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May there be between us a spirit of humility and  
gratitude,

may we be unafraid to learn from each other,

and to offer a shared witness.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the dialogue between us,

May it go deeper into the heart of our faith and life,

leading to the unity Jesus prayed for amongst his  
followers.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray not only for our unity but for the unity of all  
Christians,

as a compelling witness to the whole world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We make these and all our prayers in the name of  
your son Jesus Christ,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer.**

### **Closing Prayer and Blessing.**

Today we have been blessed by one another,  
We shall honour these gifts,  
We shall acknowledge and celebrate one another  
when we use these taonga.  
May their richness nurture our spirituality  
And deepen the love and esteem we hold one another in.

And the blessing of God be with you all,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**