



*The second cup...*

## Order of Service

### Call to worship

Romans 12:5 – “So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others”

### Opening Hymn

“All are Welcome” (StF 409)

### Welcome, introduction and opening prayer

Welcome people to the service, and if you are visiting the church introduce yourself and your connection to MHA.

Today we celebrate MHA Sunday, a moment to reflect on MHA’s work through its Community Service, Care Homes and Retirement Living schemes. This morning, our focus is on loneliness and isolation, not only as personal experiences, but as injustices that call for a shared response, and we begin by listening to one person’s story.

The Second Cup video is shown if there are facilities to do so, or the alternative script “Mary’s story” can be used if not.

At the end of the video or script, allow a brief time of quiet, before inviting your reader to come and read from scripture.

### Reading

Luke 14:15-23

### Hymn

“The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy” (StF 255)

### Craft Activity

Decorating a cup or making an invitation  
See separate sheet for details of this activity.

### Sermon

A fully worked sermon is available in the resources which you can read, or use the sermon notes to write your own version.

### Hymn

“God is love, his the care” (StF 403)  
During which cups/invitations are brought forward to the altar. A collection for the work of MHA may also be taken at this point. Invite children and young people to bring forward their invitations and/or cups and place them on the altar.

### Intercessions

(You may wish to add specific prayers for your local scheme/s and home/s in the appropriate section)

Now let us bring our concerns to God, who welcomes all.

Creator God, we pray for all those throughout the world who feel abandoned, isolated and lonely. We ask that community may be built up in all places, that people might reach out to those that are alone and welcome them in. We look to the example set by Jesus, and ask that people of faith in all places might work together to draw all people into fellowship, putting your love into practice.

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

We pray for the church, here and throughout the world, giving thanks for our church family and the fellowship it gives. Help us to see those in our midst who feel alone, and to reach out to them. [If the church has its own befriending scheme or pastoral visiting system, you could insert prayers for it here] Help us to make your church ever more closely resemble your kingdom.

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

Loving God, we pray for all who feel alone this day in our own nation. May they know your love, and may we reach out to them in fellowship and compassion. We pray for all those that are waiting to be matched with a befriender by MHA or by local befriending schemes and ask that they may feel supported in this time of waiting. We pray for those who don't know what support is available, that they might find the people and services that can best help them. We pray for volunteers, present and future, giving thanks for their generosity and care.

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

We hold before you all who live or work in MHA's Retirement Living schemes and Care Homes, and their families and friends.. We pray for those who have recently moved into an MHA setting. We give thanks for the fellowship found there and pray for anyone who is feeling alone or isolated; for those struggling with bereavement or ill health.

We ask that they may find new connections and new ways to live life in all its fullness. We give thanks for the work of volunteers in MHA and ask your continued blessing upon them.

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

We pray for all those that are unwell at this time, at home or in hospital, and for those that care for them. (If relevant, insert prayers here for those to be remembered by name) We hold before you too, those whose earthly life is drawing to its close, that they may know your peace and may be surrounded by love.

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

We pray for those whose loneliness is rooted in bereavement, that your promise of comfort to those who mourn may be fulfilled. May their happy memories in time outweigh their grief, and may they find hope in you. We call to mind those that we have loved and see no longer, giving thanks for all they gave to our lives.

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

Almighty God, as we pray for fellowship and friendship for all who feel alone, inspire us anew to play our part in driving loneliness from our communities. Help us to speak out against those structures and systems that increase isolation and reduce connection. Nudge us to see those times and places where we can reach out to someone who would otherwise be alone and help us always to be mindful of those who we might fail to see.

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

We offer these prayers through our friend and saviour, Jesus Christ,

**Amen**

## Blessing

May God walk with you on your life's journey,  
and send you friends to share with along the way,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you all, evermore. **Amen**



*make it matter*