

A Liturgy for *Romans, These Days*

CapChurch, Small Church

November 23, 2025

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Opening Prayer

Triune God,

You have poured Your love into each of our hearts

As Your love overflows around us

Open us to Your Spirit dwelling inside us

Open us to Your Spirit dwelling among us

Open us to Your presence

Here and now

Amen

Prayer of Re-Collection

God of Yes,

Remind us that your word to the world is yes. In a world that has so many nos may we be confident that you lead with yes and that Jesus has a deep love for all people.

In this world which you created, and called good, may we remember that all your beloved creations are also good: the mountains, rivers and sky, the trees, soil, and mushrooms, the insects, fish, and mammals. Help us to remember that we, humans, are also your beloved creations, and are good too. While we recognize the very real presence of sin and injustice in the world, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your son, we know that no sin and no one is beyond redemption.

As we are gathered up by Christ's faith, may we accept this gift of grace and have the courage to share your peace with those around us. And as our

community is led by your Spirit, may we continue to grow into a faith that leads with yes. That we may reflect the way of Jesus, where we do not look to others and only see what is wrong or different about them, but that we would see others as Jesus sees them, as your beloved creations.

Prayer of Confession and Release

God of Gentle Understanding,

We confess we live in a world that thrives off creating divisions, casting others as wrong, different, and unworthy. We confess that the church has participated in creating separations, demanding conformity in order to control, and used your Holy Scripture to oppress the vulnerable and perpetuate injustice. We also recognize that as individuals we have condemned and separated, even when we know that in Christ there is no condemnation, no separation. Forgive us for relying on the strength of our human faith and judgement, rather than trusting the faith of Jesus Christ. May all of us be gathered up into your welcoming arms.

Readings of Affirmation

From the words of Paul:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

~ Romans 8:1

“Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Jesus Christ who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.”

~ Romans 8:33-34

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ?... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to

come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

~ Romans 8: 35, 38-39

Reflection and Discussion

Last week, at All Church, Kim taught on the conclusion of Romans. She left us with the encouragement and challenge that “The vision that Paul casts for a community focused on Jesus is diverse, and able to love one another across their differences.”

Romans 13: 8-10 says:

“8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”

As a group reflect on your journey through Romans, and discuss the following questions:

- Through our study of the Book of Romans, have you heard God’s “yes” in a new way?
- Share something coming out of our series on Romans which you still have questions about.
- How have you seen God’s “yes” at work in the world around us?

A Hope-full Prayer

God of Yes,

We pray that we would continue to learn to live into your “yes” and as a community which embodies the type of hopeful faith we see in the Book of Romans. May we be better able to see where your grace, mercy and love is breaking into these uncertain times.

And with this hopeful faith we pray...

... for a world where we spend more time building one another up, rather than tearing one another apart.

... for communities where we strive to recognize the presence of the divine in others.

... for churches where we lovingly work together with others (even our enemies), desiring for the flourishing of humanity and all of creation.

... for a Church which is known for doing the things that Jesus did – where empathy, acts of compassion, and radical hospitality are commonplace.

... for when the widows and orphans will be clothed and fed, the weak will be made strong, the most vulnerable will among us will be held up with dignity and their worth recognized.

... for a time when justice will flow down, and relationships will be restored.

Add any other hope-full prayers your group wants to include.

Benediction

May you remember that God’s word to the world is YES

YES - you are a beloved child of the Creator

YES - it is you who Christ loves so deeply

YES - the Spirit lives in you, filling you up

As you go out from here, may you hear God's YES echoing throughout the contours of your life

In the midst of joyful laughter, mundane tasks, and painful moments
God is with you.

And as all of us see God's YES more and more in the world around us,
May we know we are learning to see the world as Jesus sees it -bursting with the YES of love and compassion.

And may we join in with God's work in the world reaching out with reconciling love, healing the deep wounds in the world around us.