

SIBYLS EVENING MEETINGS AND HOUSE GROUPS

EVENING MEETINGS

These meetings are very simple to organize

- 1) Find a Church that welcomes Sibyls Members.
- 2) Arrange a regular time and schedule e.g.: *Meet on the Second Thursday of every second month for a Service at *****, followed by a meal together*
- 3) Decide who to invite. For example the London meeting is advertised as: ALL TRANS PEOPLE, THEIR FRIENDS, SPOUSES AND SUPPORTERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AT THIS EVENT
- 4) Advertise it through Sibyls and other local LGBTI organizations as you wish
- 5) Tell people to come in whatever role is convenient or them and/or they feel comfortable in at the time
- 6) Attend an ordinary weekday service of evening prayer, or if there is not one and you need to organize one, you could use the suggested liturgy which follows. This is also available on: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/sibylseveningservice.pdf>
- 7) Go out together for a meal in a restaurant afterwards.

A great value of these meetings is that they allow people to make first contact with the Sibyls. Sometimes there is great distress but always there is also great companionship as well.

You might want to use some of the text below which is taken from the description for the London Evening Meetings:

These meetings are very good; gentle lovely evenings with a service which is always thoughtful, peaceful and healing, followed by a good meal in congenial surroundings

During the intercessions we normally pray for those we know and also on behalf of others who would like our prayers. If you would like your name, or the name of someone you know to be included on the prayer list, please email me. Include any details you think appropriate. You can email me privately at xxxx@yyyy.com (If you would like your request for prayers to be made available to the whole group, the Sibyls members can of course email the Sibyls email group instead)

*You can just turn up on the evening: however it would also be helpful to get some idea of numbers in advance. If you do know you are coming, please email me at xxxx@yyyy.com normally decide on the restaurant to go to at the end of the service. If you are late please ring 07*** *****.*

HOUSE GROUPS

You might instead like to organize a House Group

A suggested Liturgy for this is available on:

<http://www.gndr.org.uk/transgender/documents/Su90606a%20Sibyls%20Agape%20Service.pdf>

IF YOU LET US KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO DO THIS, WE CAN PASS YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ON TO OTHER SIBYLS MEMBERS WHO LIVE LOCALLY

Sample Order of Evening Prayer

Preparation

All O God, make speed to save us.
 O Lord, make haste to help us.

All Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;
 Let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.
 (Psalm 143.10)

Praise

Any hymn, poem, song, canticle, extempore praise, such as:

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
And such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a Feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in Love.

George Herbert (1633)

Or

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of My Heart
No boundaries to gender or love you impart
Be here in my journeys by day and by night
To wholeness of being that shines in your light

Be thou my wisdom; be thou my true word,
Of you ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
With thou my great guidance for all I become;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter and thou my strong tower:
Of strength to go forward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, give truth to us all,
Made one by your vision, O Ruler of all.

Other transgender adapted hymns are available on:

<https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2015/11/14/transgender-words-for-familiar-hymns/>

Psalmody

The psalms below: or the psalms from the Church Lectionary may be used

On any day Psalm 139

or

Week 1 Psalm 133

Week 2 Psalm 31

Week 3 Psalm 101

Week 4 Psalm 150

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Bible Readings

The short readings below: or readings from the Church Lectionary may be used

Old Testament:

Care for others and ourselves

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'
Deuteronomy 15.7,8,10,11

Or

Welcome

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the East, and from the West I will gather you; I will say to the North, 'Give them up', and to the South, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'
Isaiah 43.5-7

Or

Our Inner beings

The Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7:

New Testament:

The Power of the Gospel

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 31-39

Or

All are as one

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

I Corinthians 12.12,13a

Or

A Chosen People

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

I Peter 2.9,10

Gospel:

The response Jesus gave to the Sadducees.

At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. But about the resurrection of the dead - have you not read what God said to you, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? He is not the God of the dead but of the living”. When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:30-40

Or

Commissioning

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17.18-23

Reflection

Silence, study, song, or words from Scripture:

Closing with: Jesus said, I am the gate for the sheep.
All **He came that we may have life, and have it abundantly.**
John 10.7,10b (adapted)

Prayers

Prayers may include these topics:

- Peace in the World
- International and National Issues and Concerns
- Welfare Groups, Workers and Support
- Support for Sibyls and LGBTI people more generally
- Support for members and families of members
- Members who are absent or cannot be present
- All who are ill; or facing trauma; or who are in distress
- All who are bereaved
- Church witness and acceptance

The Collect of the day or the following prayer is said

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,

a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Benedict of Nursia (c.550))

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said by all.

Our Father in heaven.....

Or

Our Father who art in heaven

Or

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.

Parker J. Palmer

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be Always with you
All: **And also with you**

The Peace is shared.

Conclusion

All: May God kindle in us the fire of love.
Amen.

The Grace

All: **May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore.**
Amen.

Susan Gilchrist 12 October 2016