



E Whakatuwhera ana i te Kūaha o te Atawhai Opening the Door of Mercy

Leader:

The Wairua of Mercy calls us into the Year of Mercy.
E te Atua Atawhai we ask you to bless this door.

(BLESS THE DOOR)

Uakina te Kūaha o te Atawhai! Throw open the Door of Mercy.

Response:

Me whakamoemiti tātou ki te Ariki! Let us give thanks to our God.

Let us now enter into the grace of this jubilee year singing...

(CHOOSE HIMENE)

Once inside: **He inoi tatou – Let us all pray together**

As we enter into this Year of Mercy, bless the ‘doors’ of our hearts
that we may be open to the call of mercy and hear both the cry of the Earth
and the cry of the poor. (LS #49)

Surround us with mercy – a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. (MV #2)

With gratitude, we enter into this significant moment in our time. **AMEN.**

Leader:

Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy with **MISERICORDIAE VULTUS**.
He then wrote for us his letter **LAUDATO SI’ ON CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME**.
Let us listen to his vision for this Year of Mercy from these two documents.

Refrain following each statement:

Let justice and mercy flourish

1. How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy,
so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness
and tenderness of God! (MV#5) **REFRAIN...**

2. In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening
our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society;
fringes which modern society itself creates. (MV#15) **REFRAIN...**



Refrain following each statement:

Me Let justice and mercy flourish

3. During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal the wounds of the Earth and ...the poor*, to soothe them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care.

(MV#15 *LS #49) **REFRAIN...**

4. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.

The Creator does not abandon us... Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. (LS#13) **REFRAIN...**

5. Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. (LS#66) **REFRAIN..**

6. Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (LS#42) **REFRAIN...**

Leader:

In **MISERICORDIAE VULTUS** Pope Francis calls us to be merciful as God is merciful. He reminds us that in the Gospels, “Jesus of Nazareth by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God”. (MV #1)

Choose ONE reading about Mercy from the following Scripture quotes:

Matt 9: 9 – 13 Call of Matthew – WHAT I WANT IS MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE

Lk 10: 29 – 37 Parable of the Good Samaritan

Lk 4: 16 – 19 Jesus in the Synagogue at Nazareth

The Gospel of the Lord



The Circle of Mercy Prayer

Leader:

In this Year of Mercy we are invited to atawhai mai atawhai atu – to receive Mercy from God, and to be Mercy in response to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor. We are invited to light a candle and to pray Pope Francis' Prayer for our Earth and her peoples.

(LIGHT CANDLE)

Let us stand and pray the **PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH FROM LAUDATO SI'**.

He inoi tatou

All-powerful God,
You are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.



Blessing: He inoi tatou

Let us recognise God's abundant mercy for all and be a credible witness
to atawhai mercy in the way we live.

May we be 'mercied' from the heart of God - **AMEN**

May we be drawn into the depths of the mystery of God - **AMEN**
May the great river of mercy well up and flow through us unceasingly

ADAPTED FROM MV#38

E pai ana, amene.

E whakahau, amene

E whakaae ana whakanuia, amene

Amen we affirm.

Amen we encourage.

Amen we bless and we celebrate, **AMEN**

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