

Easter Offering 2017 Projectionist's Order of Service.

Please note there are two optional parts to the service which can be found on slides 41 and 50. You may wish to delete these if they are not being used in your service. Please also read the leaders notes in regard to the copyright.

1	Welcome, to be shown before the service
2	<p>Call to Worship</p> <p>If you look down, you see the earth;          if you look up, you may see the horizon and the sun or the stars; if you look back, you see what might have been;          if you look forward, you see what can be.          But just for now...          ...come and be present.  <b>All: Jesus, we are here for you.</b></p>
3	Jesu, tawa pano. Singing the Faith 27
4	<p><b>Welcome and introduction</b></p> <p>Welcome to this act of worship, in which we shall dedicate our Easter Offering and hear stories of how the World Mission Fund supports God's mission in different parts of the world. The stories are told by members of the World Church Relationships Team. Each one is about an NMA, a national in mission appointment. An NMA is someone who is working in their own country, appointed by our Partner Church in that nation but funded by the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain. Each NMA is working in a difficult and challenging environment, but in Paul's words to the Philippians, "shines like a star" to bring the light of the risen Christ into that situation.</p>
5	We light a candle as a symbol of the power of Christ's light to break down the barriers of darkness and bring hope into a needy world.
6-9	God, whose almighty word. Singing the Faith 106
10-14	Prayers
15	The Lord's Prayer
16	Epistle Reading, Philippians 2:1-15
17-26	Longing for light. Singing the Faith 706
27	Gospel Reading, Matthew 5:13-16
28	<p>Story 1: They call me a saint</p> <p>"They call me a saint," says Revd Maria do Carmo Moreira Lima, NMA for the Methodist Church in Brazil. She adds, "Although I try and demystify this notion, I look to lead them in the best way, as if they were my own children."</p>
29	<p>Maria's 'children' are young people held at three young offenders' institutes in Belford Roxo, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, and Bangu, a neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro City. In a country where the age of criminal responsibility for some crimes was lowered from 18 to 16 in 2015, the work Maria does with these young people is essential for showing them the love and hope of Jesus Christ.</p>

	<p>The environment within these institutes often does not foster rehabilitation and restoration, so part of Maria's work has been to be an advocate for young offenders and seek an improvement to their living conditions. Since last year Maria has helped improve the diet offered to young offenders, fostered better relations between them and their officers and encouraged the building of a family reception centre where young offenders' mothers and families who come to visit can be received.</p> <p>Violent and often fatal gang warfare that takes place outside of young offenders' institutes frequently continues inside when rival gangs are forced to live together. "A major challenge is to develop pastoral work with different gangs at the same institution," says Maria. "Employees are afraid that detainees will act with violence, but they have shown me great respect and they have had exemplary behaviour in all activities." God is using Maria as a shining light in a violent, dark environment to bring peace, reconciliation and hope.</p>
30	A candle is lit
31-36	Shine Jesus Shine. Singing the Faith 59.
37	<p>Story 2 Hope for teens</p> <p>Hope for Teens is a programme managed by Methodist Church Ghana. Hope for Teens started in 2012 to help girls who had dropped out of school due to lack of funds or teenage pregnancy. This vocational training and support from their peers offer hope, new skills and knowledge to improve their standard of living and their life expectations.</p> <p>Dr Bunmi Olayisade, World Church Relationships Partnership Coordinator for Africa tells us, "As at March 2016 during my visit to Accra, there were 18 female students in catering, sewing, bead/hat making and hairdressing classes under the National Vocational Training Institute Certificate courses.</p>
38	<p>"Joanna Akyeampong is the Programme Coordinator with a passion to help these vulnerable girls. She teaches them etiquette and good discipline in addition to their skills. She is an active member of the Methodist Church and works with other trainers. She hopes a few of the promising students will eventually become trainers so as to inspire other participants.</p>
39	<p>"I had the privilege of speaking with the girls and their instructors and they were very inspiring and grateful for the opportunity. The quality of their displayed work was very good and a few of them mentioned pursuing their career at the Police Catering department which was good news. One of the girls wanted to start her own tailoring business if her relatives could buy her a sewing machine.</p> <p>"I believe this programme will go a long way in alleviating poverty, empowering young ladies, discouraging exploitation of vulnerable girls and promoting the church's positive influence as it shares the love of Christ in word and action in its society."</p>
40	A Candle is lit
41	Choir item. OPTIONAL please delete or skip if not being used in your service
42	<p>Story 3: Inter faith dialogue in Pakistan</p> <p>A story from Steve Pearce, World Church Relationships Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>Pakistan is not an easy place to be a Christian. There are 192 million people living in Pakistan, 97% of whom are Muslims. It's a difficult place for many Muslims too. Shia Muslims are outnumbered five to one by Sunni Muslims, while the Ahmadi Muslims form only two per cent of the population – and the law says they are not Muslims at all. Poverty is also a problem, with 60% of the population living on less than \$2 a day. Most women are illiterate (around 55%) and girls continue to get less access to school education than boys.</p> <p>Islam and Christianity are both religions of peace, yet conflict in Pakistan is frequent. Often it seems that religion is a cause of dissent rather than harmony, even though the Holy Koran</p>

	<p>teaches: “Unto you your religion, and unto me my religion” (109:6). Similarly in the Bible we read Micah’s vision of peace, when “... all people will walk every one in the name of his god...” (Micah 4:5 KJV).</p> <p>Understanding each other and talking together is a matter of life and death in this situation. Jennifer Jag Jivan shines like a star in what sometimes feels like a dark place. She is passionate about dialogue and through her work at the Christian Study Centre in Rawalpindi she helps Muslims and Christians to understand each other a little better and find ways of enjoying each other’s presence in Pakistan, rather than resenting it. Every single small encounter in this work can change many lives. Sometimes it feels even more powerful than that, as this encounter shows:</p> <p>At a recent three-day training workshop on peace-building, two individuals from one of the big Islamic organisations attended. One of them approached Jennifer to request her to give inter faith and peace-building training to others in his denomination. Some of those religious leaders each have responsibility for as many as 200 madrassahs (Islamic religious schools), and hundreds or thousands of followers.</p> <p>A request not without danger. But if you shine like a star, good things will happen</p>
43	A candle is lit
44-49	The Spirit lives to set us free. Singing the Faith 397
50	Reflection. OPTIONAL please delete or skip if not being used in your service
51	<p>Our Response</p> <p>Prayers or pledges are written on paper stars, which are then brought to the front as music plays.</p>
52	<p><b>Prayers of intercession</b></p> <p>God of love and light, we pray for those who shine the light of your love into dark places.</p> <p>We pray for the ongoing mission work throughout the world enabled by the World Mission Fund; for the World Church Relationships Team as they build relationships with the Partner Churches and respond to requests for prayer, practical and financial support.</p> <p>Risen Christ, into the darkness of a world in great need;</p> <p><b>All: Let your light shine.</b></p> <p>We pray for the work of the Revd Maria do Carmo Moreira Lima among young offenders in Brazil, thanking you for the pastoral care she is able to offer to them and their families. We ask that you will bless her efforts to improve living conditions and treatment of young people in the young offenders’ institutions in Rio de Janeiro.</p> <p>Risen Christ, into the darkness of imprisonment,</p> <p><b>All: Let your light shine.</b></p> <p>We pray for the work of Joanna Akyeampong in Ghana, thanking you for her creative witness and commitment. We ask that you will bless this initiative as it seeks to bring hope and opportunity to vulnerable girls and street children.</p> <p>Risen Christ, into the darkness of homelessness and hopelessness,</p> <p><b>All: Let your light shine.</b></p>

53	<p>We pray for the work of Jennifer Jag Jivanat the Christian Study Centre in Rawalpindiin Pakistan, thanking you for her passion to use dialogue to bring understanding. We pray that this work of peace-building among people of different faiths will bear fruit.</p> <p>Risen Christ, into the darkness of division and conflict,</p> <p><b>All: Let your light shine.</b></p> <p><b>A prayer for the work of God’s mission in your own locality</b></p> <p>...</p> <p>Risen Christ, into the darkness of local needs,</p> <p><b>All: Let your light shine.</b></p> <p><b>In the name of Christ, Amen.</b></p>
54	<p><b>Offering and Dedication</b></p> <p><b>Please stand</b></p> <p>Leader: God of love, who gave us your Son so that the world might have hope,</p> <p><b>All: We bring our love offering today for your blessing.</b></p> <p><b>Take our gifts, our prayers and our daily lives and use all in your service.</b></p>
55	<p><b>May each discover your light where it is needed most.</b></p> <p><b>In the name of Christ,</b></p> <p><b>Amen</b></p>
56-59	<p>May the God of hope go with us. Singing the Faith 411</p>
60	<p><b>Blessing</b></p> <p>The LORD bless you and keep you;  The LORD make His face shine upon you,  And be gracious to you;  The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,  And give you peace.  (Numbers 6:24-26)</p>
61	<p>Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain (<a href="http://www.mwib.org.uk">www.mwib.org.uk</a>) on behalf of the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches overseas.</p>