

*This is the second part of the prayers written for the special worship for the international day againsts homophobia.*

## **Ecce Homo**

Despised and rejected of men

A man of sorrows, acquainted with grief

We hid our faces from him

He was despised, and we esteemed him not

We did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted

He was oppressed, and afflicted... brought as a lamb to slaughter

As a sheep before shearers ... he opened not his mouth

Here is the man...

Who understands better than anyone...

The Calvary of homophobia

Louise Guay



Montréal, Québec  
**John 19:5, Isaiah 53**

**Jeffrey Rock** is a newly ordained minister in The United Church of Canada. Born and raised in Sudbury Ontario and Educated at McGill University in Montreal he has recently begun his career in parish ministry in Red Deer, Alberta at Gaetz Memorial United Church.

**Prayer of Confession:**

Loving God,

You who created us, each and every one of us, in your image,

You who knew us even in our mother's womb

You who walk with us our whole life long;

So often we are not who you would have us be;

We allow our created difference to separate us from one another.

We fall short of our covenant to love one another as we have been loved,

We fail to hear the Spirit's calling in the voice of others.

Forgive us we pray for focusing on weaknesses in ourselves and others, rather than our gifts.

Forgive us we pray for emphasizing our individuality rather than our common humanity.

Forgive us we pray for our participation in systems of oppression that separate us based on gender, sexuality, race, religion, class, and ability;

And lead us to live in compassion seeing the Christ in all we meet.  
Help to offer to the world life-giving reconciliation, wound healing,  
peace building and justice making as we co-create your kingdom on  
earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

**Answer of Pardon:**

Children of God,

The Good News is this: God's forgiving love liberates us,  
emancipates us;

Sets the captives free, brings recovery to the blind and lets the  
oppressed go free

Amen!

**Act of Praise:** VU #807

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.

Jeffrey Rock

**Darla Sloan** is an ordained minister of The United Church of Canada who served congregations on the Gaspé Coast and in Québec City before accepting a call to the position of Responsable des Ministères en Français in August of 2010. The Spirit has filled her with a sense of calling to proclaim the Good News in accents of *L'Église Unie du Canada* and given her a passion for supporting the development of new and existing ministries in French within this Church that she is proud to call home.



### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Creator God, at the beginning of time, you sent forth your Spirit and out of chaos and darkness, you created all that is and called it good.

**Forgive us when we fail to see the goodness in the world around us or in ourselves.**

When we do not value our own gifts and abilities,

**May your Spirit renew and reshape our lives.**

When we do not appreciate the gifts and abilities of others,

**May your Spirit renew and reshape our lives.**

When we mistreat, reject or disrespect others because they are different from us, or when we would like to see them changed to be like us,

**May your Spirit renew and reshape our lives.**

When we fail to recognize that the Spirit that empowered Jesus' ministry lives and moves in and through us,

**May your Spirit renew and reshape our lives.**

When we thus neglect our calling to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

**May your Spirit renew and reshape our lives.**

When we ourselves are poor in spirit, held captive by forces that separate us from your loving acceptance, or blind to all that you created us to be,

**May your Spirit renew and reshape our lives.** (*Silence for personal confession*)

We are the Body of Christ. The one Spirit of God is poured out upon all of us not to condemn us for the sins of the past, but to free us for new life. By the Spirit of Christ, new beginnings are ours today.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

The Spirit of God is upon you. Go to proclaim good news:

**All: We go forth to set the captives free; to share new visions and to tell, by word and deed, the story of God's love for all people.**

May God who loved us into being, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, and whose Spirit binds us together in one body, bless us all on our way.

**All: Amen.**