Confessions/Absolutions and Creeds for the Church of England liturgy

The following text is taken from the Chester Diocese web site for liturgy and the Confessions and Creeds have been copied onto Powerpoint slides under the Documents/CoGS_Service_cards directory for projection.

They are identified by the headings Confession_nn and Creed_n to direct the projectionist to the relevant file. Not all of the text herein has been copied to slides and greyed out text does not currently appear. Please request these if required from samdenniss@gmail.com.

In every case the text for the congregation is in Yellow, whilst text for the leader is white or black.

Confession - not currently on Powerpoint

Incarnation, Christmas

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned: All forgive and heal us.

Lent, Penitence

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

All Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. cf Psalm 51

Cross, Failure in Discipleship - Confession_01

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

Our selfishness betrays you: Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

We fail to share the pain of your suffering: Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

We run away from those who abuse you: Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

We are afraid of being known to belong to you: Lord, forgive us.

All Christ have mercy.

Resurrection, Heaven, Glory, Transfiguration, Death, Funerals -Confession_02

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

Trinity, Mission - Confession_03

All O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory: holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away, and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Creation, Harvest - Confession_04

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully. Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us. Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry. Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made. Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven. Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

City, World and Society - Confession_05

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation; Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid; Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice; Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others; Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves; Lord, be merciful:

All forgive us our sin.

Reconciliation - Confession_06

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

All Father,

we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen. cf Luke 15

Love, Peace - Confession_07

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

All Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
cf Hosea 6

General - Confession_08

God our Father,

we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives; Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you; Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do, and think and say; Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us; Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son; Father, forgive us:

All save us and help us.

General - Confession_09

All God our Father,

long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you create us from nothing and give us life. You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside. We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

General - Confession_10

All Almighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done those things that we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

General - Confession_11

All Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge and confess the grievous sins and wickedness which we have so often committed by thought, word and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your anger and indignation against us. We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for these our wrongdoings; the memory of them weighs us down, the burden of them is too great for us to bear. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that from this time onwards we may always serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

General - Confession_12

Those born of women have but a short time to live. We have our fill of sorrow. We blossom like a flower and wither away. We slip away like a shadow and do not stay. *All* Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,

have mercy upon us.

In the midst of life we are in death; where can we turn for help? Only to you, Lord, who are justly angered by our sins. All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. Shut not your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.

All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

You know the secrets of our hearts; forgive us our sins.

All Holy God, holy and strong,

> holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

Eternal and merciful judge, both in life and when we come to die, let us not fall away from you.

All Holy God,

holy and mighty, holy and merciful Saviour, do not abandon us to the bitterness of eternal death.

General - Confession_13

All Almighty God,

long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

General - Confession_14

All My God, for love of you
I desire to hate and forsake all sins
by which I have ever displeased you;
and I resolve by the help of your grace
to commit them no more;
and to avoid all opportunities of sin.
Help me to do this,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

¶ Kyrie Confessions

Short sentences may be inserted between the petitions of the Kyrie, suitable for particular seasons or themes. The insertion of such sentences may replace any form of confession, provided that the sentences are of a penitential character and are followed by an authorized form of absolution. Some examples follow (see also <u>here</u>).

Spirit

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Word

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord, and your salvation according to your word: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

World

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

City

Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city. On our city: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness. On us: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner. Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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Absolutions (not on Powerpoint)

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *us* to himself, and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

All Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins, heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit, and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

May the Father forgive *us* by the death of his Son and strengthen *us* to live in the power of the Spirit all *our* days.

All Amen.

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing; the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil; the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All Amen.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive *us our* sins and make *us* holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

May God our Father forgive *us our* sins, and bring *us* to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever.

All Amen.

May the God of love bring *us* back to himself, forgive *us our* sins, and assure *us* of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant *you* pardon and forgiveness of all *your* sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive *us our* sins, open *our* eyes to God's truth, strengthen *us* to do God's will and give *us* the joy of his kingdom.

and give *us* the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All* **Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our* sins, and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, not counting our trespasses against us, but sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church, receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone, this day and evermore.

All Amen.

Creeds

At a celebration of Holy Communion, the Apostles' Creed or the Athanasian Creed in an authorized form may be used in place of the Nicene Creed, or an authorized Affirmation of Faith may be used. Suitable words of introduction or conclusion (such as 'Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit') to the Creed or Affirmation of Faith may be used.

The Nicene Creed

The text of the Nicene Creed is printed in the Orders for the Celebration of Holy Communion (Order One or Order One in Traditional Language; <u>Order Two</u> or <u>Order Two in Contemporary Language</u>)

The Nicene Creed may be used responsively as follows

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, *All* maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

All God from God, Light from Light true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

All **Through him all things were made.** For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

All For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;he suffered death and was buried.On the third day he rose againin accordance with the Scriptures;

All he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

- All the Lord, the giver of life,
 - who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
- All With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
- *All* We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
- All We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

An Alternative Text of the Nicene Creed

This text of the Nicene Creed, which omits the phrase 'and the Son' in the third paragraph, may be used on suitable ecumenical occasions

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

The origin of the Apostles' Creed is the profession of faith made at baptism. This association may have implications for the occasion when it is used at Holy Communion.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(or)

All I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed may also be used in the following form

Do you believe and trust in God the Father? *All* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ? *All* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit? *All* I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Athanasian Creed

The authorized form of the Athanasian Creed is that contained in The Book of Common Prayer.

Authorized Affirmations of Faith

In addition to the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed and the Athanasian Creed, the following forms of the Creeds and these Affirmations of Faith are also authorized.

Creed_1 - (also on Blue Service card in part)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church. *All* This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Creed_2

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

All We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.

God, of the being of the Father, the only Son from before time began; human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

All fully God and fully human; human in both mind and body.

As God he is equal to the Father, as human he is less than the Father.

All Although he is both divine and human he is not two beings but one Christ.

One, not by turning God into flesh, but by taking humanity into God;

All truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead, but by being one person.

For as mind and body form one human being so the one Christ is both divine and human.

All The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. from the Athanasian Creed

Creed_3

All We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came. Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead. We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above: saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love. So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

(May be sung to any 87 87 or 87 87D tune.)

Creed_4

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

All Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. cf Philippians 2.6-11

Creed_5

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;

he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. *Amen.* cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

Creed_6

We say together in faith

All Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

All for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

All for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: *All* the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus! *Amen. cf Revelation 4.8,11; 5.9; 22.17,20*

Creed_7

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen. cf Ephesians 3*

¶ A Form for the Corporate Renewal of Baptismal Vows

when celebrated within a service other than Baptism or Confirmation

Notes

1 This form should be used only when there has been due notice and proper preparation. It is recommended that it is used no more than once or twice in any one year. Suitable opportunities include Easter, Pentecost, the Baptism of Christ in Epiphany, and the inauguration of a new ministry.

2 This form is a corporate affirmation for use within a service. When it is used it replaces the Creed or other Affirmation of Faith.

3 Where it is customary for the assembly to be sprinkled with water from the font or to sign themselves with water from the font, this may take place immediately after the Profession of Faith or during a hymn, canticle or song at the conclusion of this form.

A Corporate Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The president may use words of introduction to this part of the service.

A large candle may be lit. The president may address the congregation as follows

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God? *All* **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil? *All* **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour? *All* **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? *All* **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord? *All* **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life? *All* **I come to Christ.**

The president may say

May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you the strength to continue in the way.

The Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father? *All* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit? *All* I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The president says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

The president may use the Affirmation of Commitment (below).

The president concludes the Renewal of Vows saying

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. *All* **Amen**.

All Amen.

¶ Affirmation of Commitment

This Affirmation of Commitment may be used after an authorized Creed or Affirmation of Faith

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? *All* With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example

the good news of God in Christ? All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?All With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders,

by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All With the help of God, I will.