



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

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*The Faith and Order Commission and the Council of Bishops are grateful to the Rev. Dr. Jeaneth Harris Faller for making this liturgy with AGAPE MEAL.*

### LITURGY for the FIRST SUNDAY WORSHIP

#### WITH AGAPE MEAL

**Soft Music- optional** (*guitar or any instruments you have in your house if none, sound of spoons, glass or any utensils will do*)

**Song:** Come, Holy Spirit, I need you (I to we)

Come, Holy Spirit, I need you (I to we)

Come, Holy Spirit, I pray

Come in your strength and your power

Come in your own special way

Come like a spring in the desert

Come to the weary of soul

Lord, as strength to my weakness

Touch me and make me whole

Come as a rest to the weary

Come as a balm to the sore

Come, Lord, as strength to my weakness

Fill me with joy evermore

**Opening Sentences: Psalm 46:1-3:** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**Opening Prayer:**

O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast Love.

We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy.

May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell in us now. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

**+Opening Song:**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Isaac Watts, 1719

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home.

**Call to Confession:**

Leader: There is something wrong in us and around us. Let us admit it. We know better than we do. Let us confess then the failures of our love and the confusion of our lives.

**Prayer of Confession: (Unison)**

Our Parent God, we know how often our world is torn by hatred and misunderstanding, and we know how much this pains you. We know that we are not personally responsible for all of this tornness, but we also know we stand guilty for some of it. There had been times when we have been quick to accuse and slow to forgive. There have been times when we have let small differences mushroom into vast difficulties while at the same time we ignore important understandings that should be drawing us together in love. For our tendency to push hate before

love and angry accusation before patient understanding, forgive us God. In Christ's name we pray.

### **Assurance of Pardon:**

**Joel 2:12-13:** "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity."

### **Family sharing of experiences/feelings/thoughts on the Pandemic**

#### **Pandemic Prayer** (from Christianity Today)

Great God, you are an ever-present help in times of trouble, and that's why we're praying now. We are troubled and we're worried things are going to get more troubling. This virus is spreading around the world: so many are seriously ill or will be seriously ill, so many health care systems are stretched or will be stretched. Be with front line medical workers, give them courage to do their work and keep them safe. Be with public health officials as they make decisions for the common good, and politicians as they roll those decisions out. Help us to be kind to one another, because anxiety can make us snappy. Help our communities to be resilient and expansive as we reach out to help all who are isolated and afraid. In these times of shutdowns and slowdowns, when travel is restricted or banned, as routines are disrupted and we spend less time together or more time together, help us zero in on what is essential. Thank you that love is also contagious and stronger than any virus. You will be with us, and we will be with each other in sickness and in health. Amen.

#### **Response: What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (HFJ # 215)**

What a friend we have in Jesus all our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer

#### **Scripture Readings**

> **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

> **Mathew 21:1-11**

**Song** (*this is optional*)

**Reflection** (*Can be done by the father/mother or any member of the family or they can have their sharing on the given texts*)

## Silence

**Song: “Alaala sa Pagkain HFJ#250 or Sa Harap ng Pagkain HFJ#35) or any familiar song**

## Celebration of the Agape Meal

**Invitation:** “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:51

The Different kinds of food are placed on the table or if the food are already on the table they have to open

**Prayer** (*small candles can be placed at the center of the table and will be lighted-this is optional*)

**Prayer:** Blessed are you, Lord our God. You sent your Son Jesus Christ to be a light for all peoples: a light for the path of discipleship; a light to reveal the dignity of all people; a light of healing, teaching, and forgiveness; a light to show the power of nonviolent love on the cross. Send your Spirit to open our eyes to your presence in the world. You free our hands to lead others to the radiant splendor of your mercy and truth. Be with us in this meal and bless us with the fullness of life and joy. To you alone the glory and praise, forever and ever.

**Blessing of the Food:** (Salamat Panginoon HFJ#34 the song is optional)

Reader 1: (Lifting the platter of Rice):

Blessed are You, O Creator God, Who brings forth grains from the fields.

Song: Salamat Panginoon sa Kanin na ‘yong binigay in-si-na-li-dumaay)

Reader 2: (Lifting the plate of Fish or any sea food)

Blessed are You, O Creator God, Who brings forth fish from the sea.

Song: Salamat Panginoon sa isda na’yong binigay in-si-na-lidumaay)

Reader 3: (Lifting the plate of vegetables)

Blessed are You, O Creator God, Who brings forth vegetables from the earth

Song: Salamat Panginoon sa gulay na ‘yong binigay in-si-na-li-dumaay)

Reader 4: (Lifting the plate of meat)

Blessed are You, O Creator God, Who brings forth beasts from the field

Song: Salamat Panginoon sa ulam/karne na ‘yong binigay in-si-na-lidumaay)

Reader 5: (Lifting the pitcher of water/glass of water or juice)

Blessed are You, O Creator God, Who brings forth water from the spring

Song: SalamatPanginoon sa tubig na ‘yong binigay in-si-na-lidumaay)

Reader 6: (Lifting the plates of fruits)

Blessed are You, O Creator God, Who brings forth fruits from the trees

Song: Salamat Panginoon sa prutas na 'yong binigay in-si-na-lidumaay)

**Unison:** We praise You, O God, for all these gifts and for all the blessings You gave us when you adorned the whole creation with such a variety of living things, through your Child, Jesus Christ, our Savior, through whom your glory will come to You throughout the unending succession of ages. Amen.

### **Sharing of the Meal (the family can now share the food)**

#### **After the Meal**

**Song: First Stanza** ( Now thank we all our God)

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

#### **Litany**

**Leader:** We are not called to be fearful, we are called to love

**Response:** We are not called to be perfect, we are called to be faithful

**Leader:** We are not called to be fearless, we are called to be obedient.

**Response:** We are not called to be all-knowing, we are called to believe

**Leader:** We are not called to claim, we are called to give

**Response:** We are not called to be victorious, we are called to be courageous.

**Leader:** We are not called to lord it over others, we are called to serve.

**All:** For it is in serving that we shall reign,

**Leader:** it is through courage that we shall find victory

**Parents:** it is through giving all that we shall gain all

**Children:** it is in believing that we shall find certainty

**Leader:** it is in obedience that we shall overcome

**Response:** it is in faithfulness that we shall find perfection

**Leader:** it is in loving that we shall dispel fear

**All:** it is in slavery to Christ and his justice

**Ritual of Healing** (can be done here the mother or father can) any medicinal oil can be used to anoint any member of the “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up” (Jas. 5:14, 15).

**Oil:** Oil was used as a commodity of trade or personal income, for various kinds of common daily consumption (as part of the bread diet in tabernacle grain offerings, as fuel for lamps in the tabernacle, or homes, as a lubricant for one's hair and skin, sometimes with a special sense of honor, as an aromatic substance, as a medication, or in healing contexts, for royal and religious ritual procedures , and in figurative expressions (e.g., for fertility and prosperity [Deut 33:24](#) ; Job 29:6 "oil of joy" [ [Psalm 45:7](#) ; [Isa 61:3](#) ; Heb 1:9 ]).

Hymn

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain

2 If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." Refrain

Closing Prayer (any member of the family) or

+Closing Prayer (Unison)

We have gathered here today, Lord God as your children to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship. We have fed on your Word, been refreshed through sharing in the fellowship meal, we have felt the encircling of your Spirit around this fellowship and around individual lives. May we continue to know your presence and power in this very trying time. Amen.

Soft Music

## Alternate Songs

### First Song

“As we Gather” instead of Come Holy Spirit

As we gather may your spirit work within us  
As we gather may we glorify your name  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship  
We'll be blest because we came  
(Repeat)

We'll be blest because we came  
We'll be blest because we came

The steadfast love of the lord never ceases  
His mercy's never come to an end  
They are new every morning  
New every morning  
Great is thy faithfulness oh lord great is thy faithfulness  
(Repeat)

### Opening Song

“We Gather Together” instead of O God our help in ages past

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;  
The pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us,  
O God be present with us, and make your will known

Beside us to guide us, O God we perceive you  
Ordaining, maintaining the power of life  
Yes, yours be the glory, let all tell the story  
Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife

May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant

Defend us, befriend us, whatever may be

May your congregation escape tribulation

+Closing Song

“Until All Are Fed” instead of There is a Balm in Gilead

Tune by: Sally Morris & Bryan F. McFarland

Text by: Thomas A. Brown & Bryan F. McFarland

1. How long will we sing? How long will we pray? How long will we write and send?  
How long will we bring? How long will we stay? How long will we make amends?

REFRAIN

Until all are fed we cry out. Until all on earth have bread. Like the One who loves us each &  
every one... We serve until all are fed.

2. How long will we talk How long will we prod? How long must we fret and hoard?  
How long will we walk to tear down this facade? How long? How long, O Lord?!

REFRAIN

3. How can we stand by And fail to be aghast? How long 'til we do what's right?  
How could we stand by And choose a lesser fast? How long 'til we see the light?

REFRAIN

4. On the green, green grass they gathered long ago. To hear what the Master said.  
What they had they shared - some fishes and some loaves. And they served until all were fed.

REFRAIN

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Sources:

Book of Common Worship by – Prof. Lydia Niguidula

Worship Book-prepared by Presbyterian Church(USA)

Lutheran Book of Worship

UCCP Hymnal of Faith Journey

Chalice Hymnal

[www.worship.com](http://www.worship.com)