

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES  
CELEBRATING THE 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Theme: Affirming the strength of our unity and mission at 72<sup>nd</sup> and  
Moving towards UCCP's 75<sup>th</sup>, Our Diamond Jubilee*

May 23-25, 2020

**LITURGICAL RESOURCES**

**SUGGESTED LITURGY**

72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Sunday -May 24, 2020

**WE COME TO PRAISE**

**Prelude**

**Sound to Gather** (*Any instrument if possible indigenous like bamboo instruments/ budjong and others*)

**Greetings /Community Concerns and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**“Umari O Katawhan”** **HFJ#80**  
**Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1971**  
**(CAN BE SUNG SOLO OR DUET)**

**Lighting of Christ Candle ( One Candle represents the Unity of Christ or you can also light the three candles representing the Trinity)**

**Introit:**

**“Awitan Ta ang Dios”** **HFJ # 75**  
**Words and Music: Dr. Jonathan Paa, 1992**  
**(CAN BE SUNG BY CHOIR OR CONGREGATION)**

**+Opening Sentences**

**Leader 1:** Today we gather to celebrate the 72 years of God's gracious acts for US, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. As God has called people to Himself, guided them through life, and brought many of us in this Church we are reminded of God's saving acts to us as His children and as a community of Faith.

**Lighting the Seven Candles- (REPRESENTING THE SEVEN JURISDICTIONS)**

**+Opening Prayer**

**Leader 2:** Here we are Lord standing before You. Gathered together to praise You and worship You. This is Your day God and the day of our Church and so we thank you for giving us this day. Help us to always remember that each day is a blessing and a gift from You. Help us also to always remember the beginnings of who we are as a United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Be with in our midst now and help us to feel Your presence as we celebrate both your day and the day of UCCP. Amen.

**+Opening Hymn**

**Ating Purihin ( O Let us Praise God) HFJ # 6**

Words: Danilo C. Sanchez : Eng. Transl. Reuel Norman O. Marigsa 2020  
Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

**WE COME TO RECALL OUR BEGINNINGS**

*(Here an excerpt of our UCCP History can be read responsibly by the congregation and for every paragraph the response can be*

- **Ay, salidumay let us give thanks to God or the refrain of Blessed Assurance**
- **This is our story, this is our song. Praising my savior all the day long (2X)**

*(or the minister can read the whole UCCP History and at the end of the reading the congregation can sing the refrain of*

**(“That’s Why we are UCCP)**

**WE COME TO CONFESS OUR SHORTCOMINGS**

**Call to Confession:**

**Leader 1:** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:18) Let us admit our brokenness to God.

**Prayer of Confession (UCCP HFJ #410)**

Leader: God you know who we are; you know our selfishness  
Our anger and bitterness, our fear and apathy  
Our hardness of heart, our deliberate blindness  
Our need to begin.

**WE COME TO RECEIVE AND SHARE GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Minister 2:** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**Passing of Peace**

**“Caribbean Halleluiah**

**WE COME TO REFLECT ON GOD’S WORD**

**Thru the**

- **Scripture**
- **Anthem (UCCP Virtual Choir)“If no choir/ the congregation can sing “  
A United and Uniting Church” HFJ #244**
- **Sermon**

**WE COME TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (ALL)**

(Let us read the UCCP Statement of Faith here) or if it is too long we can read together this part “We believe, that the church is the one Body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God’s ministry.”

**Call to Offering**

**Leader:**

And now, not because we have to, but because we are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, our commitment, our prayers.

**Offering of Gifts**

**Offering of Talents (if there is a choir another anthem/ if none any member of the church can offer his/her talent)**

**+Doxology**

**+Offertory Prayer (All)**

We offer our gifts to you, Lord, with grateful, cheerful hearts. Thank you that you meet our needs on our journey as a church, providing what we need when we need it. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others, and we do this joyfully, together, today, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

**WE COME TO OFFER OUR THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

*(the Litany of thanksgiving prepared by Dr. Ferdie Anno can be inserted here)*

*For every reading the song “ Why We are UCCP” can be sung as a response)*

**WE NOW DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD**

**+Closing Hymn** Faith in the Service of the People” HFJ 306

**Litany of Ministry** HFJ # 442 (No Need of this if the litany prepared by Dr. Ferdie is already used.)

**+Benediction (HFJ #444)**

Minister: The God in Jesus Christ is with you.  
People: And also with you  
Minister: Go and receive the blessing  
Of earth, of life and story  
Of parents, of heroes and martyrs of the faith  
Of the promise of liberation and abundance  
Of God’s Reign

**+Response** “Seven Fold Amen” or

(THE REFRAIN of “*Why We are UCCP” or of the Hymn A United and Uniting Church* )

**+Postlude**

**Sound of Instrument/s (INDIGENOUS INSTRUMENTS)**

Sources: Bible, Hymnal of Faith Journey

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Acknowledgement

*This liturgical guide is prepared by Rev. Dr. Jeaneth Harris-Faller, Dean, Silliman University Divinity School, Dumaguete City. We are grateful for this contribution.*

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**CALLS TO WORSHIP, PRAYERS, BLESSINGS**

**A CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the midst our anxieties, fears, and weeping.

BLESS YOUR NAME O GOD!

In our homes, chapels, and quarantined spaces.

WE BLESS YOUR NAME O GOD

In the midst of our inability to commune and worship you as congregations of your faithful

WE BLESS YOUR NAME O GOD

In the midst of our confusions and perplexities, we remember those moments of our beginnings as a united church and we are grateful

WE REMEMBER OUR INITIATION INTO THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND WE ARE GRATEFUL

Great is the name of our God who is always with us wherever we are and in whatever circumstance; who daily break bread with us in our homes and communities; and who is with us now as we pause to remember, give thanks, and celebrate!

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS O GOD!

**COLLECT**

God of our beginnings, Help us remember the vision That gave birth to our Church. Refresh us with the spirit that led our Church into sharing her life for the life of the world. AMEN.

**A THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Most merciful God, we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for your faithfulness to every generation of faithfuls from the time of our founding as a church. You have gifted our forebears with a vision that was inspired by the very prayer of Jesus that we may be one even as He was one with You.

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD. YOUR MERCY AND LOVE ENDURE FOREVER

You have implanted in the heart of your church a passion for mission to reach out to people and all created reality, bringing the good news to those who need God the most, the downtrodden, and the afflicted

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD. YOUR MERCY AND LOVE ENDURE FOREVER

you have sown in our very soul the spirit of openness and radical hospitality that celebrate your most gracious and unconditional love for everyone, including those marginalized by our indifference, apathy, ignorance if not putrid biases and prejudices;

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD. YOUR MERCY AND LOVE ENDURE FOREVER

you have formed in us a mind that is convicted by your truth and justice, and devoted to the discernment of your will for us in our time.

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD. YOUR MERCY AND LOVE ENDURE FOREVER You have raised us as a household seeking communion with Christ's many other flocks, seeking unity amidst the diversity that we have in our world.

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD. YOUR MERCY AND LOVE ENDURE FOREVER

You have nurtured in us a spirituality that draws life from none but your ever creative breathing, that draws wisdom from the sages and saints of our faith, that draws courage from your prophets, that draws passion and inspiration from the life and ministry of Jesus and draws hope and power from and in the promise of the risen Christ.

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD. YOUR MERCY AND LOVE ENDURE FOREVER

In our act of remembering, O God, help us to be the Church in our time as the whole planet faces the challenge of the global contagion. May we be able to share all the gifts that we have received from you: our spirit of solidarity, our passion for others, our radical hospitality, our prophetic boldness, our spirit-inspired discernment, and our self-giving spirituality in the service of our neighbors and the wider community. Let our home churches at the moment be an expression of the Church that Christ has brought into being and the Spirit has led through the decades.

HELP US BECOME THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THESE CRITICAL TIMES, O GOD. GRANT US CREATIVITY AND RESOURCEFULNESS, PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE, PASTORAL COMPASSION AND PROPHETIC TONGUE THAT WE MAY BECOME LIGHT AND LEAVEN IN OUR WORLD STARTING FROM OUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOOD The Kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. AMEN.

#### **CLOSING SENTENCES (Dismissal and Blessing)**

A united and uniting Church WE SEEK TO DESTROY THE WALLS THAT SEPARATE US FROM ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD BRIDGES OF RECONCILIATION A reformed and reforming Church WE SEEK TO BUILD A NEW AND JUST WORLD AND A GREEN EARTH FOR ALL CREATION A

shepherd Church to God's people WE COMMIT TO BECOMING WITNESSES OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES TODAY, IN OUR QUARANTINED WORLD.

The God who called us to become light and blessing to others; the God who in Jesus Christ summoned us to be one and united with God and with one another; the God who in the Spirit continues to comfort, empower, and enable us for service be our companion now and always as we continue to make our light shine in these critical times. AMEN

### LIGHTING OF CANDLES....

We light this candle to celebrate our devotion to holy living that is constantly nourished by meal and the Spirit; and to Christian unity in things essential, liberty in things non-essential, and charity in all things

#### ... the Fourth Candle:

We light this candle to celebrate the passion of a church whose heart is forever strangely warmed, that regards the world as its parish and social holiness as its pursuit

#### ... the Fifth Candle:

We light this candle to celebrate the love and hospitality of a church that embraces everyone and excludes no one; the love of a church that seeks to build a society that is compassionate, just, and free.

#### The Paschal Candle :

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit (Jn 15:5)

We light this candle, the candle of the living Christ in whom we were made one, for whom we serve, and with whom we give ourselves that the world may live and live life to the full.

Suggested song for the rite: "Many Are the Light Beams"

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*Note: This liturgical resources are prepared by Rev. Dr. Ferdinand Anno, Professor at Union Theological Seminary, Dasmarinas, Cavite. Our appreciation and thanks.*  
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*In commemoration of UCCP 72nd Anniversary  
May 25, 2020*

**“POREUOMAI”**

(pronounced as “por-yoo’-om-ahee”)

“Poreuomai” is a Greek word for “Go”, said by Jesus when He commissioned His disciples;  
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)

By Pastor Richelle E. Himoya  
April 17, 2020

I.

Five loaves of bread united in one steam of leaves.  
Five oars in one boat, rows in a dove’s direction.  
Five churches came to unite, UCCP was tied with;  
The peacemakers of that in the PRESBYTERIANS,  
A congruous faith with the CONGREGATIONALIST,  
With the devotees of that in the DISCIPLES (The Church of Christ).  
With the unfailing might of the EVANGELICAL,  
Ever-living breath of the UNITED BRETHREN,  
With one old rugged cross in our hands, we go! (May 25, 1948)

II.

A song might ask, “Why We Are UCCP”?  
We cast; “A United and Uniting Church”,  
We are coat in the glowing garment of faith,  
We are vested with a growing seed of faith,  
Our salt’s care that does not have a tasteless touch,  
The lamp that smiles in the life’s crying darkness,  
Good soil in His yard where seeds go, thrown, and grow.  
A koinonia as small as Zacchaeus,  
But we never say no for a cause to go.

III.

UCCP’s long flowing history like Mississippi’s long flowing river.  
Commitment was unitedly locked in a foundation block.  
Six rocking FAITH STATEMENTS of UCCP builds the church’s rock;  
WE BELIEVE in the homage of God’s image in which we felt in our pilgrimage,  
WE BELIEVE in God’s appearance as a resemblance of a Christlikeness heritage,  
WE BELIEVE that the Church is one and united Body of Christ that portrays Him.  
WE BELIEVE that the Bible is Holy, showing God’s Glory in humanity,  
WE BELIEVE that the kingdom of God gives freedom from doom, the fearing tomb of sin.  
WE BELIEVE that Christ’s resurrection is our salvation from evil’s dominion.

IV.

Go! like soaring wings of an eagle that flies with eagerness,  
Goes to foredoom the world's doom with God's looming Word of freedom,  
We move with faith and without failing into fears,  
Blowing sound of going, growing, glowing seeds of Faith, we go!  
The ocean storms and the indescribable fiery spirit in store us.  
In tears of conflict in a day,  
A cheer of hope in a month,  
The praise of joy in our years,

Are where we grow, a Church who continuously say yes for a "go!".

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## RESOURCES FOR MUSIC AND HYMN SUGGESTIONS

### O GOD WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FREEDOM

Deborrah Reyes & Ferdinand Anno

Music link: <https://web.facebook.com/messages/t/2942345222488674>



INTO: G-A7-D; G-A7-Bm

D                    A7        Bm  
O God we thank you for your freedom  
G                    G            A- A7  
A freedom oh so sweet to sing  
D                    A7        Bm  
It breathes life to the forlorn alleys  
G                    A7        Bm

And to the poor it brings release

REFRAIN

G A D- D7  
No heights and mountains are too high

G A D-D7  
No seas and deserts are too wide

G A D Fm  
No storm and hostiles whose might are strong

Fm Bm  
enough

G A Bm  
The full life to [our people/the masses] tell

G A7 Bm  
The good news unto people share

O God we thank you for the courage  
To stand for what is just and true  
And like the salt and light that we all are  
We march onward from Galilee

O God you are to us so gracious  
Your table is so widely spread  
There is no one who is excluded  
This hospitality we'll share

O God we thank you for your summons  
To hum our hymns of unity  
To walk and hold hands with our neighbors  
Forever in community