



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES
RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR
LENT CELEBRATION

"Bringing Good News of Light and Hope to the
Masses in these Changing Times"

FOREWORD

The entire Christendom commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the combined liturgical events of Lent and Easter. The Easter Day being the highpoint of the liturgical celebration after the six weeks long Lenten Season. In so many ways, the UCCP as a reformed church is oriented in giving too much emphasis to the triumph of God over the grave and the powers of evil on Easter Day.

Meanwhile, other Christian churches give emphasis on the *via dolorosa* and *via crucis* or the way of suffering and the way of death on the cross. Thus *lenten* literally means the lengthening of the days as the coming of spring after the long winter days. For us who live in the tropics it is the rising of atmospheric temperatures that rises up to 40 degrees Celsius that signals the coming of the Holy Week.

Our UCCP Calendar describes Lent as the time of repentance and reflection for the coming of Easter. In the Early Church is the time to prepare converts for baptism. In contemporary times, believers focus on assessing their relationships with God in Jesus Christ, often choosing to give up something, or the giving of themselves for greater service to God and neighbors.

This year's Lent liturgical resource material is made possible through the dedicated work of our Christian Education Curriculum Development Team with the able leadership of Rev. Annabelle Uriarte and the assistance of the Rev. Homar Distajo our new Executive Secretary for the Laity and Local Church Development Ministries (LLCDM). I am grateful as well to all the writers, contributors and support staff who made it possible to publish this material.

We hope that our church workers and the laity will use this material with fervent prayers that the ideas, reflections and gifts of fellow believers found therein will influence our continuing conversion into the life, ministry, passion and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. +

Rev. Frank J. Hernando
Executive Secretary, OGS

“Bringing the Good News of Light and Hope to the Masses in these Changing Times”

E.Y. 2021-2022 Theme

A LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

Ash Wednesday

February 17,2021

Prepared by Rev. Annabelle A. Uriarte of LLCDM-CEN

Sub-theme “...to dust we shall return”

Biblical Text: Isaiah 58:3-5

Notes for Preparation

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. All believers are enjoined to journey through this season with introspection, repentance and acknowledgment of our weaknesses and shortcomings in all aspects of our Christian life. For Ash Wednesday worship service the following elements should be prepared:

- Christ candle
- Ashes

Words for Preparation:

“All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.” *Ecclesiastes 3:20*

Prelude

Greetings

Minister: “Jesus came to bring the good news to the poor, to feed the hungry, for the blind to see and the lame to walk; to heal the sick and liberate the oppressed; to proclaim the year of the Lord.”

Song of Affirmation

”More About Jesus”

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 143

More about Jesus would I know, more of his grace to others show;
More of his saving fullness seem, More of his love who died for me.

Refrain: More, more about Jesus; more, more, about Jesus

More of his saving fullness see, more of his love who died for me.

More about Jesus we learn, more of his holy will discern

Spirit of God, my teacher be, showing the things of Christ to me (Refrain)

More about Jesus in His Word, holding communion with my Lord;

Hearing his voice in every line, making each faithful saying mine.(Refrain)

Litany of Confession

Isaiah 58

Liturgist: “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

People: Have mercy on us Lord, have mercy on us!

Liturgist: “Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.”

People: Have mercy on us Lord, have mercy on us!

Liturgist: “Look, you fast only to quarrel and fight and to strike with a wicked fist.”

People: Have mercy on us Lord, have mercy on us!

Liturgist: “Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice on high.”

“Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast I choose; to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke?

People: “Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindication shall go before us.”

Song of Confession

“Amazing Grace” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 208

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found
was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
T'is grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Moment of Silent Confession (with instrumental music)

The Ritual to Receive Ashes

Minister: We invite everyone to come and receive ashes as a symbol of our utter penitence
and repentance. Let us humbly receive God's mercy and
forgiveness.

*(People will come forward to kneel (for those who are able) and as the ashes are applied on the
forehead, the minister may say,)*

Minister: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Sharing of Concerns and Prayer Requests

Prayer/s of Intercession

Proclamation of the Word

- Reading of the Scripture
- Song Offering
- Message

Response to the Word

Call to Offering

Liturgist: Despite the darkness we experience in every aspect of our lives, God never ceases to
amaze us with blessings beyond what we expected. Our most appropriate response is to
give back as an offering our lives, gifts and other symbols of gratitude and praise.
Let us now humbly give our offerings.

The Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, in these times where darkness dwells among us, Your sustaining grace gives us glimpse of hope enabling us to overcome adversities. Accept our gifts, we humbly pray. Accept our lives, we humbly offer. for your glory and honor. Amen

Hymn of Healing and Forgiveness “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” HFJ,212

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin
How shall my tongue describe it? Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.
Refrain:
Wonderful the matchless grace, the matchless grace of Jesus
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea,
Wonderful grace, all sufficient for me, for even me,
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
greater than all my sin and shame,
O magnify the precious name of Jesus, Praise His name!

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost,
By it I have been pardoned, saved to the utter most,
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. (Refrain)

Prayer of Dedication (Minister)

Benediction

Minister: You who are the source of blessings,

People: Bless us.

Minister: You who are the source of light,

People: Enlighten us.

Minister: You who are the source of hope,

People: strengthen us.

Minister: The Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer speaks to us:

Receive my blessing. Receive the light and hope I give you.

Awaken to love; go now and do what God tells you to do.

I will be with you all through this day. Amen

Postlude

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First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Prepared by Rev. Jhosana Sabandal-Morales of ACS-Southeast Mindanao Jurisdiction

Sub-theme: “Search Me, O God”

Biblical References: (NRSV) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-14, 23-24

The Inescapable God

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any wicked^[c] way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.^[d]

NOTES FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

This Sunday, we celebrate the First Sunday in Lent. Worship services done at home or face-to-face at the church's sanctuary may have these symbols:

- **Purple cloth or pulpit hanging.** It is the color of penitence as we look and examine ourselves because of sin, apathy, greed, and others.
- **White candle** (which symbolizes the light of God), **Bible, Cross and flowers** are always relevant symbols,
- extra **ashes** used during Ash Wednesday may still be put on the altar to connect us to the first day of the celebration of the Season of Lent. It will continue to remind us that from ashes we were created, to ashes we shall return. Thus, we should continue to examine where we fail and seek God's light through His forgiveness.

SHORT REFLECTION

Confidence in the Lord's ability to discern the nature and needs of the people comes from a belief in God who is the Source of everything. God is the Creator, and God's creative concerns include individuals! All of God's works are wonderful, but believer senses more than any other part of God's creation that he personally is "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Yes! It is true that humans are wonderfully made, but the rest of God's creation are also beautiful. Each creature is uniquely created. Therefore, this affirmation of how wonderfully humans were made did not give them the liberty to think that they are the center of power and the one who holds full authority over the others. But if this happens (because it really happens that humans think this way), it is very appropriate to seek God and allow God to examine the heart and the mind and the wicked ways of feeling and thinking of humans.

The normal human response when caught doing something wrong is to run away and hide. But God's light sees all. In this psalm, David felt God's light. That light compels him to totally submit himself to the Lord.

David have committed many wrongs before God. He committed adultery, murder, treachery, and more, but were exposed in God's light through the prophets. God disciplined him and cleansed him. In the end, before God's eyes, David was a good man, not because he was perfect but because he chose to be humble and submitted himself to God to search him thoroughly. This is why David urges God saying, "Search me! Know my heart! Find my hidden offenses."

This is not everyone's response when sin is committed. So, this first Sunday in the season of Lent, we are called to make David our example on how to humble ourselves before God. Like him, let us convince ourselves that only God knows fully who we are and the extensiveness of our transgression against Him, against our fellow and His creation. Since nothing is hidden from God,

He is also the only One who can forgive and justify us to be free from all sins we have committed, provided also that we need to honestly confess and remorse of all the wrongs we have done.

THE ACT OF PREPARATION AND PRAISE...

Moment of Silent Reflection

"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things:
that I am a great sinner — and that Christ is a great Savior!"
-John Newton, author of popular hymn, "Amazing Grace."

Prelude and Processional

Lighting of Christ Candle and Opening of the Bible

Song of Preparation

"O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME"
(by Bernadette Farrell)

O God, You search me and You know me; All my thoughts lie open to Your gaze
When I walk or lie down You are before me; Ever the Maker and Keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising; You discern my purpose from afar
And with love everlasting You besiege me; In every moment of life or death, You are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord; You have known its meaning through and through
You are with me beyond my understanding; God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although Your Spirit is upon me; Still I search for shelter from Your light
There is nowhere on earth I can escape You; Even the darkness is radiant in Your sight.

For You created me and shaped me; Gave me life within my mother's womb
For the wonder of who I am, I praise You. Safe in Your hands, all creation is made new.

Greetings and Community Concerns

Response (sung) "PANANAGUTAN"

Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang
Walang sinuman ang namamatay para sa sarili lamang.
Tayong lahat ay may pananagutan sa isa't-isa.
Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Dios na kapiling Nya.

++Call to Celebration

Leader: Every moment, our God knows us. If we are lost, God searches us and knows us fully

well.

People: God is our life.

Leader: Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

People: More food, more money, more power, more wealth!

Leader: God created us not to crave for “more” and to walk in darkness, but to be God’s light to the darkened world. Today we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

People: That there are more suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.

Leader: So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of “more”:

People: And to celebrate that we do not need “more” when we have everything in Christ.

Leader: Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God’s Spirit, which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

People: Thanks be to God!

++Opening Prayer (Leader)

God of life,

God of newness,

God of hope,

God of light,

we rejoice in Your loving kindness and grace

which filled creation from the beginning and makes all life complete.

We praise You for creating us wonderfully and fearfully

in Your creation we see Your hands who made us into who we are.

Every day we face the darkness within ourselves,

our homes and the world.

But amidst life’s circumstances and doubts

Your truth endures beyond our weakness, for You are the fullness of life itself. And so,

with deep gratitude in our hearts,

we offer You our adoration and praise now and always,

through Christ Jesus, Amen.

++Hymn of Celebration

“LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING” HFJ #113

(Words by Charles Wesley and Music by John Zundel)

Love, divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.

Fix in us a humble dwelling, all Your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, You are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.

Visit us with Your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, o breathe Your loving Spirit into every troubled breast

Let us all in You inherit, let us find Your promised rest

Take away our love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more Your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love You as Your angels love,
Pray and praise for Your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish then, Your new creation, pure and spotless may we prove.
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in You;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints we ever shall be lost in wonder, love and praise.

THE ACT OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS...

Call to Confession (Leader)

At this moment, may I invite each one of us to open our right hand and put it on our breast where our heart beats. (*encourage the congregation to do it*)

Let us feel the beat of our heart. We may close our eyes as we do it.

In silence, let us confess all our sins and allow God to examine deeply our heart. Let God search the inmost part of our being. Let God see the wicked part of our lives.

(right palm will be put on top of the breast (heart) and it will be taken away during the singing of the response to the assurance of pardon)

Silent Prayer of Confession

Song of Trust **“SEARCH ME, O GOD”** HFJ #216 (*1st & 2nd stanzas*)
(Words by J. Edwin Orr and Music by Maori Melody)

Search me, O God, and know my heart today,
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray;
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.

I praise You, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill Your Word and make me pure within;
Fill me with fire, where once I burned in shame;
Grant my desire to magnify Your name.

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Leader: Compassionate God, You delight to give hope and light to the world so that it may live in beauty and harmony. But we fail in many ways to live up to Your light. Many times, we choose to live in darkness especially when we look at ourselves as the center of power and the one who holds full authority over the others. We live in darkness at times when the work of the flesh like immorality, hatred, jealousy, fits of

rage, selfish ambition, envy, and the like dominate our heart and mind.

People: *Forgive us, dear God!*

Leader: Creator God, help us to recognize that we are in darkness when we fail to show genuine concern for others and of Your creation; when we spoil Your rivers and we do not care about planting trees that would prevent floods and landslides.

People: *Examine our heart, dear God, and help us to let Your light shine upon us.*

Leader: Faithful God, help us to realize that we are in darkness when we keep on accumulating wealth yet we refuse to share Your blessings to those who are in need and we do not care to give our tithes faithfully.

People: *Forgiving God, we trust Your grace and unending mercies. Restore us to live in Your image and likeness by doing Your justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with You every day. Guide us to remember that from ashes we were created and to ashes we shall return. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.*

Song of Trust

“SEARCH ME, O GOD” - HFJ #216 - (3rd & 4th stanzas)
(Words by J. Edwin Orr and Music by Maori Melody)

Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Yours;
Fill my poor heart with Your great love so pure;
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.

O Holy Ghost, revival comes from You;
Send a revival, will me to renew;
Your Word declares You will supply our need;
For blessing now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister)

Hear and believe the good news! When your heart beats, it means you are alive and God is in you because God is life! Enjoy the gift of life. Experience peace as the fruit of God's forgiveness. Truly, you are now a new creation. The old life is gone. The new life has come. Know that you are forgiven, and so, in Christ, choose to live in His light.

Response (sung) **“CARRIBEAH HALLELUIAH”**

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Pastoral Prayer

Response (sung) **“O HEAR OUR PRAYER ” HFJ #83**

O hear our pray'r Almighty God, in faith and trust we make our plea.
O hear our pray'r, O loving God. As is Your will, so let it be. So let it be.

THE ACT OF LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

++ The Reading of the Scripture
Message Through Anthem
Message Through the Spoken Words

Response to the Meditation through Faith Affirmation (all)

WE BELIEVE

That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.

That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith they are redeemed in Jesus Christ.

That being entrusted with God's creation, they are called to participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.

THE ACT OF RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE!

Call to Offering

We all have something to share because God has faithfully poured out upon us countless blessings. As we present our gifts and offerings at this time of worship, let us recall that what we share enables us to share God's love to others. Let us be free from greed, let us give faithfully and joyfully.

Offering of Life, Labor and Talent

++*Doxology*

++*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Faithful God, we thank You for helping us to choose Your way of giving. We thank You for Your grace that brings us out from the darkness of greed to Your light of faithful giving. Let these gifts be like food and drink for others and our life of service become an expression of Your successful searching into our souls. May these offerings strengthen us to be more mindful in doing Your mission. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

++ Hymn of Commitment

“IF IT IS YOUR DESIRE TO SERVE JESUS” HFJ #304

(Vicente Mar Aguila/Eliseo M. Pajaro; Eng. Trans.: Bp. Reuel Norman O. Marigza)

If it is your desire to serve Jesus in the world,
Your life you must yield and give.
All who seek their delight in the service of the Lord,
Peace and gladness will receive.

Refrain:

Real joy and grace you will gain if Christ is at your side.
His light to you will remain, a constant help and guide.

If your life is a failure to Jesus you should trust,
You will flourish in His care.
Truly serve Jesus Christ and your happiness will last,
All God's blessings you will share.

Praise our Lord, Jesus Christ, you who serve Him with delight,
Praise our Lord who seeks and finds.
Let us open our hearts and invite Christ to reside
In our souls and hearts and minds.

++Closing Prayer and Benediction

Response (sung): "IF IT IS YOUR DESIRE TO SERVE JESUS" HFJ #304
(refrain only)

Refrain:

Real joy and grace you will gain if Christ is at your side.
His light to you will remain, a constant help and guide.

Postlude

Putting Off the Candle and Closing the Bible

Recessional

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References:

- UCC Worship Ways Resource Guide via ucc.org
- UCCP Hymnal of Faith Journey
- Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary, volume 1: Old Testament, by Kenneth L Barker and John R. Kohlengerger III, editors
- internet

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Second Sunday in Lent and Membership Sunday

February 28, 2021

Prepared by Pastor Japhet Kenn Vallera of CMAC- Northwest Mindanao Jurisdictional Area

Sub-Theme: “..they all suffer together”

Biblical Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

One Body with Many Members

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Notes for Worship Preparations

- Church Altar with the following worship symbols:
- Open Bible
- Lighted Christ Candle
- “Me and MY WEAKNESSES” activity.

Things to prepare: rectangular paper cuts, any writing material (pen, colored pen, pencil etc.) and a tape. The worship mood will be meditative, participative and collective in doing repentance; submissive to graciousness of God in admitting our shortcomings as a community of faith.

For a meaningful celebration, the members are to write those issue/factors affecting or hindering their commitment to the life and work of the church (note: should be known to the individual his/her own observation of his/her passiveness to respond to the call of the

church) and those that hinder them to participate in all the church activities may it be family, personal, social or financial issues.

This will help them acknowledge their weakness and turn it into their strength to continue to serve God. Now that they know their weaknesses, they will be able to embrace it and accept it as part of the process of maturing into becoming a true follower of Christ. For the rectangular paper cuts, they will write those words, issues or factors hindering them to participate in church activities, and using the tape they will put it in any parts of the body (note: this is a dyad activity, partners are given the prerogative as to how many they will write.)

SHORT REFLECTION

We are given the knowledge that being committed in our relationship with God implies obedience to God's will. For obedience will lead us to become more faithful to the will of the Lord. It is not just by going to church every Sunday, joining midweek services or even joining other religious services, but rather it is about how we fulfill the works of God in this secular society we are living; guided by the teachings of Jesus. This calls us to become more passionate in participating in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Being committed in our relationship to God also implies a sincere devotion in doing His works in this world, a self that is dedicated to do the righteous acts/deeds that is pleasing and acceptable when we proclaim the goodness of God to all. It calls for an immediate response from us as faithful believers of Jesus Christ to formally start what is right through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Truthfulness is also a means of being committed to Him.

Being committed in our relationship to God allows us to become more truthful and more sincere in our faith in Him. We need to be more passionate in proclaiming and sharing the word of God to others, as well as dedicating our entire life to the ministry of Jesus. Allowing God to use us as a living instrument of spreading His love to all. This is a call for us to not just become a passive member of the church but by acknowledging those boulders in our lives that hinder us to do Christ's mission.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Preparatory Music

Processional *(Soft music is played during the processional)*

Opening Song *“Breathe on me, Breath of God”* **HFJ # 183**

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what you do love, And do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly yours,
Until this earthly part of me Glows with your fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life Of your eternity.

Call to Celebration

Liturgist: Let us come together in the Spirit of the One who unites us all;

People: In the Spirit of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Liturgist: Let us remember that we are God’s chosen people;

People: Chosen to be God’s servants in the world.

Liturgist: We gather because of our common need for renewal.

People: Let us offer acceptable worship to God who renews us for service. Amen

Hymn of Celebration *“The Church that is called by God”* **HFJ #315**

In the church that is called by God,
Where the believers come to worship God
with joy and gladness in their hearts,
For Jesus Christ is the Lord that reigns
in their lives binding them in pureness of his love.

Chorus:

*Praise you, God, you are Lord of humankind
You are Savior of the world
You are savior of us all
Let all people their voices raise to the Lord
Eternal praise, to the Lord eternal praise.*

*In the church that is called by God
Where the believers strive to obey
and serve and to the will of the Lord
in times of ease and in times of great need,
all would follow Christ’s command.*

*In the church that you have called, O God,
Where the believers strive to live in love,
And good will abound with joy and hope,
O strengthen them in your love and spirit, Lord,
And may you be praised forevermore.*

Opening Prayer (All)

Amazing God, may the presence of your Holy Spirit descend upon your Church once more, awakening us and filling us with love and joy and power till Christ's love is alive in every human heart. Amen

Song Response

“Breathe on me, Breath of God”

HFJ # 183

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, To do and to endure.

THE ACT OF PENITENCE

Call to Confession (Leader)

Christ is the mirror revealing us how far we have fallen short of God's perfect love. We must admit our failures before God for this is the only way we can receive new strength to live more effectively. Together, let us confess our shortcomings to God.

Prayer of Confession (All)

God, we come before you knowing we have tried to hide from you, from one another, and from ourselves. Somehow, we have felt that by depending upon our own powers we could solve the problems of life. We have tried to escape by withdrawing from the difficult, the challenging, the crucifying experiences of life. We have become trapped in a meaningless round of insignificant activities while we have avoided missions we should have done. We have strayed far from the fullness of life you have promised us. Forgive us for our self-centeredness, our pride, our weaknesses, our blindness. Have mercy upon us, that we may become your people anew. So be it.

Silent Moment (with soft music)

Assurance of God's Pardon (Minister)

“The mercy of God is everlasting.” Such is the witness of our heritage, which, being interpreted for our times means: now and in every moment our every past is accepted, our future is opened, our every present is offered to us afresh. This is the truth that sets us free.

Song Response. *“Breathe on me, Breath of God”* HFJ # 183

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly yours,
Until this earthly part of me; Glows with your fire.

The Greeting of Peace and Community Concerns

Community Prayer

Song Response *“Breathe on me, Breath of God”* HFJ # 183

Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life Of your eternity.

Scripture Reading

Message Through Song

The Message

*(As part of the message, the pastor can include/integrate the **“ME and MY WEAKNESSES”** activity in his/her sermon before or after the sermon)*

Silent Moment of Meditation

Call to Offering (Leader)

As forgiven, redeemed people of God, let us in response to God’s love offer ourselves, our tithes, pledges and love offering to the Lord for the work of His church.

Offering of Tithes and Pledges, Life and Labour

Offertory Music

****Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

****Prayer of Thanksgiving (All)**

Loving God, before the gifts you have given us, our gifts pale into insignificance. We are almost ashamed to bring these gifts, because they cost us so little. And yet, we know that just as you accept us though we may be unworthy, You accept our gifts. Increase our vision and enlarge our compassion, that we might embrace all the world’s needs as those which demand a response from us, so that in this world we experience and celebrate God’s kingdom. Amen

****Hymn of Dedication *“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”* HFJ # 310**

We’ve a story to tell to the nations,

That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
The kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations,
That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
A song that shall conquer evil
And shatter the spear and sword,
And shatter the spear and sword.

We've a message to give to the nations,
That the Lord who reigns up above
Has sent us His Son to save us
And show us that God is love,
And show us that God is love.

We've a Savior to show to the nations,
Who the path of sorrow has trod,
That all of the world's great peoples
Might come to the truth of God,
Might come to the truth of God.

****Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: The God of all history needs and calls us to be agents of love. We are sent into the world to be concerned and caring people.

People: Send us, God. Send us next door, into the next room, to speak somehow to a human heart beating alongside ours. Send us to be bearers of dignity in a sub-human, hopeless situation. Send us to show joy in a moment and a place where there has been no joy but only the will to die. Send us to reflect your light in the darkness of futility, hopelessness, and the horror of human cruelty. But give us your light, too, God, in our own darkness and need. Amen

BENEDICTION

Minister: Go now, remembering what we have done here. Go, remembering that you are a forgiven people, eternally loved, thoughtfully instructed, gratefully obedient, responding,

and responsible wherever you are. You can never be the same again.

People : We know. We go to be God's people in the world.

Minister: May God's peace and joy go with you. So be it.

All : So be it!

Song Response

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

HFJ # 310

We've a story to tell to the nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.

Refrain:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
The kingdom of love and light.

Postlude

Recessional

REFERENCES:

 **Women and Worship: A Guide to Non-Sexist Hymns, Prayers, and Liturgies** by Sharon Neuffer Emsiler & Thomas Neuffer Emswiler.

 **Hymnal of Faith Journey**

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Third Sunday in Lent/ International Women's Sunday and Communion Sunday
March 7, 2021

Prepared by Rev. Bernadette Susas- Curan of CMAC- Northwest Mindanao Jurisdiction

Sub-Theme : "Woman, Believe Me"

Biblical Text : John 4:7-26

Notes for Worship Preparations

For those who are worshipping via live stream you are encouraged to create a Family Altar with an open Bible, Lighted Christ Candle, flowers, and plants.

Symbols to be used for the worship:

- candle or lamp, Bible and Cross
 - White rose flowers, helium balloons and or caged Doves.
-

WORDS TO PONDER

Imagine a world where all people have equal rights and opportunities. Women and girls are not afraid of walking home late at night, and men and boys are not trapped in oppressive masculinities. In this world, gender equality is the norm. Men and women get paid equally for work of equal value and share the care work at home.

Imagine equality in political leadership, classrooms, corporate boardrooms, and factory floors. Women and girls have equal say in decisions that affect their lives, their bodies, their policies, and their environment, from villages to cities. (Generation of Equality, March 2020)

Preparatory Music “Longing for Lights, We Wait In Darkness”

[\(33\) Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness \(Christ be Our Light\) 16x9 - YouTube](#)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Processional

(while the preparatory music is played the liturgical symbols shall be brought to the altar- the Helium balloons or a caged Doves, cross and white roses)

Call to Celebration

Liturgist: Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice in the God who makes us free.

People: We gather, recognizing that not all human beings, have known this freedom.

Liturgist: Many of our women have been muted to speak for self-expression.

People: We celebrate women's voices, proclaiming wisdom.

Liturgist: Many women were deprived to love and to be loved.

People: *We honor women's lives, forging new paths.*

Liturgist: *Many women who have not given a place to faith expression, leadership, and personal decision in families, church, and community.*

People: *We honor women's lives, forging new paths.*

Liturgist: *Many women are never fully understood, they were not heard and their whole being are fully controlled.*

People: *We anticipate women's vision, calling us into the future.*

Liturgist: *Past, present, and future, our lives join with women everywhere.*

People: *Abused in any forms of violence from her conception to her deathbed.*

Liturgist: *Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery, our destiny in Christ is liberty.*

People: *On this day we celebrate the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere'*

Liturgist: *We are to be faithful to God's call to love all of humanity equally. Today we gather in and among God's throughout the world, and all gathered here, raise our voices in global petition for God's promise of wholeness and fullness of life, to be realized in all our world, in our nations and in our lives. Let us celebrate together to worship God whose love breaks boundaries, isolations, and all forms of discriminations.*

***Hymn of Celebration**

"Sing With Hearts"

HFJ# 17

Refrain: *Sing to God, dance to God, hearts and souls united
Come offer joyful prayers, in melodies and gladness.*

*May every heart open up to you glory,
Let all the heavens hear your heart rejoice
For you are God; you bestow on us graces,
From you begins the music in our voice.
O Lord we sing, with joyful hearts,
With souls and body offer we our arts.*

*May each one's soul blossom out with your beauty,
Let every being feel our loving theme.
For you are God; granted us wisdom.
And you fulfill reality and dream.
O Lord we sing, with joyful hearts,
With souls and body offer we our arts.
May all our bodies resound to your music
Let earth itself move with our feet and hands.
For you are God; you inspire and uplift us
From you there flow all rhythm in our dance.
O Lord we sing, with joyful hearts,
With souls and body offer we our arts.*

****Opening Prayer**

(Unison)

God of love and compassion, we approach you today thankful for all the blessings of this life, love, freedom, bounty, and beauty. The joy we know is beyond our words to speak. We can only image the suffering and pain of human slaves, past and present, which yearn from the depths of the souls to know the freedom we enjoy. We celebrate this day the heritage we have in the cause of human freedom. We celebrate this day our spiritual ancestors who worked for the freedom and faith and keep the commandments and walk in the way that brings life. Amen.

The Call to Confession

Liturgist: The embracing God, have bestowed upon us the breath of life. Let us delight God's continuing protection of life amidst sacrifices and direst of circumstances. We endure and share each other's load amidst life struggles for decent living; to end all kinds of violence inflicted unto us, to our children and in the environment; to continue to inspire others to collectively break our silence. Without ceasing, we will turn our hips and bodies, and use our hands and voices to express our very strong resistance to the injustices and violence of this world. Let us now confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

People: Our parent God, we confess that we too often create labels for women and others instead of trying to understand them. Forgive us for not listening.

Women: Sustaining God, we confess that we too often believe the labels we are given. Forgive us for believing what we are told.

People: We confess that we have created a world that denies women's and other people way of

being. Forgive us for ignoring.

Women: We confess we have failed to speak up for ourselves and our sisters, and the other marginalized to transform the world into a place that allows us to be fully be ourselves. Forgive us for our silence.

People: We confess that we have assumed that we are the norm and ignored those who differ from us. Forgive us for our blinders.

Women: We confess that we often assume that our struggle is not a communal struggle. Forgive us for not sharing our experience with others.

All: In all the ways we have failed to live into the people you created us to be, forgive us, O God.

The Assurance of God's Love and Grace

Minister: The God of who brought the Israelites out of Egypt, is the power that frees us from our sin. Let us live in the grace of God's love as we walk in the way of Jesus and surely we shall find mercy at the end of that road. We know that God reconciles all things to God-self through the incarnation. Therefore, as incarnate beings, we be reconciled to God and be forgiven.

THE DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY TO WOMEN* (Minister)** ***AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PRAYER

Women are a reflection of the glory of God.

Today we honor the women of all times and all places:

Women of courage.

Women of hope.

Women suffering

Women mourning.

Women living fully.

Women experiencing joy.

Women delighting in life.

Women knowing the interconnectedness of the human family.

Women honoring the sacredness of the relational, the affective.

Women quietly tending the garden of human flourishing.

Women boldly leading the transformation of unjust global structures.

Women seeking Wisdom.

Women sharing Wisdom.

Women receiving Love.

Women giving Love.

Women: life-giving.

Women: the image of God.

Loving God, we celebrate your faithfulness and love. On this day we commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere. We know that whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is not of God.

Help us to be faithful to your call to love. Amen.

(Source: Education for Justice)

The Celebration of International Women’s Day

Minister: “All across the nation, all around the world, women are longing to be free. No longer in the shadows, forced to stay behind but side by side in true equality” (“All Across the Nation” 1st stanza, *African Women’s Day Song*)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us declares freedom to women who continue to be undervalued; work more and earn less and have fewer choices; and experience multiple forms of violence at home and in public spaces multiple obstacles remain unchanged in law and in culture. Today Let us also call freedom for those who are being imprisoned with abusive power that hooked them to greediness and took advantage of the most vulnerable in society.

The Symbolic Releasing of Doves or Helium Balloons

(Representative from men, women, children both a boy and a girl, with the pastor/s shall come to the altar and release the dove from the cage or in the absence of the dove a helium balloons will do or do both to symbolize freedom)

Response

“Caribbean Hallelujah”

Halle- halle- halle-lujah! Halle- halle- halle-lujah!

Halle- halle- halle-lujah! Halle- halle- halle-lujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (repeat 3x)

Church and Community Concerns

Community Prayer

Response “We Know That God Will Answer All Our Prayers”

We know that God will answer all our prayers.

We know that God will answer all our prayers.

If we live a holy life, shun the wrong and do the right.

Scripture Reading

Anthem

Message

Silent Moment of Meditation

Call to Offering

Liturgist: As we honor Jesus the Christ who cared for the community and among believers, cares for families, friends, and strangers; we also commit to participate in the endeavor to bring wholeness; in the ministry of reconciliation for the church and the whole world to flourish. Let us participate as we give our offering and the whole of our being to God.

Offering of Life and Labor

****Offertory Response**

“We Give But Your Own” HFJ #93

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift maybe.
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

***Offertory Prayer**

Liturgist: Receive these gifts, O God, bless and sanctify them by your Spirit. Given without ill motives for the purpose of the kingdom building, accept we pray, these our humble offering to you. Amen.

The Celebration of the Lord Supper

****Hymn of Faith** ***“Faith in the Service of the People”*** **HFJ#306**
(Music: Perla S. Dingayan, 1999 Words: Luna Dingayan)

Refrain: *Faith in the service of the people, faith in the service of the poor.*
This is our response to the call of God, faith in the service of the poor.

Peasants of the field have the vision, of land that is rich and free
They till the land from dawn to setting sun, yet they remain to be poor. Refrain

Workers of the cities have the vision, of decent jobs and decent pay,
They have to work like machinery, yet they remain to be poor. Refrain

Women of the land have the vision, of people with dignity,
They work and struggle, caring for their young, hope for a nation that is free. Refrain

Students and the young have the vision, of future that's bright and free,
They work and study, learn the lessons past, hope for a nation that is free. Refrain

People of the church have the vision, of kingdom of God on earth,
A kingdom of justice and righteousness, a kingdom of joy and love. Refrain

Let us come and celebrate together, our joys in the service of God,
And giving thanks for all the work well done, pray for years to come. Refrain

****Benediction**

Minister: May God give us passion and hope in our continuing journey towards all people's liberation- the young and old, the rich and the poor, the oppressed and the oppressors, those who are in power and the powerless, the faithful and the faithless. May we strengthen our unity and embrace the challenge to love, serve and be in solidarity with the poor. Go now in faith, in hope and in love. In the name of the Triune God- Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Response ***“Trees Of the Field ”*** **HFJ #100**
You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace

The mountains and the hills, will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands, and all the trees of the field, will clap their hands
The trees of the field, will clap their hands
The trees of the field, will clap their hands
While you go out with joy

Postlude

REFERENCES:

1. Worship Ways, Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100U
2. UCCP Hymnal of a Faith
3. [IWD – International Women’s Day \(March 8 each year\) | pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au](http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au)
4. Journey https://www.hopepublishing.com/Images/HymnodyPDF/hm_4591.pdf

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Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 20

Prepared by Pastor Joshua Job Salva of CMAC- Northwest Mindanao Jurisdictional Area

Sub-Theme: *“..people loved darkness instead of light..”*

Biblical Text: John 3:19-21

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Notes for Worship Preparations

Worship Materials

1. **Small Pieces of paper** -where they can write experiences and the practices in life that leads them to live in darkness.
2. **Pen/Pencil**-For them to write with
3. **Small Pieces of Candle (with words of hope or encouragement or a verse)**- that will be lit as a symbol of light and hope in Christ
4. **Christ Candle**- symbol of God’s Light and Guidance

5. **Open Bible-** is the very source of our encouragement from God. The revelation of God through Jesus Christ in the history of people.
6. **Cross-** is the symbol of God's love in Jesus Christ; the symbol of salvation and the source of our hope in these trying times.
7. **Clay Pot-** where pieces of paper will be burnt.

Assign a group or two young people to facilitate the distribution of small pieces of paper, candles and pen before the service begins. And let them write their experience(s) and the practices in life that leads them to live in darkness.

SHORT REFLECTION

We celebrate Lent as a season of prayer and repentance. It is the best opportunity for us to ponder and reflect upon God's hope and light and how these become our source of inspiration amidst this current pandemic and all life's crises.

The Gospel according to John clearly tells us that people always loved darkness. Darkness in all its forms and ways. We know that living in darkness is the most miserable thing to experience. Darkness overwhelms us when we allow greed to always over take us; when arrogance will always be our way of dealing people; when we desire for pleasure to one's satisfaction becomes the source of our joy; when exploiting and victimizing the weak and when abusing creation God has given us becomes our ticket for arrogance and dominance. In the end, all of us reap what we sow in darkness.

In this present pandemic, we clearly saw and witnessed how the world struggled from this difficult situation. All sectors in our society suffer from human-made disasters caused by human greed. Our arrogance, our greed, our fear and hopelessness lead us to undermine the light and hope of God because we are consumed by our selfish desires. Instead of relying on God's light, guidance and wisdom, we rely on our arrogance and worldly wisdom. Instead of sharing the resources we have, we hoard, overused and excessively consumed it. Instead of spending our time and energy for prayer and reflection, we often indulge ourselves with pleasures. And instead of trusting God and relying on God's providence, we tend to turn our back from God. We give up and give in to darkness.

Therefore dear friends in Christ, let us turn to God who is always there for us to comfort and save us from the darkest moments of our lives. God sent Jesus Christ to bring us light and to take away all our burdens because of darkness. Let us continue to love God and let God's light be our guide in facing all these struggles brought by darkness. And let us share that light in Christ, where the meek and humble hearts pray guidance and deliverance from this darkness brought about by the pandemic. Let love, mercy and compassion be the rays of light that would shine upon those who live in darkness. For this is what God wants us to do. "... But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Act of Preparation

Prelude

Processional Hymn

“Nearer My God to You” HFJ #343

Words: Sarah Flower Adams, 1841; Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger

Music: Lowell Mason, 1856

*Nearer my God to you, nearer to you.
I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do
And pray each day anew; Nearer my God to you,
Nearer my God to you, nearer to you.*

*When I am wandering as Jacob did,
I'll bear the deepest bight the path is hid,
My dreams will bring me too, Nearer my God to you,
Nearer my God to you, nearer to you.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Greetings and Welcoming

Pastor/Family Head

Community Concerns

The Act of Praise

Call to Worship

[Based on Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22]

Liturgist: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Men: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Women: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Liturgist: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

All: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Opening Hymn

“O Let Us Praise God”

HFJ#6

O let us praise God, O let us praise God, The mighty and great Lord

Let us gather to give thanks with our glad songs of praise
O proclaim God's name forever now, to echo throughout the world
O praise God in heaven, O praise God here on earth.

O seek God's blessings, O seek God's blessings, O you people of God
Truly serve God without fail and follow God each day.
Take the love of God with you and share it wherever you will go,
Life's bountiful blessings to you God will bestow.

O let us trust God, O let us trust God, our lives we must offer
To God's bosom we draw near, surrender now our all,
God pours blessings and keep blessing, the rest of our days on earth,
Let's praise God, O people let's praise God.

Invocation [Unison]

Our most gracious and loving God, we gather to celebrate the gift of life and all the blessings you have bestowed on each one of us. Grant us, O God, your Holy presence to guide and illumine us as we humbly put ourselves before You. May our unity reflects Your light that reaches all bounds of our life and all corners of the world.

Gloria Patri

The Act of Confession

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Let no one say when tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; For God cannot be tempted by evil, and our Lord does not tempt anyone.

People: But each one is tempted when carried away and enticed by self-centeredness.

Liturgist: Then when self-centeredness has been conceived, sin takes over and leads to death.

People: But there is hope. No temptation has over taken you but such as is common to human beings; and God is faithful, and will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure.

Liturgist: Everyone is tempted. We need not feel alone in our struggles with temptations. We need to be more honest with each other and share our burdens, our difficulties and our struggles. In faith, let us now come before the Holy God and confess our sins.

Song of Confession

"If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today" [HFJ#66]

If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,

Dear Lord, forgive!
If I have uttered idle words or vain,
If I have turned aside from want or pain,
Lest I myself shall suffer through the strain,
Dear Lord, forgive!

Moment of Silent Confession

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O Lord, our arrogance, our greed, our fear, and our hopelessness. Out of arrogance we rely on our worldly wisdom. Out of greed we consume what should be conserved and hoard what should be shared. Out of fear we spend our time and energy on the trite and trivial. Out of hopelessness we give up and we give in. Lead us, O Creator, on the path of life. Hear us, Gracious God, as we pray for mercy, for vision, for hope. We are the people of the New Heaven and New Earth. But we fall short of that hope. We are the people who receive the grace of God. But we fail to offer it to others. Forgive us from our shortcomings. Redeem us from loving darkness instead of light. Amen

The Assurance of God's Love and Mercy

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who in the midst of death announced resurrection, in the midst of darkness leads us by His light, and in the midst of sin promises salvation. Brothers and sisters in Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Response (sung)

“How Great Thou Art”

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

The Act of Proclamation

Through the Scripture
Through Song
Through Meditation

John 3:19-21

The Act of Giving

Call to Offering (*Liturgist*)

Giving is our opportunity to translate our faith into action and guide our gratitude into expression.

Let us give with committed and grateful hearts.

Giving of Life and Blessing [with offertory song]

Doxology

Thanksgiving Prayer

The Act of Commitment

From Darkness to Light

Dear friends, sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that we stumble in darkness with all our self-centeredness, greed and arrogance before God. Let this be the moment now that we allow God's love, grace and mercy to work in our hearts. Let our darkened life be filled with hope through the illuminating presence and light of God in Jesus Christ. Let us come with humble hearts and burn that piece of paper where we have written all the experiences and the practices in life that leads us to live in darkness. As we light that little candle let the light of Christ be our hope that illumines and guides us to path of righteousness - where love, is shared to everyone who needs it, where food is given to those who are hungry, where shelter is provided for the homeless; healing for those who are sick; peace and justice for those who are victims of our self-centeredness and greed; liberty for those who are deprived of it and light for those who are blind and for those who live in darkness.

(While singing the closing hymn let us come forward as we perform this Act of Commitment)

The Act of Sending and Blessing

Closing Hymn

“There Is Sunshine In My Soul Today”

Text: Eliza E. Hewitt, 1851–1920

Music: John R. Sweney, 1837–1899

There is sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright
Than glows in any earthly sky,
For Jesus is my light.

[Chorus]

Oh, there's sunshine, blessed sunshine
When the peaceful happy moments roll.
When Jesus shows his smiling face,
There is sunshine in the soul.

There is music in my soul today,
A carol to my King,
And Jesus listening can hear
The songs I cannot sing.

There is springtime in my soul today,
For when the Lord is near,
The dove of peace sings in my heart,
The flow'rs of grace appear.

There is gladness in my soul today,
And hope and praise and love,
For blessings which he gives me now,
For joys "laid up" above.

Closing Prayer

Response

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You/ SEVEN-FOLD AMEN"

Postlude

Recessional

"Shine Jesus Shine"

Piano/Instrumental

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Prepared by Rev. Farrah Malahay of North Negros Conference- West Visayas Jurisdiction

Sub-theme: "Creation Waits in Eager Longing"

Biblical Reference: Romans 8:18-25 (NIV)

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

YOU WILL NEED

- *Fabric (blue, green and black)*
- *Plants, fruits and vegetables, fish in a bowl or starfish*
- *Small stars, twinkling lights (fairy lights/Christmas lights)*
- *Four-braided cord*

SHORT REFLECTION

We live in seemingly hopeless times where so much is happening and most of them are frustrating: Covid19 pandemic, forest fire, division, killings and arrests related to drugs, petty crimes, struggling schools, breakdown of marriage and family, and conflicts due differences on political and religious perspective. "Is there any hope" for the future? When will it ever end?

In this time of crisis, we focus on the issues of humanity and neglect the suffering of creation that surrounds us. We forgot that creation is also groaning because, it is also affected by human activities. Right now creation is groaning because of the abuse it has taken from humankind. We have hundreds of animals which are in the brink of extinction. We have nearly destroyed the ozone layer, letting in deadly radiation from the sun. We have dumped tons of pollutants into the atmosphere and the oceans. We have destroyed the forests that cleanse the air, prevent erosion of the soil, and provide a home for millions of species of plants and animals.

How do we see our relationship with the rest of the creation? There's only one way to describe it. Romans 8:22. *"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."* Creation is groaning in pain. Meaning to say, it is not only us humans who is groaning and in pain. We must acknowledge that the creation is groaning too. We need to discern that we are part of the pain of the creation for we are connected to one another as part of God's creation. Humans should not think that we are separated from the suffering of creation. We need to live harmoniously with creation and seek not only for our welfare but also for the welfare of the whole. As the Old Testament prophets declared, the desert will blossom like a rose, the wolf and the lamb will feed together, the lion will eat straw like the ox, and nothing will hurt nor destroy in all God's holy mountain (Isaiah 65:25). God envision a world that has harmonious relationship with each other. It would seem sensible for us to begin feeling our relationship and connection with creation by being responsible stewards of the earth today--protecting it, preserving it, and treating it with sensitivity and care.

God is calling us to set an example for the future and work together to take good care of that which God has beautifully made. We are called to participate in God's continuing creative activity not as benefactors but as stewards.

Words for Preparation

In the mystery and wonder of the created world, we see the face of God.

*In earthiness and ordinariness of life, we know the love of Christ.
In heights and depths of human experiences,
the spirit of God is moving among us.
(Liturgy-Environment Sunday)*

Prelude *(Silent Reflection, Processional, Lighting of Christ Candle)*

Greetings and Community Concerns

Creation Scene

***In the beginning...**(voice over or liturgist)*

*(Have people come forward to build a creation scene while congregation singing "ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL.")*

(Place blue and green fabric at the front of the worship space)

(Place plants on the green fabric and perhaps a fish in a bowl, or starfish or shells on the blue fabric)

(Place a four-braid cord between the fabrics representing earth and water)

(Place/hang some stars or twinkling lights; if possible, position LED Christmas lights under the fabric and turn them on)

Song of Affirmation **"All Things Bright and Beautiful"** **HFJ#229**

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small

All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors
and made their tiny wings. (Ref.)*

*The purple headed mountain the river running by, the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. (Ref.)*



Call to Worship

Liturgist: The God of creation sustains this beautiful world for us. It is not just for our and with future generations yet to come.

People: But the whole creation has been groaning. Our minds and our hearts do "groan" as we see and hear the devastating impact of human beings on this creation.

Liturgist: We are called to be the planet's caretakers.

People: God created us in the Divine's own image and set us free to be stewards of the earth.

Liturgist: God calls us to work together, let us worship God that we may work well and remember

our role as partners in creation.



Hymn of Thanksgiving

“Now Thank We All”

(Tune: “Now Thank We All Our God” HFJ#30)

*Now thank we all our God, In whom this Earth rejoices,
For creatures great and small, Who now have lost their voices;
And species calling us, Before they disappear,
To love this fragile Earth, That God would have us share.*

*O may this bounteous God, In ev’ry tree be near us
To help us feel the pain, Of barren lands so cheerless,
Where once like Eden fresh, Wild birds in freedom flew
To celebrate a land, Where life rose crystal new.*

*All praise and thanks to God, Our Father now be given,
Who kept alive on Earth, This tribe of greedy humans,
Who sent an only son, To suffer earthly pain,
That cosmic ill and death, Should never rule again.*

*O Spirit from the land, Rise up like sacred leaven
To free us from the ills, Polluting Earth and heaven;
Inspire us with the drive, To be like healing rain,
Renewing life on Earth, And praising God again.*



Invocation (unison)

Through our worship, may we find our hearts and minds united with your Creating Spirit. Help us to be worthy of the gift of life you share with us. Inspire us in this hour so that we may care more deeply for your good earth. Amen.

Remembering:

If PowerPoint is used: show a MAP of our country

If PowerPoint is not used: Invite someone to stand in front of the congregation with a MAP of our country.

We look at the map of our country and locate our place of worship on the map. In so doing we recognize the environmental destruction of our place and we recall how environmental destruction has been a crucial part of our lives.

REVERSE CREATION

In the end...

Liturgist: Humanity destroyed the heaven that was called earth.

All: The earth had been beautiful until the spirit of humanity moved over it and

destroyed all things.

Liturgist: And the people said...

People: LET THERE BE DARKNESS... and there was darkness.

(Have people come forward to place dark fabric and cover the creation)

Liturgist: And the people liked darkness; and they divided themselves into race, religions and classes of society; and there was no evening and no morning on the seventh day before the end. And the people said...

People: LET THERE BE A STRONG GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL US IN OUR DARKNESS.

Liturgist: And there was no evening and no morning on this sixth day before the end.
And the people said...

People: LET THERE BE ROCKETS AND BOMBS TO KILL FASTER AND EASIER

Liturgist: And there was no evening and no morning on the fifth day before the end.
And the people said...

People: LET THERE BE DRUGS AND OTHER FORMS OF ESCAPE FOR THERE IS THIS CONSTANT ANNOYANCE... REALITY WHICH IS DISTURBING OUR COMFORT.

Liturgist: And there was no evening and no morning on the fourth day before the end.
And the people said...

People: LET THERE BE DIVISIONS AMONG NATIONS, SO THAT WE MAY KNOW WHO IS OUR COMMON ENEMY.

Liturgist: And there was no evening and no morning on the third day before the end.
And finally the people said...

People: LET US CREATE GOD IN OUR IMAGE, LET SOME OTHER god COMPETE WITH US. LET US SAY THAT GOD THINKS – AS WE THINK; HATES – AS WE HATE; KILLS- AS WE KILL.

Liturgist: And there was no evening and no morning on the second day before the end.

ALL: On the LAST day there was great noise on the face of the earth. Fire consumed the beautiful globe, and there was – SILENCE. The blackened earth now rested, to worship the one true God;

Liturgist: And God saw all that the people had done – and in the silence over the smoldering ruins... -GOD WEPT.

(A moment of silence for confession)

Song **“If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today”** **HFJ#66 (1st & 4th Sta.)**

*If I have wounded any soul today, if I have caused one foot to go astray
If I have walked in my own willful way, Dear Lord, forgive.*

*Forgive the sins I have confessed to You, forgive the secret sins I do not know
O guide me, love me, where'er I go, Dear Lord my God!*

Choosing Life *(Deuteronomy 30:15-16 – the following is one suggestion of what Moses might say to God’s people as they stand the threshold of the 21st Century.)*

Minister: Today, I am giving you a choice between good and evil, between life and death. If you care for God’s creation, walk gently with the Lord. Live life today that others might have life tomorrow. Respect other creatures, care for your neighbor both near and far, and you will enjoy life in fullness in the Kingdom of God, on Earth and in Heaven.

Song-Response: **“Song of Healing”** *(Tune: Morning Has Broken)*

*Healing is flowing, deep in the waters, Flowing from Eden, flowing from old.
All through creation, God sends forth waters, Oceans of healing, for all the world.*

*Healing is rising, fresh with the morning, Healing is rising, bursting with grace.
Christ, our rich healing, deep in creation, Heal Earth’s deep wounds and rise in this place.*

*Healing is offered, leaves from the life tree, Healing is offered nations at war.
Come, wounded Healer, torn by the violence, Rise from the grave, bring peace to our
shore*

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: God is always willing and ready to forgive and guide us. As we strive to live in harmony with the Holy Spirit, our daily work and play yield abundant fruit for all. We are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Have people come forward to remove dark fabric and add plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables represents a fruit of the earth)

Song-Response: “Song of Healing” (Tune: Morning Has Broken)

*Healing is given, flows from forgiveness, Healing is given, flows from our faith.
Christ, give us heart to love your deep healing, Living forgiveness, even in death.*

*Healing is rising, free in Christ’s body, Healing is flowing, free with Christ’s blood.
May this deep healing pulse through our bodies, Heal the world’s wounds still bleeding
and red.*

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Response:

“Lord Listen To Your Children Praying”

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.*

SCRIPTURE READING

ANTHEM

MESSAGE

CALL TO OFFERING

Leader: We are surrounded by Earth’s gifts of beauty, diversity, and power. We are called to be stewards and caretakers of our amazing and fragile planet. Let us offer back our gifts of money, skills, and service to our ongoing shared work with our Creator.

(If the church has a screen, pictures highlighting Creation could be shown while the offering is being received.)

OFFERING OF TITHES, GIFTS AND PLEDGES

†

DOXOLOGY

†

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Liturgist: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, accept these gifts that we bring this day for the healing of your creation. May they be used to further your work in this community and beyond
May they be in some special way a rich reflection of our work on behalf of your creation
and thus of your good seed growing in our good soil. May we be good stewards of these riches that you have entrusted to us. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (*Leader; Women – Men*)

Liturgist : **Let us affirm our faith together.**

Women : We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

Men : We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

Women : We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, on Earth being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

Men : We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

Women: We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

Leader: We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Closing Hymn “ *This is God's Wondrous World*” **HFJ#234**

*This is God's wondrous WORLD, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,
of skies and seas; God's hands the wonders wrought.*

*This is God's wondrous WORLD; the birds their carols raise
The morning light, the lily white declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world; God shines in all that's fair,
In rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.*

*This is God's wondrous world; O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world, why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!*



WORDS OF MISSION

Minister: Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place. As we do, may we embrace the challenges in our lives and our world. Hold tightly to the good news that bring light to

to the them why we use palm leaves for celebrating Palm Sunday. Before the worship service, please prepare:

- Palm leaves to be brought to the altar by the children

SHORT REFLECTION

“Teacher, order you disciples to stop.” These are words from authorities threatened by the rousing voice of the people - voices that recognizes a power that would bring them out from darkness of oppression from the Roman rule. Equally powerful words were declared by Jesus when he said, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stone would shout out.” Jesus pointed out clearly that there is no stopping for God’s intention to be consummated in the realm of human experience. The good news that brings light and hope to the people will eventually be fulfilled.

The triumphal entry to Jerusalem marks the significant drama of the passion and death of Jesus. This is the final event of His journey. Jesus was fully aware of the danger of his coming to the place, but he decided to pursue it and continue to be obedient to His Father for a mission to be accomplished.

Preparation

“Jesus was telling the people and the leaders of his day that the time had come to recognize the one who comes to bring wholeness to society. He rode the royal beast which was the symbol of a king coming in peace. He himself would establish his kingdom of wholeness. Woe be to those who would not be part of that establishment: Those who chose some other way. They would not be part of that blessed state.” (Resource Material For lent 1990)

Piano Music

Lighting of the Candle and Opening of the Bible

Entrance with the Palm Leaves (children bringing the palms to be placed below the altar table)

Processional

Introit

“As the Deer Pants”

As the deer pants for the water so our souls long after You
You alone are our hearts desire and we long to worship You
You alone are our strength, our shield, to You alone may our spirits yield
You alone are our heart’s desire and we long to worship You.

†**Call to Celebration**

Liturgist: We now remember when the first Holy Day was being celebrated many years had passed.

People : We remember how it started when Jesus entered the City of Jerusalem and how it ended in His death outside the doors of Jerusalem.

Liturgist – This is how it started (read Mark 11:1-10)

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

People: Lord, what the nation of Israel did, we also shout and say:

All : Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is He who comes from the descendant of David. Hosanna in the highest! We will not stop shouting Your name for even the stones will do it for us.

†**Hymn of Praise**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

HFJ#148

“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang,
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd
The victor palm branch waving, the chanting clear and loud
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state
And glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey’s gait.

†**Opening Prayer (all)**

Lord of life and history, we are gathered to celebrate Your triumphant entry to Jerusalem. May this celebration be an affirmation of victory over evils of our present day. Give us your empowering presence to face every challenge that come our way as we work towards the fulfillment of Your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

†Song Response

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

HFJ 148

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song is ours
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice
Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!

Call to Confession

Liturgist: God has called us into unity and has given us life. Indeed, He has promised us the fullness of life, but we have maintain divisions and have refused to live a just and peaceful life. Let us come humbly before the Lord and confess our shortcomings .

Song of Confession

“Change our Hearts, Oh God”

Change our hearts O God, make it ever true
Change our hearts O God, may we be like You.
You are the Potter, we are the clay,
Mold us and make us, this is what we pray.
Change our hearts O God, make it ever true
Change our hearts O God, may we be like You.

Silent Moment of Individual Confession**Assurance of God’s Pardon**

Minister: We have, then, brothers and sisters, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus. He opened for us a new way, a living way. Let us sing for joy then, for God is merciful and forgives our sins through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song Response

“The Love of God”

HFJ 48

Refrain: Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong
It shall forever more endure, the saints and angels’ song.

Church Concerns and Greetings**Community in Prayer****†Song Response**

“Lead On Eternal Sovereign”

HFJ 366

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in Your way
Loud rings your cry for justice, Your call for peace this day
Through prayerful preparation, Your grace will make us strong
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

†Scripture Reading**†Song Response**

“Ang Salita ng Diyos”

HFJ 353

Ang Salita ng Diyos ay may yaman, Waring ginto’t perlas na tunay

Kug sasaliksikin araw-araw, May kakamting lugod and buhay.

The Message

Affirmation of Faith

Liturgist : We believe in the God of love, who calls us to reject all idols and who seeks to deep communion with us.

People: We believe in the God of creation, who calls us into partnership in shaping the future in justice, peace and joy.

Liturgist : We believe in the God who is not remote but who is immersed in the life of this world sharing its hope and feeling its pain.

People: We believe in the God who identifies with the struggling people so as to fulfill the promise of life in its fullness for all and not just for the few.

All : We believe in the God whose love is vulnerable, whose heart is aching, and whose covenant with all people and creation is unshakeable.

†Call to Offering

Liturgist: It is because of us that Jesus became poor so that we become rich. Let us give Thanks to God in Jesus Christ who offer His life even to death so that we might have life. Let us bring our offerings to Him so that we could give praise to His name.

Offering of Life and Labor

†Song Response

“We Give You But Your Own”

HFJ 93

We give You but Your own, What e'er the gift may be
All that we have is Yours alone, we give it gratefully. Amen.

†Thanksgiving Offering

All : Everlasting God, we thank you because we know that our offerings are worthy whatever we offer with thanksgiving. You said that we offer to You as we receive. Help us bring our offerings with excitement as recognition that all things come from you. May we find Your strength and blessings as we continue to desire to serve You with all our strength. In Jesus name we pray with thanksgiving. Amen.

†Hymn of Commitment. “O Saviour, Let Me Walk with You” HFJ 308

O Savior, let me walk with you in earthly paths of service true
Tell me your secret help me bear the strain of toil the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience, let me be in closer, dearer company
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way
In peace that only you can give, with you, O Savior, let me live.

‡**Closing Prayer and Benediction**

Minister

Let us go forth into the Jerusalem cities of this day as instruments of God's love, peace and justice. Proclaim the name of the Lord. Do not let the stones do it for you. May God's empowerment be upon us and remain with us always. Amen.

‡**Song Response**

“Ngayon ay Lilisan at Maghihiwalay”

HFJ 105

Ngayon ay lilisan at maghihiwalay, Ang manga anak Mong sa 'yo'y nanambahan
Ang pagpapala Mo sa ami'y ibigay, Kami'y patnubayan sa lahat ng araw.

Recessional

Sources:

UCC Worship Resources
SLJC Resource Material for Lent 1990
Hymnal of Faith Journey, UCCP

* * * * *

Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021

Prepared by Ptr. Luisa Givero of Samar Island District Conference- East Visayas Jurisdiction

Sub-theme: “Wash not just my feet, but my hands and head as well..”

Biblical Text: John 13:1-17 (NRSV)

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus

answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Notes for Worship Preparation:

Prepare the worship altar to help prepare the worshippers journey through the passion experience of Jesus. At a certain point of the worship, the sanctuary will be put in darkness. The following elements may be used for worship:

- Water
- Towels
- Basins
- Communion elements
- Christ Candle
- Six lamps or candles

THE ACT OF GATHERING

Words to Ponder:

“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

-Albert Schweitzer

Prelude

+ Processional Hymnal

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” HFJ # 256

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes, our homage to demand.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

[Entrance of Symbols: Bible, Candles, A basin of water, Towel]

[Lighting of seven lamps or candles and the Christ Candle]

THE ACT OF PRAISE

+ **Call to Celebration** (Through song)

“Sa Dulang ng Ama”

Liturgist: Sa iisang hapag, ating itatag ang pagkakaisa;

People: Ang sisidlang basag ating ilapag sa dulang ng Ama.

All: Pagsaluhan natin ang luksa, at damhin ang sugat ng bansa

Liturgist: At doon, doon natin ipunla

People: Butil ng diwang mapagpalaya;

All: Sa iisang hapag ating itatag, ibangon, itindig

Liturgist: Sa dulang ng katotohanan

People: Sa sahig ng katarungan

All: Doon, doon natin ipagdiwang, kapayapaa’t pag-ibig.

+**Invocation**

Liturgist: God, together, we lift our voices to call out your Name and offer you our highest praise. Awaken us as we seek your presence this morning. Enlighten us as we look beyond what our eyes could not see. As we remember together your passion, and your unconditional love, may Your Divine Presence lead our worship, through Jesus, our Redeemer, Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to confession (Through Song)

Liturgist:

“Kay Laking Hiwaga” HFJ #257

Hindi ko maisip, kay laking hiwaga,
Kay laking paglingap, pagpapakasakit
Sala naming tao, nang iyong akuin
Walang hangganan Dios, ang ‘yong pag-ibig.

Silent Moment of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Minister

Let us hear the good news that *“God proves God’s love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8). In Christ’s Name, we are all forgiven.

Greetings of Peace

Community Prayer

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+ Read

John 13:1-17

Sung

Interpreted

A SYMBOLIC ACT OF SERVANTHOOD

The Foot-Washing

Pastor: [Jesus said], So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:14-15)

People: We plead just like Peter, “Lord, not just my feet but also my hands and my head.”

(The elders together with the Pastor may start washing the foot of the members, and then wash each other)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Hymn of Preparation

“Kay Laking Hiwaga” HFJ#257

Ang abang lingkod Mo’y di karapatdapat
Sa’yo’y makisalo, makipaghapunan
Di na nagnanais ng maraming bagay

Sapat ng madamang Ika'y kapiling

Litany of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life.

People: We give You praise, glory, and honor.

Pastor: Jesus, our Redeemer, we thank you for the gift of redemption.

People: We give You praise, glory, and honor.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, our Sustainer, we thank you for the gift of comfort.

People: We give You praise, glory, and honor as we lift this prayer,

“Our God who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Response (sung) “Kay Laking Hiwaga” HFJ#257

Nang aking malasin, alak at tinapay
Aking kagalakan ay walang mapagsidlan
Di kinakailangan, akin pang wariin
Kung bakit ang ligaya ko'y walang patid.

Sharing of the Agape Meal

THE ACT OF GIVING

Call to Offering

Liturgist: As we offer our lives and the fruit of our labors, let us meditate the words from Mark 10:45, “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Offering of Life and Labor

Offertory Song “I Would Be True” HFJ # 281

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all—the foe, the friendless;

I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.
I would look up, and laugh and love, and lift.

I would be faithful through each passing moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God;
I would be strong to follow where He leads me;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

+ Doxology “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” HFJ #94

Praise God the Source of life and birth, God the Son who came to earth;

Praise God the Spirit, Holy Flame; all glory, honor to God’s name. Amen.

+ Thanksgiving Prayer

Liturgist: Generous God, we thank you for all you’ve done unto us. Your generosity became our light and guide to do the same: to give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, light for the blind, hope for those who are in despair and liberty for the oppressed. As we remember together how Jesus selflessly offered his life, may You continue to motivate and strengthen us to serve and love you with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength, in Christ’s Name, Amen.

THE ACT OF SENDING

+ Tenebrae Litany

Reader 1: When we allow the “powerful” to take advantage to the weak and poor, the world becomes a darker place. *(The first Candle is extinguished)*

All: For the thief comes only to steal.....but Jesus came that [we] may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Reader 2: When we are silent amidst the extra-judicial killings, the world becomes a darker place. *(The second Candle is extinguished)*

All: For the thief comes only to kill..... but Jesus came that [we] may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Reader 3: When we turn our ears deaf to the groan of God’s creation because of the vast destruction, the world becomes a darker place. *(The third Candle is extinguished)*

All: For the thief comes only to destroy.... but Jesus came that [we] may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Reader 4: When we are afraid to work for peace base on justice, the world becomes a darker place. *(The fourth Candle is extinguished)*

All: God has told us what is good; the Lord require us to do justice.....
(Micah 6:8)

Reader 5: When we choose not to love the last, the least, and the lost, the world becomes a darker place. *(The fifth Candle is extinguished)*

All: God has told us what is good; the Lord require us to love kindness.....
(Micah 6:8)

Reader 6: When we allow selfishness, pride and greed to prevail in our hearts, the world becomes a darker place. *(The sixth Candle is extinguished)*

All: God has told us what is good; the Lord require us to walk humbly with God.
(Micah 6:8)

Reader 7: When we are afraid to speak the truth, to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ, and to do what is right, the world becomes a darker place. *(The seventh Candle is extinguished)*

All: “For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love, and of self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

(The church will be darkened with only illumination necessary for safety)

+ Closing Prayer and Blessing (Pastor)

Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and for ever. Amen.

+ Response (Liturgist)

“Kay Laking Hiwaga” HFJ# 257
Sana’y sa paglisan sa iyong tahanan
Aming mga puso ay iyong lukuban
Na maging dambana ng Yong kabutihan

Maging huwaran ng pagmamahalan.

+ **Recessional in Silence**

* * * * *

Good Friday
April 2, 2021

Prepared by Rev. Ivie Francisquete - Apole of NESTCON- South Luzon Jurisdiction

Sub-theme: “You have no power over me if it were not given from above”

Biblical Reference: John 19:11

Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

SHORT REFLECTION

When hopelessness and helplessness linger, when much of pain and sickness, poverty, and inequity are brought upon people due to the greed and unaccountability of the powerful few, darkness appeared to be spreading all over; so quick and so damaging; that the world is placed in a serious crisis, in a dark state needing light, salvation and power from above.

In John’s account when Christ was in trial and sentenced to be crucified, Pilate’s power and position was gravely confronted. The washing of his hands was both a safe and a critical display that eventually affected his socio-political influence. The washing of his hands was indeed a show of power that determined his political reign at the expense of the innocent’s life, in the person of Christ. However, Jesus, though placed at that dark moment, he was never scared of what Pilate did portray. In fact, it was revealed in Christ’s firm and brave discourse when he said, **“You have no power over me, if it were not given from above”**.

Such Jesus’ answer conveyed much of devotion and commitment. It was a very powerful confession that there’s Someone more powerful than them, as they were the rulers in his time. And to that Someone Above, to that Only Source of Authority, did Christ Jesus solely obey and faithfully abided. Therefore, there was neither a Caesar nor any Pilate can ever surpass to that

Power; and that they can never dim the Light of the World, the Hope of All Creation. What a hopeful, guiding confession of faith this is to live by! What a good news is this for us all, reminding us to expose the vanity of earthly power, by always being firm to our devotion and by being brave as we endure in the confession and expression of our faith even amidst the lingering hopelessness and helplessness, even during our dark and trying times.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

The worship committee will prepare the following symbols:

- A Crown of thorns
- A bottle of vinegar
- Dried leaves & twigs

Orientation and run through are also necessary especially in the parts of the creative litany of confession and so with the reading of the seven last words.

Preparation and Silent Meditation

For he taught his disciples, and said unto them,
The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him;
and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

– Mark 9:31

† Lighting of the Candle and Opening the Bible

† **Processional** **“Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”** Hymns for the Family of God #266
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aufapdx15-g>

† Call to Gathering

Liturgist: When life gets so tough and wearisome, in moments when we’re prompted to ask,
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?... (Psalm 22:1)

People: In full assurance of faith, we come and gather.

Liturgist: When the power of darkness, injustices and death overwhelm us...

People: In full assurance of faith, we come and gather.

Liturgist: On this day, Good Friday as called, in full assurance of faith we come and gather

to remember Christ in his saving love, dethroning disgrace and tyranny...

All: In full assurance of faith, we commit ourselves to remember that love and may we live our lives in a way that indicates it. Amen!

✠ **Hymn of Praise** **“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”** HFJ #23

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our present help, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth without an equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
But there is One who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free;
with mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave;
Christ will prevail triumphant.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed, his truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;
Their rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell them.

That Word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever!

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Redeeming God, we gather today in need of your redemption. Restore us in your power- the power that serves. Sustain us in your love, the love that endures beyond that rugged cross, so that together we may be one with you in the works of compassion. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen.

✠ **Response** **“Blest Be The Tie That Binds”** HFJ #268

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Creative Litany of Confession

Theatrical: 3 persons will be walking near the altar and will be forming a tableau in different levels. One will wear the crown of thorns in high level formation, another holds a bottle of vinegar in medium level formation and the other one (may be a pastor or an elder) will pick out dried leaves from the ground in low level formation.

Background/Instrumental Hymn **“Were You There?”** HFJ #158

Person 1: *(Raising the Crown Made of Thorns, crying...)*

“This crown symbolizes bullying and mockery, this was forcibly worn to Christ; and through deceit and oppression, this is still worn brutally by many of our people today.”

Person 2: *(With bigger movements he/she will raise the bottle of vinegar and will wheeze a cough after drinking some of it)*

“Unpleasant, (with coughing sound) sour! (with coughing sound again) Unpleasant and sour conditions of our souls. Horrible and pungent conditions of our people.”

(Actors will freeze/pose with expression, keeping the reflective-confessing mood in the tableau.)

Silent Moment of Confession (the music “Were You There?” Being played HFJ #158)

People: Holy God, Author of Love & Mercy, we confess that we have allowed ourselves to be perpetrators of bullying and mockery. We are sinners and we have flawed. Greed blinded us, lust for power bound us, and we don't bear witness to your love. In humility and confession, we open ourselves to your mercy; forgive and mend us Lord, we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

Person 3: *(A pastor or an elder, picks out the dried leaves and twigs)*

Without God's mercy and forgiveness, rugged and lifeless could we be, so as these leaves and twigs. *(Tearing away the leaves and breaking the twigs)*

But because of God's great love we are forgiven, we are granted life anew and thus freed to love and serve. What a good and beautiful news!

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Response **"How Great Thou Art"** Hymn for the Family of God #2

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

**Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,**

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Greetings of Peace

Community Prayer

Response **“All The Way My Savior Leads Me”** HFJ#197/ HFG 598
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRu8iZqcxVg>

(2nd stanza)

All the way my Savior leads me, Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living Bread.
Though my weary steps may falter; And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see.

The Seven Last Words of Jesus (Representatives from different organizations will recite or read the last words)

Proclamation of God’s Word

✠ **As Read**

✠ **Response** **“I Love To Tell The Story”** HFJ # 309

I love to tell the story, it’s pleasant to repeat,
what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation, from God’s own holy word!

As Sung

As Shared

Silent Moment of Meditation

Call to Offering (Liturgist)

Let us with joy, offer our hearts to God, to the One who comes to redeem us. Let us in faithfulness, give back our thanksgiving. Let us offer our life, our time, treasure and talents to the Holy One, the Gracious Giver of all gifts.

Offering of Life and Labor

✠ **Response** **“We’re An Offering”**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfxhnHfMMD4>

We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you we're an offering
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives up to you we're an offering.
All that we are, all that we have
All that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you we're an offering, we're an offering.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (Liturgist)

✠ **Hymn of Commitment "The Old Rugged Cross" HFJ #156**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.**

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]

✠ **Prayer of Commitment (all)**

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO GOD

Who is love and who has given the earth to all peoples.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO JESUS CHRIST

Who come to heal us, and free us from all forms of darkness to light

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Who works in and through all who have yearned towards the truth

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Who is called to be at the service of the people,
WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO GOD'S PROMISE
To finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the reign of God.

✠ **Benediction** (Minister)

By his stripes we are healed.
By his wounds, we are made whole.
Go in the name of Jesus Christ,
and live in the salvation made possible
by the Goodness of this Friday. Amen.

✠ **Response** **“The Old Rugged Cross”** HFJ #156

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.**

Postlude

Recessional

REFERENCES:

1.Ministry Matters (Benediction)

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2492/worship-elements-good-friday-2020-option-2>

2.Hymnal of A Faith Journey

3.Hymns for the Family of God

4.Youtube.

* * * * *

Easter Sunday

4 April 2021

Prepared by Rev. Magnolia Nova V. Mendoza of the Divinity School, Silliman University

Sub-theme “Whom are you looking for?”

Note:

This is a **Resurrection Day Hymn Service** where hymns/poems are employed in the different parts of the liturgy. The unfamiliar hymns are to be recited.

Preparation

Whether virtual mode or face-to-face worship, the worship space/the altar shall be garden-like. Instrumental hymn tune “I Come to the Garden Alone” plays at the background as people enter the sanctuary or the virtual worship room.

Come to the Garden Alone

Sa Halamanan

C. Austin Miles, 1912

Hymnal of a Faith Journey, 165/ Mga Awit sa Pagsamba, 122

Easter Poem

(A child comes and recites the following hymn)

All in an Easter Garden

Words: Traditional / Unknown

Child: All in an Easter Garden, before the break of day,
an angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away.
When Jesus’ friends came seeking, with myrrh and spices rare,
they found the angels at the door, but Jesus was not there.

All in an Easter garden, where water lilies bloom,
the angels gave their message beside an empty tomb:
‘The Lord is here no longer, come, see where once he lay;
the Lord of Life is ris’n indeed, for this is Easter day.’

*Then three women enter bringing lighted lamps;
One of the women (Mary) will read the Scripture and the*

two others who are holding lamps (angels) will be standing beside her as she reads.

The Garden Scene John 20. 11-18 (NRSV) Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Narrator: (*voice over*)

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her,

Angels: (*the 2 women holding lamps, unison*)

“Woman, why are you weeping?”

Narrator: She said to them,

Mary: “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

Narrator: When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her,

Jesus: (*can be via voice over only*)

“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Narrator: Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

Mary: “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Narrator: Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “Mary!”

Narrator: She turned and said to him in Hebrew,

Mary: “Rabbouni!”

Narrator: (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her,

Jesus: “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Narrator: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

Mary: “I have seen the Lord”;

Narrator: and she told them that he said these things to her.

The women exit and leave the lamps on the garden-altar near the cross.

Easter Hymn

If on a virtual mode, it is best to have one or a handful of cantors to lead the singing, the two hymns will be sung alternately, both in the Key of G.

Voice 1: (*spoken*)

Sisters and brothers “[rejoice!] [let us] give thanks and sing,
[our] Sovererign God adore! For Christ has robbed death’s sting and triumphs ever
more.

Lift us your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again, I say, rejoice
[from Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing, Words: Charles, Wesley, 1746, HFJ 174]

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
Spanish Folk Melody
Presbyterian Hymnal, 150

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to the Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Manag-awit Kita sa Dios
Elena G. Maquiso, 1961
HFJ 11

Manag-awit kita sa Dios, sa usa ka bagong alawiton,
Manag-awit kita sa Dios, sa tibuok nga yuta,
Manag-awit kita sa Dios ug pagdaygon ang iyang ngalan
Imantala ta ang kaluwasan nya, sa adlaw nga tanan.

Come, Christian, Join to Sing
Come, Lift your hearts on high; Alleluia, Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia, Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end; Alleluia, Amen!

Manag-awit Kita sa Dios
Ipahayag ang himaya, taliwala sa tanan nga nasod,
Taliwala sa manga tawo, katingalahang buhat,
Kay dako ug takus ang Dios, Magbubuhat sa kalibutan,
Kadungganana anaalang kaniya, ug halangdon usab.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia, Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia, Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
Singin for evermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Prayer

"We Thank You, God, for Sunday"
Words: Ruth C. Duck, 1996
Music: Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693; Alt. tune: MEIRIONYDD
Hymnal of a Faith Journey, 170

Voice 2: *(reciting)*

Let us pray with the words of Ruth Duck.

We thank you God, for Sunday, the day when Christ arose,
The day of praise and meeting, of blessing and repose.

Voice 1: *(joins in, reciting with Voice 2)*

Each day, each hour is sacred; you guide us all the way.
We praise you most for Sunday, our resurrection day.

Cantors/Voice 1 and 2: *If not familiar to your congregation, the Cantors or Voice 1 and 2 may sing this 2nd stanza. But if the melody is familiar, this may be sung by the people.*

The first day of creation when naught had come to be,
your Holy Spirit brooded upon the formless sea.
And then you split the silence and spoke: **“Let there be light!”**
Before the dusk of evening you made both day and night.

People: *(singing, if possible.)*

The first day as we gather we seek new life, new birth:
The eight day of creation when you renew the earth.
Re-mold your yearning people; re-shape our shattered clay;
So may we rise each morning to resurrection day.

Scripture Lesson
Easter Message
Moment of Silence

Confession: Call

Voice 1: *(reciting)*

Patawad ng Ama
Forgiveness of our God

Words: Danila C. Sanchez, Eng. Transl. Reuel N.O. Marigza, 2002
HFJ 211

Patawad ng Ama ay handang igawad, sa sinumang taong nagsisising ganap;
Kung ang kasalanan ay ipahahayag, ang kapayapaa’y tatanggaping kagyat.

Voice 2: *(reciting)*

Ang sinumang anak bibigyang pag-asa, hindi kailangang sinuman ay magbata;
Masaganang buhay ay kakamtin niya, pagmamahal ng Dios ay s’yang takip sala.

Voice 1: *(reciting)*

Halina’t magbalika ang sala’y iwanan, igagawad n’ya ang pag-ibig n’yang banal;

Voice 2: *(reciting)*

Kung matanggap na ang biyaya n'yang bigay, pagsumikapang maglingkod buong buhay.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Prayer altogether

Dear God, Embracing Humankind
Words: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.
ST 1 only of *HFJ 214*

All: Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

Assurance of God's Mercy and Forgiveness (*Minister*)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Offertory *Minister*

Offertory Music

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

The Act of Consecration of Elements

Hymn of Preparation

Ala-ala sa Pagkain
In Memory of the Last Meal
Words: Cirilo A. Rigos
Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro
HFJ 250

In memory of the Last Meal is Christ's command to keep and seal,
Receive the meal, unworthy we; we will believe and obey.

In memory we will accept, the blessed meal that Christ prepared,
By his great pain in Calvary, our sins were paid, we're set free.

Serving of the Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Minister*)

Call to Commitment

Minister: Sisters and brothers, "[t]he fullness and glory of God will be revealed in the end-time just as it is written. At that time, we will completely experience God's reign and justice. Our worth as God's creation will be felt in the final consummation and we shall be glorified just as God's favor and glory will be upon us... We all have to work in establishing God's reign in this life – as members of one body, we have to help one

another in building God's kingdom. . . In this way, we can define the meaning of 'shalom' in this life; it is existence with a purpose towards fullness, completeness, and glory under God's reign." (Magnolia Nova V. Mendoza in "We Believe ... in the Resurrection," *UCCP Study Guide for Teachers-Facilitators for Children on the UCCP Statement of Faith*, 1991.)

Hymn

Voice 1: Indeed, "real joy and grace [we] will gain if Christ is at [o]ur side; His light to [us] will remain, [our] constant help and guide." With the words of Vicente Mar Aguila, we sing now our hymn of commitment "Ang Taong ang Hangad Maglingkod".

Ang Taong ang Hangad Maglingkod
If It is Your Desire to Serve Jesus
Words: Vicente Mar Aguila
Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro
HFJ 304

Ang taong ang hangad ang maglingkod kay Jesus, buhay ang ihahandog;
Sino mang may galak habang siya'y naglilingkod, may kasiyahang loob.
Ligaya ang kakamtan kung sya ay patnubay, liwanag Nya ang tanglaw sa landas ng buhay.

Ang buhay mong bingo kay Jesus ay lalago, kung Sya'y susundin mo;
Maglingkod ng tapat buhay mo'y ginhawa, pagpapala ang bunga.
Ligaya ang kakamtan kung Sya ay patnubay, liwanag Nya ang tanglaw sa landas ng buhay.

Magpuri ang lahat sa Panginoong Jesus, may galak na maglingkod;
Buksan ang push mo't anyayahang may lugod, buhay mo ipasakop.
Ligaya ang kakamtan kung Sya ay patnubay, liwanag Nya ang tanglaw sa landas ng buhay.

Commisioning

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven;
If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Prayer

O What Our Peace of Heart to Know
Words: Proceso U. Udarbe
HFP 168

People: O what peace of heart to know the miracle we've seen;
For it was at the garden tomb; a voice of hope we heard.
It is a joy to hear the word:

Voice 2: "He is not here!"

People: O Jesus, Lord, our Savior dear, to that voice we adhere.
If you had not been raised, O Lord, our faith would be in vain;
For you have vanquished death's great power; First-born from grave, you are.
On you alone we will depend, whatever may be;
for we are lost and all confused, with fear that knows no end.
You're seated now at God's right hand, to reign forever more;
Yours is the Name above all names; to you our knees we bend
From here on earthly life we rise to you in heaven.
That we may live to honor you, Redeemer and our Friend.

Hymn

"He Lives"

Alfred H. Ackley

HFJ 164/MASP

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever may others say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

In all the world around me I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart

Closing Prayer *altogether, recited*

We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight

Words: Henry Alford, 1844
Presbyterian Hymnal, 399

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear
From one who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.
We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod,
Yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:
That when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light.

Benediction *Minister*
Postlude

+ + +

