

United Church of Christ in the Philippines

United Church Workers Organization (UCWO)

November 7, 2021

Church Workers Sunday

Silent Reflection

*"Have you ever walked in our Pastor's shoes,
and gone where his/her feet have trod?
Have you ever thought of what he/she means to us,
And on your knees, given thanks to God?"*

- Judy Crowe, Appreciating our Pastors

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Prelude [*any available instruments*]

Processional (*while singing this song of thanks*)

† Call to Worship

Liturgist: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

People: We come together to sing of God's glory.

Liturgist: We come today to rejoice in God's work.

People: We come today to give thanks for God's call and to those who said yes.

Liturgist: We come to worship the God who calls and ordains; the God who loves and redeems.

All: Let us worship in spirit and in truth. Amen. (Psalm 19:1)

Hymn of Praise

♪Let's Worship and Praise God♪

Hymnal of Faith Journey, p. 10 MAGPURI

Let's worship and praise God with joyful songs. For the blessings that God has bestowed

Let's praise God and worship the Lord with songs. For the blessings that God bestowed.

Koro: *God's grace unfathomed and free, flowing all through the light, through the day.
Let's praise God with singing, let's praise God in service; together let's praise the Lord.*

Magdayeg, mag-awit kita sa Dios sa Anak nga gihatag Nya,

Magdayeg, mag-awit kita sa Dios sa Anak nga gihatag Nya.

Koro: *Iyang grasyang di matugkad, Nagtubod sa tanan nga adlaw
Magdayeg, mag-awit ug magaalagd, magdayeg kita sa Dios.*

Magpuring may awit sa ating Dios, sambahin S'ya at maghandog.

Magpuri't maglingkod tayo sa Dios sa biyayang kanyang dulot.

Koro: *Pagpapalang di masayod, sa buong maghapon umagos.*

Magpuring may awit, magpuri't maglingkod, Magpuri sa ating Dios. Amen.

Invocation (altogether)

Merciful God, as we come together today, we are thankful.

Thank you for the many blessings you have given us
blessings of love and grace,
blessings of community and belonging,

blessings of leaders and people we learn from.

Today, Lord, we thank you for pastors
for those we have now and those we have had in the past
those men and women who answered your call to serve you and to serve others.

We thank you for their families who become ours.
We pray for their strength and vision.
We pray that amid life they will not lose sight of you in all that they do.
We pray that You make us a caring community
To Pastors who served us night and day.

Come, as the Head of the whole Household
Come, as One who called
Pastors, evangelists, preachers, teachers
Counselors, facilitators, coordinators, prophets. Amen

ACT of TRIBUTE to CHURCH WORKERS

Video Presentation

(a video may be prepared about the life and works of the Pastor with the congregation)

Giving of Token of Appreciation

(A simple gift or token of appreciation may be prepared and given to the Pastor)

Song of Thanksgiving

♪ Thank You God for All Our Pastors ♪
(Tune: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You)

Thank you, God for all our pastors! For the lives they shared to us
Living life of Christ's example, guiding us with love and trust
Help us always be their helpers, partners in doing Your ministry
Teach us how to love them always as you love and care for us.

Praise You God for all our Pastors, faithful servants to Your Word
Prophet, healer, priest and shepherd, all in one's work, one must be.
Move us to respond in kindness, words of comfort we must give
May we treat them as our family, joyous living in harmony.

Thank you, God for all our pastors for their services and love
Selfless sharing and forgiving, willing to renew oneself
May we love them and their family, generous giving of ourselves
Thank you God to all our pastors, bless and keep them in Your care. Amen

THE CHURCH WORKERS' PRAYER: (A Prayer of Renewed Commitment to Serve)

God of our life and history, we gently come before your presence and seek your reassuring guidance as we earnestly vow to heed your call. Notwithstanding our imperfections and the insufficiencies of our own wisdom, we are profoundly grateful for the noble opportunity of being among those set apart to perform distinct functions. Trusting in your constant inspiration and enlightenment, we solemnly implore your help as we endeavor to *proclaim the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ, in our suffering world; embody your love for all people; hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace; confront and denounce the powers of evil within and among our community; be in solidarity with the oppressed and troubled people aspiring for freedom, and deliverance; work for healing, righteousness and wholeness of life; repent our utter insensitivity and complacency in the midst of sinfulness; thankfully receive your gracious act of forgiveness; embrace and work for the unity of Christ's Church; and discern and joyfully celebrate your presence and reign.*

Be our refuge and strength in times of trials and temptations. Move us to anchor our faith in you alone as we fulfill your mission entrusted to us. Increase our self-restraint in moments of great

temptations and when evils of greed and pleasure seem to lure my senses. Provoke my spirit when fear and selfishness preclude us from doing your will and purpose.

Grant, O God, that we may unfailingly live up to our calling as your servant-prophet... prudent enough to understand and feel the needs and call of every situation; serene even at times when my own disposition is derided and ridiculed; humble and magnanimous in moments of achievements and successes; always grateful yet dispassionate albeit criticisms or amid setbacks.

Help us keep up to our commitment as workers of the Church – the United Church of Christ in the Philippines – that we may firmly and faithfully uphold its faith, doctrines, principles, and fundamental laws; that we may dependably regard our co-workers with utmost respect and treat those in ecclesiastical leaderships with high esteem; that we may always work and contribute to the preservation and strengthening of unity among church workers; demonstrate an attitude of openness and modesty to members of local churches and people in our community.

To you, gracious God, we offer our deepest thanksgiving for the favor of being chosen. Here we are, Lord, send us! AMEN.

Song Response:

♪Thank You God for All Our Pastors♪

(Tune: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You)

Thank you, God for all our pastors for their services and love

Selfless sharing and forgiving, willing to renew oneself

May we love them and their family, generous giving of ourselves

Thank you God to all our pastors, bless and keep them in Your care.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

Too often our hearts are cold and without gratitude. Too often our hands are passive and unwilling to carry out acts of mercy. Too often our lips are pursed tightly, unwilling to speak words of love. Too often we are indeed separated and alienated from our better self, separated and alienated from God.

Song of Confession

♪Susiha, O Ginoo♪

Hymnal of Faith Journey p. 89

*Susiha, O Ginoo, ang kasinmgkasing ko Ang akong kalapasang nabuhat kanimo
Pasayloa, hatagi sa kalinaw mo. Amen.*

Prayer of Confession (altogether)

Gracious and loving God, every day we fail to live in the way you have called us to live. Instead of love and grace, we show anger and impatience. Instead of looking out for the least of these, we look over them for our own benefit. Those you have placed in our lives to help, we have taken for granted. Forgive us for not seeking your heart daily. Forgive us where and when we overlook and take for granted. Forgive us when we do not love as Christ first loved us.

(Moments of Silence)

Assurance of Pardon (Minister)

“Take heart, the good news is that even while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Through the love of God, we are indeed forgiven and redeemed. Praise God! (Romans 5:8)

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Church/Community Concerns

The Church at Prayer

Choral Response: ♪Hear Our Prayer Oh God♪ Hymnal of Faith Journey p. 89

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline Your ear to us, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

† Scripture Reading

Anthem

Message

THE ACT OF OFFERING

Call to Offering: God is merciful and kind. God never falters nor tarries. God provides and sustains. Let us exalt and glorify the Messiah as we offer ourselves, our tithes, pledges, and love offering to the Lord.

Offertory Song

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, you truly bless us more than we deserve. Take these tithes and offerings and bless them to be used to advance your kingdom; used to show love and grace to those around us and to be the church you have called us to be. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Minister: Jesus, you invite us to your table, freely, without condition. We cannot earn a seat at your table and yet we are here. We came together as individuals but have now formed a community of believers. Just as the grapes and the grains of wheat are transformed, we also are transformed by your grace and your love.

Christ, you have brought us together into your extraordinary presence. We have no words with which to explain or to fully understand, and yet we are here with open hearts and open hands. As we work together to make this world the New Jerusalem, we ask that you continue to transform us.

A new year is upon us, a year full of your promise and possibilities. Help us to see ourselves in a new light and fill us with a desire for change. You taught us that God's creation is full of abundance to be shared with everyone. Encourage us to share your love and your gifts with those around us. We have come to this table at your invitation. Once strangers, now family. Together, we lift up our voices to give you praise and thanksgiving:

Hymn

"Santo, Santo, Santo"

Hymnal of FaithJourney, 73

Santo, Santo, Santo, mi corazon te adora
Mi corazon te sabedecir, santo eres Dios.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words; you are holy God.

Words of Institution (Minister)

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

(Lift and break bread)

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup, saying:

(Lift the cup)

*This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

(Raising the bread and cup)

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Prayer

Creating God, we give thanks that you brought this world and all of humanity into being, breathing life into us. You show yourself in each face we encounter, each and all created in your image. We thank you for your covenants. You taught us how to serve you, and how to honor each other. To bring us into relationship with you, you sent us prophets and teachers. We offer thanks that when we ignored your embrace, you persisted in reaching out to us. We thank you most for the life and ministry of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Christ taught us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from you. Through your Holy Spirit, you breathe through us, gathering us as church. Thank you for continuing to bring us together that we may celebrate you. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Minister: This table is God's offer of grace and an invitation to community where forgiveness is found, and we are called to be the body of Christ. In that body, we find all shapes, sizes, and abilities, the young and the old, all colors and shades, and the created diversity of loving relationships. Together, we are affirmed in our shared mission, and empowered for discipleship. No one goes hungry. This table welcomes everyone! Come, share the feast!

****Gloria Patri**

"Glory To The Creator" 81 HFJ

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, three in One;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end, Amen. Amen.*

The Church in Communion

Hymn of Dedication

♪I Would Be True♪

Hymnal of Faith Journey p. 89

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 prayerful thru each busy moment; I would be constantly in touch with God. I would be tuned to hear His slightest whisper; I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

Prayer of Commitment

(Church Elder)

Benediction

Let us therefore go into the world proclaiming the cross of Christ. Go and give thanks for the amazing men and women God has blessed us with. Go and tell of the goodness of God. May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord's countenance be upon you and bring you peace. Amen.

Response: Five-Fold Amen

Moment of Silence

*As we leave this place, know that God loves us and has called us to be a blessing in the midst of the earth.
Go in peace knowing that the God of peace goes with you!*

Postlude

Prepared by Rev. Lovanesa Anabeza, JACOB Convenor- NWMJ