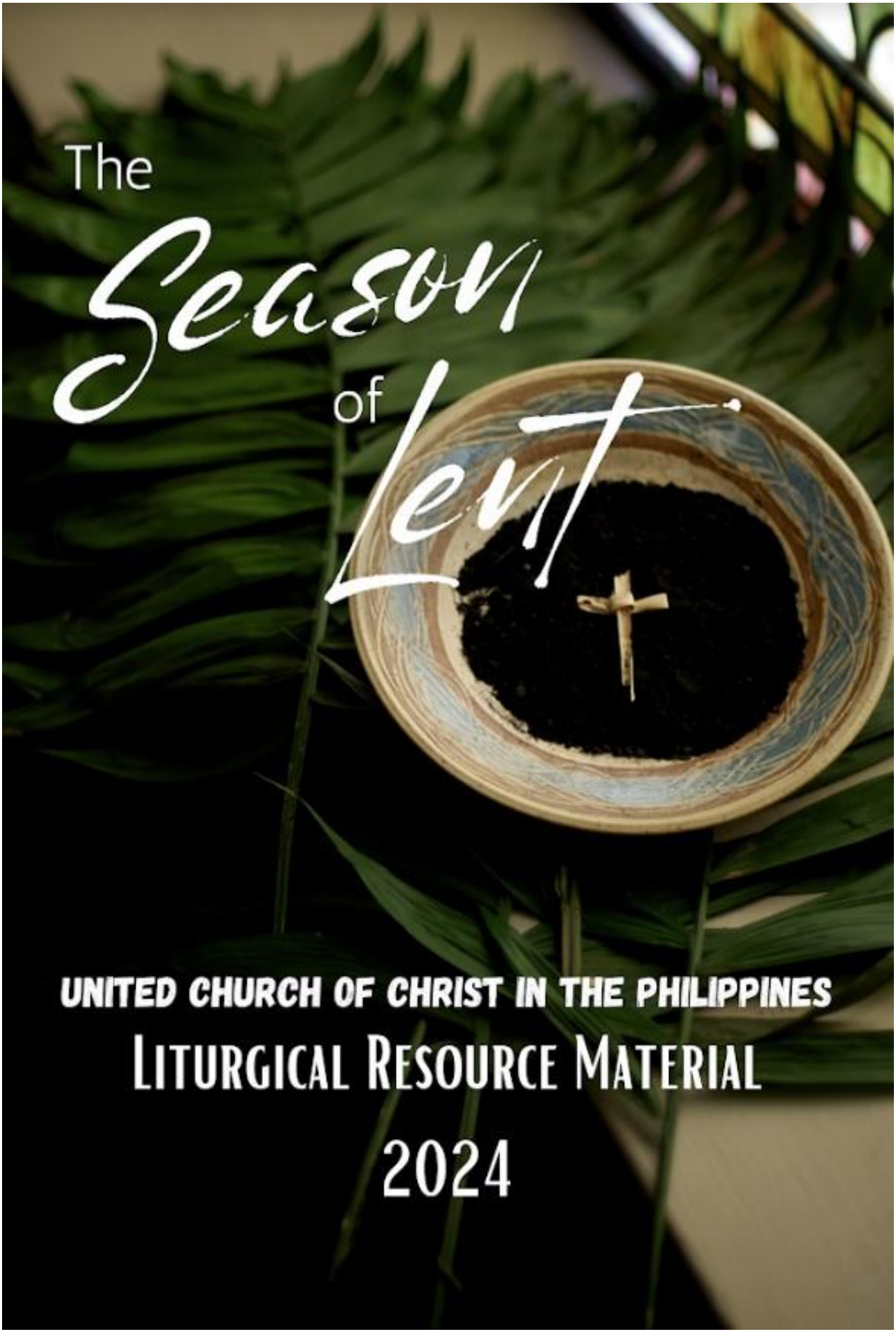

The Season of Lent

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

Liturgical Resource Material

2024

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14,2024

Biblical Text: Genesis 3:19

Reflection

"ANG MGA ABO BILANG PAALALA KUNG SINO TAYO"

Ang pagsasagawa ng Ash Wednesday ay isang banal na gawain ng mga Kristyano na kung saan hindi ipinag-utos ng Banal na Kasulatan na kahalintulad ng Pasko at Pasko ng Pagkabuhay. Ngunit, ipinagdiriwang ito ng mga Kristyano mahigit sampung dantaon na sa unang araw ng pagsisimula ng Kuwaresma.

Ang abo ay paalala kung sino tayo. Sa Bibliya mababasa natin na tayo ay galing sa ALABOK at sa alabok din tayong lahat babalik. (Genesis 3:19) Ang unang nilalang, ang TAO ay nilikha ng Dios mula sa putik ng lupa at ito ay kanyang hiningahan saka nagkaroon ng buhay. Dito, ipinapaalala sa atin na kung wala ang hininga na galing sa Dios na Maylikha, tayong lahat ay tulad lamang ng mga abo na ito- walang buhay, walang pakinabang. Kung wala tayong kaugnayan sa Dios sa pamamagitan ni Hesus na kanyang bugtong na Anak, tayo ay mga walang silbi. Pinapaalala sa atin ng abo kung sino ako, sino ka, sino tayo sa harap ng Manlilikha!

Ang abo ay nagpapaalala sa atin ng ating taos- pusong pagsisisi sa ating mga kasalanan. Ang pagkakataong ito ay ipinapahintulot ng Dios na yakapin natin at manangis sa pagsisisi mula sa ating mga kasalanan.

Ayon sa kasaysayan sa Biblia ang mga taong nagsisisi ay nagsusuot ng sako at nagbubuhos ng abo sa kanilang mga ulo. Ginagawa ang pagsusuot at pagbubuhos ng abo pagkatapos magkaroon ng pag-amin sa puso at isipan. That was their way of showing repentance and seeking God's forgiveness.

Church Worship Symbols and Its Meaning

Communion Table- The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.

Christ's Candle - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle represents Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.

Bible- The Bible teaches that reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel message and calls the Church to extend forgiveness and healing to one another. The Bible calls the Church to unity, reminding us of the shared identity we have in Christ. As UCCP, we affirm that the Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation ti illumine, guide, correct, and edify believers in their faith and witness.

Baptismal Font- The baptismal font holds deep symbolic significance within the Christian faith. It represents cleansing, death and resurrection, incorporation into the Church, union with Christ, regeneration, the presence of the Holy Spirit, initiation into Christ's mission, connection to the Old Testament, obedience, and transformation. It serves as a visual and tangible reminder of the believer's faith journey and their commitment to following Christ.

Cross- The cross calls believers to identify with Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. It represents the call to take up one's own cross, deny oneself, and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24).

Ashes- symbol that can be used to remind us that we came from dust and to dust we shall return. The ashes can be imposed to the members forehead/hand as part of the liturgical celebration.

THE ACT OF GATHERING

Silent Meditation
"Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man or the woman on whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. Therefore, let everyone who is godly offer prayers to Thee At a time of distress ..." (Psalm 32:1-2,6a)

Prelude (Piano, Organ, Guitar or any instruments)

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Call to Worship

Liturgist: As we enter into this season of Lent, we remember the words of Your servant Paul, who said, "the wages of sin are death." (Rom.6:23)

People: Lord have mercy.

Liturgist: Even though we have been bought with the blood of Christ, we often turn away from You and towards our own wicked desires.

People: Lord have mercy.

Liturgist: As we prepare to receive ashes this day, remind us that we only have one life to live. Remind us of our baptism, where we turned from death to life.

People: Keep us in Your faithful arms until you return to judge the living and the dead.

Liturgist: Come, let us worship the Lord.

Hymn of Adoration **"TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS"** **HFJ #205**

Words and Music: Helen Howarth Lemmel

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain: Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

2. Thro' death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion.
For more than conqu'rors we are!

3. His Word shall not fail you
He promised; Believe Him,
and all will be well: Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Our Gracious God, we come to You in confession of what we have done against Your will. We have fallen short of Your glory and Your purpose for our lives. Help us see ourselves that we may be true and faithful to You. Help us see within ourselves all that are not pleasant to You.

Silent Prayer

Response: (in song)

Refrain: O Jesus blest redeemer, Sent from the Heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee, Near the heart of God.
(Near the Heart of God, The Hymnal Words and Music: Cleland B. Mcafee)

Liturgist: Our Merciful God, please forgive us for all the times that we have not loved others as we ought to love. Give us patience and understanding in all our relationships. Give us the courage to love more those who people find unlovable. We have chosen to be selfish but dear God, You have called us to selflessness.

Silent Prayer

Response: (in song)

Refrain: O Jesus blest redeemer, Sent from the Heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee, Near the heart of God.
(Near the Heart of God, The Hymnal Words and Music: Cleland B. Mcafee)

Liturgist: Our Loving God, please help us to care more of our souls. There were so many times in our lives that we are too busy that we forget to pray. Forgive us, dear God, for all the times that we have been asking too much from You and have forgotten to listen to what You have to say to each one of us. We have failed to listen to Your still small voice.

Silent Prayer

Response: (in song)

Refrain: O Jesus blest redeemer, Sent from the Heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee, Near the heart of God.
(Near the Heart of God, The Hymnal Words and Music: Cleland B. Mcafee)

Liturgist: Our Caring God, we confess our need of You. We need Your grace. We need Your patience. We need Your guidance. We cannot see beyond the moment. We cannot worship You as we ought. As we begin this solemn journey towards the cross, we call upon Your mercy and Your love for our salvation.

Silent Prayer

Response: (in song)

Refrain: O Jesus blest redeemer, Sent from the Heart of God,
Hold us who wait before Thee, Near the heart of God.
(Near the Heart of God, The Hymnal Words and Music: Cleland B. Mcafee)

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Reading of the Scripture

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Song Response

Glory to the Creator HFJ#81
Music: Henry W. Greatorex 1851
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.

Anthem

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith (UCCP Statement of Faith)

WE BELIEVE
In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provide order, purpose meaning and fulfillment to all creation;
That Jesus Christ, who has born of Mary, God become human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history;
That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE
That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in the community with God, with other persons and with all creation.
That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they 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.

WE BELIEVE
That the Church in one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE
That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE

God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's kingdom in which love, justice and peace prevail.

The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. AMEN

Receiving and Offering of Ashes

Dedication of the Ashes

Pastor: Our God, you created us from the dust of the earth. Allow these ashes to be a clear sign and reminder to us of the meaning of death in our earthly bodies so that we may receive gloriously the grace of your kindness. Forgiveness of our sins and eternal life only through Jesus Christ, Amen

(To apply ashes, rub your thumb in the bowl of ashes and make the sign of the cross on the worship participant's forehead. As you apply the ashes say, **"REPENT AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS"**

Call to Offering

Liturgist: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God this is your true and proper worship". (Romans 12:1)

Doxology **"PRAISE GOD FROM ALL WHOM BLESSINGS FLOW"** HFJ# 94

Words: Thomas Ken | Music: Louis Bourgeouis

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer (all)

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

Hymn of Dedication "**I AM THINE, O LORD"** HYMNAL #278

Words: Fanny Crosby
Music: W.H. Doane

1 I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

2 Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine. [Refrain]

3 Oh, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]

4 There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee. [Refrain)

Closing Prayer **Minister**

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

The Benediction (Pastor)
May God our Creator and the Savior Jesus Christ give you all peace and love, with faith. And God's blessing be with all who have an unfailing love for God's Son, Jesus Christ. Amen. (Eph. 6:23-24)

Response: Three- Fold Amen

Postlude

References: *Hymn of Faith Journey*
Celebration: A Sourcebook for Christian Worship. REPRINTED 2005 Copyright 2004 by Lydia N. Niguidula and New Day Publishers

Prepared by Rev. Ericson Aldovino of UMC-MLJ

Biblical Text: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Short Reflection

Crises in different stages of life are the most common theme for us today as the Lenten season is fast approaching. The Transfiguration story marks the revelation of God in our daily struggles. It is in this season that we are called and challenged by God to come to God's presence in recognition of all the things that make us struggle. Our shortcomings and sins must be acknowledged with penitent hearts so that we will receive God's grace and mercy for reconciliation.

In the same manner, when the people of God are faced with difficult situations in life, God's loving kindness and mercy are revealed through Elijah. When the people of God opted to worship Baal in the midst of great hunger and famine, God's reconciling grace and mercy were revealed to them. It is also the same with this gospel today: when

the people of God are faced with great trials and challenges in life, people also opt to turn to their selfish desires and personal interests to find satisfaction, just like Peter and James expressed their personal desires to Jesus to build tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah because they find it satisfying to have it this way. But God's amazing grace and love are revealed to them not in a selfish manner; rather, they are commanded to tell this experience to the people by the time of Jesus' fulfillment of his mission on the cross. This unconditional love and hope from God demonstrated during the transfiguration are not only revealed to Peter and James, but even to us in our very own context.

Jesus' reaffirmation of his identity as the Messiah in his transfiguration gives us the assurance of hope and faith that the struggles that we have will soon be transfigured. Our shortcomings and sins will be transfigured into healing and reconciliation. Our sense of individualism and fragmentation will be transfigured into being united and uniting, as manifested in our call as a church of our God in Jesus Christ.

Notes For Worship Preparation

For a more creative celebration, use the symbols of worship found within the church vicinity. The following are the important symbols of worship:

Cross- Symbol of Christian faith and a reminder of Christ's salvific grace

Bible- The symbol of our faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation. It is also the foundation of our prophetic witness and proclamation of the good news. As UCCP, we affirm that the Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation to illumine, guide, correct, and edify believers in their faith and witness.

Christ Candle- the symbol of Christ light and warmth in serving God's people.

Baptismal Font- the baptismal font holds deep symbolic significance within the Christian faith. It represents cleansing, death and resurrection, incorporation into the Church, union with Christ, regeneration, the presence of the Holy Spirit, initiation into Christ's mission, connection to the Old Testament, obedience, and transformation. It serves as a visual and tangible reminder of the believer's faith journey and their commitment to following Christ.

Communion Table-The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

Silent Meditation

"God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world."

Desmond Tutu

Prelude

Processional Hymn **"Enter, Rejoice"**

Enter, rejoice and come in
Open your hearts to the Lord
Today will be a joyful day
Enter, rejoice and come in.

Gather us all in your love (2x)
That we may all one body be
Gather us all in your love.

Glory to God, glory (2x)
Let us resound with joyful song
Glory to God, glory.

Sing alleluia (2x)
Today will be a joyful day
Sing alleluia.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Litany of Praise (Based on Exodus 24, Matthew 17)

Liturgist: As God called to Moses from the mountain,

People: We are called to be God's people.

Liturgist: As Jesus called the disciples to climb with him to the peak of another mountain,

People: We are called to follow wherever he leads.

Liturgist: As the disciples stood in awe at the sound of God's voice,

People: We are called to worship in wonder and praise.

Hymn of Celebration **"Transfiguration Hymn"**

[Tune: Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer HFJ 43]

See our Lord in all His glory,
Now arrayed in dazzling white!
See Him shine in holy splendor,
Bathed in everlasting light!
See the law and prophets gather,
Lifting high the Living Christ!
Lifting high the Living Christ!

See the cloud of ancient fire
Guiding through our wilderness.
Hear the voice of God our Father.

Hear the love His words express:
This my Son is pure and pleasing.
Hear the blessing that He brings!
Hear the blessing that He brings!

Jesus Lord, we see Your splendor
Here and now by daily faith.
In our service, in our suffering
We will follow unafraid,
On from glory into glory
Till we see You face to face,
Till we see You face to face.

Invocation

God of the mountaintop and of the plain, we remember today the transfiguration of Jesus. Glorious, mysterious, and shimmering with light, you know our hearts, our triumphs, and our disasters. Take us as we are; love us as we are; join with us and transform us into your holy ones. Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Our disobedience and sin separate us from the love of God and make us unworthy to become children of God. Come now in confession and surrender everything that hinders us from receiving God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Silent Prayer of Confession *(with soft music)*

Community Prayer of Confession

Though we want to walk with Moses and see God's holy radiance, we hide in the mist of our own desires, unable to perceive the presence of God's grace. While we want a world of justice and peace, we walk in clouds of selfishness, unable to share God's loving-kindness. Though we want to follow Jesus up the mountain, we cower in fear, unable to bear the light of God. Forgive and have mercy on us, O God. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In the blazing light of God's grace, Jesus touches us to say, "Get up and do not be afraid." In the name of Jesus Christ, receive God's love and forgiveness. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Minister: As we share the peace of Christ with one another, may the light of Christ shine in you always.
People: And also, in you.
Minister: Let us now pass the peace and love in Jesus Christ whilke singing "This is the Day".

"This Is The Day"

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made (that the Lord has made)
We will rejoice (We will rejoice) and be glad in it (and be glad in it).
For this is the day that the Lord has made,

We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made.

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

Church Concerns

Pastoral Prayer (if Pastor is present)
Lord's Prayer

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
As we have also forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For
Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Response **"O Hear Our Prayer, Almighty God" HFJ#85**
O hear our pray'r, Almighty God, in faith and trust 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 PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading (Old Testament) **2 Kings 2:1-12**

Response **"Hallelujah" HFJ#82**
Halleluja---h, Halleluja--h,
Halleluja---h, Hallelujah! (Repeat)

Second Reading (Gospel) **Mark 9:2-9**
Gloria Patri

Anthem
Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith
WE BELIEVE, In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation. That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history. That in the Holy Spirit God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

WE BELIEVE, That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE, That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE, God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's Kingdom — in which love, justice and peace prevail. The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE, The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

Revised. Version, September 3, 1992 UCCP Faith and Order Committee

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Call to Offering

God's love is manifested in Jesus' transfiguration. Therefore, being able to receive the transforming grace and love of God, let us, with gratefulness, offer our thankful praise to God through our tithes, pledges, and thanksgiving offerings.

The Offertory
Doxology

Offertory Prayer
Luminous Giver of all good things, in Your presence, everything is a gift. Bless these gifts offered by Your children, the fruit of our labors and the work of our hands, that they might be used in Your continuing ministry and for the work of healing Your creation, in the name of Christ, our light and the light of the world. Amen.

Hymn of Assurance ***"The Love of God" [HFJ 48]***

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain:
O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure, The saints' and angels' song.

When trying times shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When they who heard refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure, All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Benediction

God gave us the assurance of hope that the struggles we have will soon be transfigured. Our shortcomings and sins will be transfigured into healing and reconciliation. Our sense of individualism and fragmentation will be transfigured into being united and uniting, as manifested in our call as a church of our God in Jesus Christ. When Jesus' glory is revealed to us, we become transfigured. We are not who we were before. Go now to your homes, your neighborhoods, your schools, and places of work as new people. Go as Christians illumined by the glory of God in Christ. Be renewed and be radiant. In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

Congregational 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

Recessional

Prepared by Pastor Joshua Job S. Salva of NWMJ-CMAC

Biblical Texts: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Short Reflection

Immersion With Christ:
A Call for Repentance and A Covenant with God

We oftentimes hear the idiom "put yourself in someone's shoes", in order for us to understand fully the circumstances of another person, so as to empathize with their perspective, opinion, or point of view. How can we comfortably utter this idiom while being aware to the fact that there are those who couldn't afford to wear shoes, or decent slippers? Today's lectionary readings showed us how Jesus emphatically lived his life for the least, the last, and the lost. Jesus chose to embrace a ministry that responds to the needs of those who couldn't wear shoes, sandals, and slippers. He started and spent the majority of his entire ministry at Galilee—one of the three provinces of Palestine. A place with high rate of unemployment, prostitution, robbery, etc. We know that when the percentage of poverty escalates, the number of crimes increases. He was fully aware of the present situation of the society where he belongs. This is where Jesus administered his teaching, preaching, feeding and healing ministry.

Jesus started his ministry by being baptized. His immersion into the water of Jordan river is a proclamation of his readiness to immerse himself to the struggles of the people. His coming up out of the water, is a proclamation of Jesus' radical choice of standing with and for the welfare of those who are suffering and in great despair.

What about us? What is our understanding on baptism and how do we give value into it?

Baptism is one of the two sacraments of the Reformed tradition. It is an act where "we enter into union with Christ and experience with him in death and resurrection through our own dying from self- centered lives and rising again a new person-for-others. Furthermore, in the use of water, we symbolize the washing away of our past offenses and offer to use a clean slate on which to start life over again, empowered and enabled through the Holy Spirit. Also, through this act, we are initiated into the community of Christians, God's own people on earth."[1]
Therefore,

1. **Our baptism is a call for a genuine repentance.**
   Immersion to the plight of the people could be possible if we acknowledge our mistakes and shortcomings. Let us name our mis-actions and inactions, for us to move forward towards restoration.

2. **Our baptism is a union with Christ- a covenant with God.** This means that the life and ministry of Jesus become ours. If Jesus responded to the least, the last, and the lost, then we are called to do the same.

3. **Our baptism is a union with each other --- a covenant with the Oikos.**
   This is a public manifestation of our unity. Our corporate worship and service is a powerful way of heralding the good news. We become effective witnesses to the society when we work together for the advancement of God's kin-dom while acknowledging and respecting each one's differences.

[1] The Book of Common Worship, p. 75. United Church of Christ in the Philippines, 1998,

Church Worship Symbols and its Meaning

- **Communion Table-** The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.
- **Christ's Candle** - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.
- **Bible-** The Bible teaches that reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel message and calls the Church to extend forgiveness and healing to one another. The Bible calls the Church to unity, reminding us of the shared identity we have in Christ. As UCCP, we affirm that the Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation to illumine, guide, correct, and edify believers in their faith and witness.
- **Baptismal Font-** the baptismal font holds deep symbolic significance within the Christian faith. It represents cleansing, death and resurrection, incorporation into the Church, union with Christ, regeneration, the presence of the Holy Spirit, initiation into Christ's mission, connection to the Old Testament, obedience, and transformation. It serves as a visual and tangible reminder of the believer's faith journey and their commitment to following Christ.
- **Cross-** The cross calls believers to identify with Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. It represents the call to take up one's own cross, deny oneself, and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24).

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

Silent Meditation

Prelude (Piano, Organ, Guitar or any instruments)

Processional (The leaders/choir will process)

The Meaning of Symbols

Reader 1: I pour out this water in the name of God who moved over formless waters and give life to humanity. We gathered here to be united through this water and remember the sacredness of our baptism as Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river.

(Water is poured into a Sacred space.)

Reader 2: I lit this fire in the name of God who gives light to the world. We remember Christ in the fire of a candle. We feel the Holy Spirit in the fire of a lamp.

(Lamp/ candle at the altar is lit)

Reader 3: I set free this dove to spread its wings as it fly for freedom, peace, and unity. As the Spirit descends on Jesus like a dove, let freedom, and peace descends to us as we herald the unity of the Body of Christ.

(Dove is being set free)

THE ACT OF PRAISE

+ Call to Worship

Liturgist**:** The stream of the Living water invites us to be quenched from our longing for healing and reconciliation.

People: Spirit of refreshment, be with us.

Liturgist: The authority of the Savior, who immersed himself with the least, the last, and the lost, invites us to stand up in unity against oppression.

People: Spirit that unites, be with us.

Liturgist**:** The fire of the Holy Flame sustains us for enlightenment towards restoration.

People: Spirit that gives life, be with us.

All: Be with us! Ignite us with your presence!

+ Opening Hymn: **"Fairest Lord Jesus"** HFJ #11

Words: Anonymous German hymn: Munster Gesangbuch,1677
Transl: Source unknown, stanza 1-3, alt
Music: Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
You are of God to earth come down
You will I cherish; You will I honor;
You're my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robbed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine; fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

+ Opening Prayer (Liturgist)

Our Parent God, who moves through the waters, come and be present in our midst. Let your presence be felt like a stream of waters that cover our souls. Let your Spirit moves in our midst as we open ourselves to new opportunities of knowing you deeply. Allow us to communion with you and with one another, through Jesus who once was baptized, Amen

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Liturgist: God is not pleased in wickedness and doesn't delight in unrighteousness. Nothing is hidden in God's sight, therefore, with a humble heart, let us confess our inactions and mis-actions.

Prayer of Confession (All)

Our Parent God, forgive your people:
for abundance among the poor,
for confidence among the tyrants,
for apathy among the oppressed,
for anonymity in the midst of decision- making for holistic transformation.
Forgive us, your people
for allowing ourselves to be indulged by fear and doubt
instead of being immersed in your ministry.

Cleanse us with your ever-flowing mercy.
Refresh our souls with Your promise of acceptance.
Restore us to your sealed covenant as your people and lead us to true repentance.

Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)
The God who promised Noah for renewal and restoration is the same God who offers new life to us and welcomes us to God's household. Let us accept God's invitation of life; celebrate the covenant sealed with God's promise; and proclaim the good news of reconciliation.

Response: **Breathe on Me, Breath of God** HFJ #183
Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878; alt
Music: Robert Jackson, 1888

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 Holy Fire.

+ **Passing of Peace**
(As waters flow from the rivers, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another as we sing "We are One in the Bond of Love")

We are one in the bond of Love.
We are one in the bond of love.
We are one in the spirit, with the spirit of love.
We are one in the bond of love.

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

Church Concerns/ Community Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our *God, who are in heaven. Hallowed be your name.
Your Kin-dom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+First Reading Genesis 9:8-17

Response **From the Bible We Learn God's Will** HFJ#355

Words: Ruth Srisuwan
Music: Inchai Srisuwan, Thailand

From the Bible we learn God's will,
Give each other love, give each other love, give each other love.

From the Bible we learn God's will,
Offer help to all, offer help to all, offer help to all.

From the Bible we learn God's will,
Come to God who waits, come to God who waits, come to God who waits.

+ Second Reading Mark 1:9-15

+ Gloria Patri **Glory To The Creator** HFJ# 81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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.

Anthem
Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

WE BELIEVE
In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provide order, purpose meaning and fulfillment to all creation;
That Jesus Christ, who has born of Mary, God become human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history;

That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE
That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in the community with God, with other persons and with all creation.
That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they 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.

WE BELIEVE
That the Church in one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE
That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE
God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's kingdom in which love, justice and peace prevail.
The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE
The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. AMEN

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Call to Offering
Liturgist: The ever-merciful God who challenges us to put ourselves dead to flesh--- (setting aside self-centeredness and all kinds of unproductive discord and arguments), is the same God who encourages us to be alive in spirit. The response to this summons would be visible through the act of generous giving. Let us offer to God our lives and the fruit of our labor.

The Offertory

+ Doxology **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow** HFJ#94
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551
(2nd Stanza)

Praise God the source of life and birth;
Praise God the Son who came to earth;
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Flame.
All glory, honor to God's name, Amen.

+ Offertory Prayer (All)
Thank you, our Dear Parent for extending Your generosity towards us. May we immerse ourselves into Your goodness so that we could have the courage to share what we can. May we immerse ourselves into your mercy so that we could obtain wisdom to know and do what is right. May we immerse ourselves into gratitude so that we could discern how You move and work through us, Amen.

+ **Closing Hymn** **Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart** **HFJ #181**

Words: George Croly, 1854; alt
Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as You are,
And make me love You as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Have You not bid us love You every way?
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
I see Your cross there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek You, and o, let me find.

Teach me to feel that You are always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love You as Your angel's love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven descended dove,
My heart an altar, and Your love the flame.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Benediction (Pastor)
May the God whose love radiantly covers the whole oikos, enlighten, strengthen and empower you to live a life ready to respond to God's summon.

*(The Pastor then sprinkles water to the congregation at every blessing uttered. The Pastor uses a small branch from a plant/tree and dips into the water bowl and then sprinkles to the participants while moving around.)**

May this sprinkling of water free you from apathy and anonymity to the cry of the poor.
May this sprinkling of water free you from fear and doubt that hinder your commitment to live in communion with God, with each other, and the rest of God's creation.
May this sprinkling of water remind you of your own baptism, and the sealed covenant with our God---our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Threefold Amen

Postlude

Recessional

**Note: This rite would help the congregation remember the significance of the baptism they received and live out their faith, as well as an encouragement for those who would like to be baptized. The sprinkling of water using a small branch from a plant/tree is a benediction known as Ibbaloi's Wasiwas rite.*

References:
Hymnal of a Faith Journey
United Church of Christ in the Philippines 2002

Prepared by Rev. Luisa Givero of SIDC-EVJ

Lent begins on the fortieth weekday before Easter, and concludes at noon on the Saturday of Holy Week or Easter eve. The 40 days (not counting Sundays) are for the period of preparation in penitence and soul-searching for a meaningful celebration of Easter or the rising of the Savior Jesus from the dead. The color of this liturgical season is PURPLE symbolizing penitence

Church Worship Symbols and Its Meaning

Communion Table- The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.

Christ's Candle - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.

Bible- The Bible teaches that reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel message and calls the Church to extend forgiveness and healing to one another. The Bible calls the Church to unity, reminding us of the shared identity we have in Christ. As UCCP, we affirm that the Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation to illumine, guide, correct, and edify believers in their faith and witness.

Baptismal Font- the baptismal font holds deep symbolic significance within Christian faith. It represents cleansing, death and resurrection, incorporation into the Church, union with Christ, regeneration, the presence of the Holy Spirit, initiation into Christ's mission, connection to the Old Testament, obedience, and transformation. It serves as a visual and tangible reminder of the believer's faith journey and their commitment to following Christ.

Cross- The cross calls believers to identify with Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. It represents the call to take up one's own cross, deny oneself, and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24).

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS - A common expression of unity as a Church to sustain order, harmony in relation to governance and polity; an important tool for us to know and understand the diversity of heritage of UCCP, which has enriched our capacity for witness and reconciliation as a community of faith.

Short Reflection

"Asin at Liwanag ng Mundo: Ang Pagsunod sa mga Yapak ni Kristo"
Mateo 5:13-20

Nasa buwan na tayo ngayon ng Membership Renewal Month. At mamumuhay tayo sa ating pagiging miyembro ng United Church of Christ in the Philippines kung saan gagabay ito sa atin upang tayo ay lumago bilang mga tinawag ng Diyos. At ang ating teksto ay akma sa ating pagninilay-nilay ngayon. Ang paksa ng ating pagninilay ay "Asin at Liwanag ng Mundo: Pagsunod sa Halimbawa ni Kristo. "

Sa ating Amended Constitution and By-Laws sa Article 3, nakikita natin ang ating pagkakakilanlan bilang mga miyembro ng UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Article III
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines shall be through one of its local churches or congregations.

Section 2. Membership is acquired through baptism in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, or by dedication, confirmation, transfer and reception, public confession of faith, or affiliation.

Section 3. The categories of membership, including honorary membership, the acquisition, loss or recovery of membership, and the rights and privileges as well as the obligations and commitments of the church members, including the institution and maintenance of discipline, shall be provided for in the By-Laws.

Tayo ay tinawag na maging asin ng simbahan at ng mundo, upang maipagpatuloy natin ang gawain ng katarungan at kapayapaan batay sa kung paano tayo namumuhay ayon sa kalooban ng ating kinikilalang Diyos. Tinawag ni Hesus ang kanyang mga alagad na maging asin ng mundo at hindi lamang sa Galilea.

Marami sa atin, na naging asin at liwanag ng mundo ang naging martir. Ang ilan sa atin ay sinasabing kaaway ng estado, sa kabilang banda, tinutulungan ng simbahan ang estado na maging isang mas magandang lugar na tirahan sa pamamagitan ng pagsunod sa mga yapak ni Hesus.

Bilang UCCP, patuloy naming dinadala ang mensahe ni Kristo; upang maging asin at liwanag dito sa mundo.

Mahirap na maging asin at liwanag tayo sa mundo. Ngunit kung tayo ay tapat, maaari tayong maging asin at liwanag nito. Tayo ay magiging asin at liwanag sa mundo. Kaya ang tanong natin sa ating sarili,"Naging ilaw at asin ba ako ng UCCP? Bilang mga miyembro ng UCCP, tapat ba tayo sa pagtulong sa ating mga gawain? Tayo ba ay tapat sa ating handog? Tayo ba ay tapat kay Hesus?"

Makikita natin ang ating pananagutan sa ating Amended By-Laws, Article 1: Church Membership.

Section 9. *Commitments of Members.* Membership in the Local Church entails the following obligations and commitments:

a. To proclaim the Gospel and bear personal witness in both word and service in the context of one's immediate community, the nation and the rest of humanity.

b. To lead a peaceable and godly life worthy of one's Christian calling; and to endeavor to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

c. To be diligent in prayer, the faithful practice of family worship and Bible study, and attendance at services of public worship of the Church.

d. To exhort one another in the faith, and to strive in every way to strengthen the unity and fellowship of the Church.

e. To study and practice the principles of Christian stewardship, cheerfully giving of one's tithes, pledges, time, talents and possessions.

f. To protect, promote and enhance the ecological balance and integrity of God's creation; and,

g. To affirm and adhere to the historic Christian creeds, the UCCP Statement of Faith, and the UCCP Constitution and By-Laws.

Ang mga batas na ito ng ating simbahan ay gagabay sa atin upang tayo ay maging asin at liwanag. Sa Mateo 5:17 ay nagsasabing "Huwag ninyong isipin na ako ay naparito upang tanggihan ang kautusan ni Moises at ang mga aral ng mga propeta. Ako ay naparito hindi upang tanggihan ito kundi upang tuparin ang tunay na kahulugan nito." Sa lahat ng batas ng ating Constitution and By-Laws, makikita natin dito na kailangan nating pag-aralan ang mga ito upang makita natin ang tunay na kahulugan ng ating pagkakakilanlan bilang miyembro ng UCCP na si Kristo ang ulo.

Ang batas na ating ginawa ang Constitution and By-Laws ay batay sa mga pangyayari ng unang mga Kristiyano. Hindi ito basta-basta. Ngunit lagi nating tinitingnan ang mga pangyayari upang makita kung ang ating mga aksyon ay makakatulong sa misyon ni Hesus o hadlangan ito.

Natitiyak ko na kung susundin natin si Hesus nang buong puso, tayo sa Lokal na Simbahan ay makakagawa ng isang bagay na nakalulugod sa Diyos.

THE ACT OF GATHERING

Silent Meditation
"Members of the church need to equip themselves with the understanding of their faith and involve actively in the life and work of the whole body, By so doing, they become living witness of the world and Christ's mission"

Prelude (Piano, Organ, Guitar or any instruments)

Processional (Candle -UCM; Bible-CYF; Flowers-CWA; Constitution and By-Laws -CYAF)

Lighting the Christ Candle (Children)

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Call to Worship
Liturgist**:** Come and let us worship the Lord! Let us proclaim God's faithfulness and goodness!

People: Come and let us praise God. Let us tell of God's faithful love that never fails and mercy that never ends, they are always new and fresh every morning.

Liturgist**:** Come on, let's serve God, because we are God's children, let's rejoice in the gift of God's grace. God's presence is with us now and nothing can separate us from God.

All: In a joyful spirit, let us together worship and praise the Great Teacher who tells the lessons about His kingdom a place where faith is proclaimed, Healing is given to the sick; Food is given to the hungry; Light is given to the blind; Freedom is given to the captives and the oppressed; and where love, justice and peace prevail.

Opening Hymn **WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS HFJ#160**

Words Isaac Watts 1707, alt
Music Lowell Mason 1825

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Christ of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it then that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God
all the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.

From sacred head, from hands, and feet sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Where the whole realm of nature mine that we are present far too small
Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul my life my all.

Invocation (Liturgist)

Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God, as we gather to worship and fellowship, we raise our need of Your presence. Let Your Spirit come upon us and embrace us into one accord so that we find meaning in our coming together as members of Your household. May the words of praise and penitence truly reflect our longing, hopes and prayers. Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Let us come in prayer bringing to God our grievances, the same offenses, the same requests. How often we have come in prayer without any attempts on our parts to do something about our plights, nor to lift a finger about our situations; indeed, to even help ourselves! Let us confess our sins to God.

Moment of Silent Confession

Litany of Confession

Liturgist: Our loving God, weakness often dominates our personality, we are easily swept away by temptation, fear and doubt prevail in difficult situations. There are days when we are tired and exhausted from our daily work and we lose time for Your words.

People: (song response) "Ang Kasal-anan Namo O Dios" HFJ#88

Words and Music: Juan Butlig, Jr. 1998
Eng. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2002

The heavy burden of our sins is separating us,
And so, we pray, O God, do heal us with your love.
Ang kasal-anan namo O Dios nagbulag kanamo,
Ipasig-uli diha sa gugma Mo.

Liturgist: We neglect our duty to love our neighbor and care for them. However, thank you, because we experience fatigue, hunger, even sadness, so that we remember to return to You, take refuge in Your love and compassion. Forgive us, 0 God, for words insincerely uttered and promises casually made.

People: (song response) "Ang Kasal-anan Namo O Dios" HFJ#88

Words and Music: Juan Butlig, Jr. 1998
Eng. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2002

The heavy burden of our sins is separating us,
And so, we pray, O God, do heal us with your love.
Ang kasal-anan namo O Dios nagbulag kanamo,
Ipasig-uli diha sa gugma Mo.

Liturgist: During this Lenten time, teach us a spirituality that has depth and foundation in You! Help us to realize how badly we need You. Help us to abandon ourselves in Your hands, not in carelessness, but in trust and in faith. Through Jesus Christ Who was obedient even unto death. Amen.

People: (song response) "Ang Kasal-anan Namo O Dios" HFJ#88

Words and Music: Juan Butlig, Jr. 1998
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The heavy burden of our sins is separating us,
And so, we pray, O God, do heal us with your love.
Ang kasal-anan namo O Dios nagbulag kanamo,
Ipasig-uli diha sa gugma Mo.

Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)

God invites us to accept His grace that will help us choose love, forgiveness and peace every day. This is the Good News. The Lord forgives us and removes our burdens. Release them to God's hands and accept God's gift of rest.

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

Church and Community Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the Glory forever. Amen

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

SALT AND LIGHT

13"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden 5 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Song Response **Glory to the Creator HFJ#81**

Music: Henry W. Greatorex 1851

Glory to the Creator , the Christ , the Holy Spirit
There in one as it was in the beginning is now and
ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Anthem

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith (*UCCP Statement of Faith)*

WE BELIEVE
In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provide order, purpose meaning and fulfillment to all creation;
That Jesus Christ, who has born of Mary, God become human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history;
That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

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

That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they 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.

WE BELIEVE
That the Church in one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God’s ministry.

WE BELIEVE
That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE
God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's kingdom in which love, justice and peace prevail.

The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE
The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. AMEN

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Call to Offering

Liturgist: Our gifts do not only meet the needs of God's people, but also produce an outpouring of grateful thank to God.

People: It is a joyful act always to offer ourselves to the Lord almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

All: We now praise God and with gladness present our offerings of life and the fruits of our labor.

The Offertory

Offertory Response **"O GOD RECEIVE THIS OFFERING" HFJ#91**

Words and Music: Bucalen C. Saboy 1965
Ceb. Transl. : Elena G. Maquiso 1972
Engl. Transl. : Grace R. Tabada 2002
Harm.: Isabel D. Vista 1972

O God receive this offering that we are bringing to you.
This is the sign of our gratitude for your great love for us all.

Offertory Prayer

Our God, we thank you for Your generous hand for providing us with all our needs. With Your abundant mercy and goodness, teach us also to serve others with the gifts You have blessed us. We also offer these gifts through the work and ministry of the Church and use our lives and strength so that others will know that our Lord whom we serve is gracious and merciful. Amen.

Litany of Commitment of Members (UCCP CBL; Article 1, Section 9)

Liturgist**: As members of God's household, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, we commit to**

Chairperson**:** To proclaim the Gospel and bear personal witness in both word and service in the context of one's immediate community, the nation and the rest of humanity;

People**:** To lead a peaceable and godly life worthy of one's Christian calling; and to endeavor to be a follower of Jesus Christ;

Vice Chair**:** To be diligent in prayer, the faithful practice of family worship and Bible study, and attendance at services of public worship of the Church;

People**:** To exhort one another in the faith, and to strive in every way to strengthen the unity and fellowship of the Church;

Elder**:** To study and practice the principles of Christian stewardship, cheerfully giving of one's tithes, pledges, time, talents and possessions;

People**:** To protect, promote and enhance the ecological balance and integrity of God's creation; and,

All**:** To affirm and adhere to the historic Christian creeds, the UCCP Statement of Faith, and the UCCP Constitution and By-Laws.

Closing Hymn **God Will Take Care of You HFJ# 38**

Words: Civilla D. Martin, 1904, alt
Music: W. Stillman Martin,1905

Be not dismayed what e'er be tide, God will take care of you
Beneath God's wings of Love abide, God will take care of you
Refrain:
God will take care of you through every day o'er all the way
God will take care of you God will take care of you

Through days of toil when heart grow frail, God will take care of you
When dangers fierce your path as sail, God will take care of you

All you may need God will provide; God will take care of you.
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you
Lean weary one, up on God's breast, God will take care of you

Closing Prayer (Minister)

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Benediction

Pastor: May the God, who challenged us to a deep and meaningful response of service, gives us a humble heart that is pierced with compassion and love in heralding our united mission, dreams, and vision as a Body of Christ as it extends to be lived for others.

People: May God give us strength to be bearers of hope for an abundant life in Christ.

Pastor: May Jesus, who innovated the ways to be able for us to follow fruitfully, teach us to reexamine ourselves as we are called in the wider and ecumenical service in rebuilding and restoring with hope for the community of faith and community of all creations.

People: May we open our hearts to God's call to love others as we love ourselves.

Pastor: May the Spirit guide us to make decisions that will continue to uphold, protect, and promote life and dignity.

ALL: MAY THE CREATIVE LOVE, REDEEMING LOVE AND SUSTAINING LOVE CONTINUE TO ENABLE, EQUIP AND EMPOWER US ALL TO CHOOSE JUSTICE. ALWAYS JUSTICE IN REBUILDING AND RESTORING WITH HOPE TOWARDS HERALDING THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Response Four-fold Amen

Postlude
Recessional

References: Hymn of Faith Journey UCCP

Constitution and By-Laws – UCCP

Celebration: A Sourcebook for Christian Worship REPRINTED 2005 Copyright 2004 by Lydia N. Niguidula and New Day Publishers

Prepared by Rev. Ericson Aldovino of UMC-MLJ

Third Sunday in Lent / Communion Sunday March 3, 2024

Biblical Text: **Psalm 19**; **John 4:5-42**

Notes for Worship Preparation

Bible, Communion Table, Cross, Baptismal Font and Christ Candle on the altar. The worship mood will be in total penitence and prayerful emphasizing the importance solemnity, with sincerity and dedication of prayers for forgiveness of sin and recognizing our vulnerability as human beings.

For a meaningful celebration, an activity will be given called ***"Acknowledging the Conflicts and Struggles within our Church"*** wherein everybody is invited to come near the altar, whether on the chancel or just on the lower area around the chancel. It is still the prerogative of the minister/resident pastor, when and where on the actual worship this activity will be placed in. This activity will allow the members to be more open to their current emotional state, be more expressive of their feelings, burdens, hardships etc. They will be given a small piece of paper to write the word that best describes their current emotional state and struggles. The elders/young people may do the distribution of the paper prior to the worship or during the invitation for them to come to the chancel.

Now, the minister, should prepare a **BASIN** with **WATER** since our text, the gospel of **John 4:5-42** portrayed a symbolic representation of the water in text. As soon as **ALL** the members were able to write the word that best describes their current emotional state and struggles, they may offer a short prayer silently. May it be for endurance, sustenance, guidance for the situation and struggles they are in. And then, they will be asked to put that piece of paper on the basin with water, give them a moment (2-3 mins.). To look at their pain, struggles, hardships or whatever they are facing, allowing them to realize that showing vulnerability is not a weakness. Showing emotions are normal and that it is okay to not be okay sometimes. It only goes to show, the finiteness of our lives. And that at the end of it all, they will also realize that these struggles within them are temporary as the words on that piece of paper vanishes as it is wet along with the paper itself.

Short Reflection

We may find this text seemingly unusual and irrelevant on finding its place to discourse the struggles and conflicts within our church this Lenten Season. In this gospel, we see a woman conversing with Jesus. Nonetheless, we will not deal so much about the disparity of the idea of Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman, rather, we will look into the kind of characters the woman and Jesus portrayed in this story.

Relating this story to the struggles of unity in the Church, nowadays, most of us might think the Church is exempted from this dilemma. On the contrary, the Church always portrays the resilience, to the point of unintentionally disregarding the conflict within. In other words, the Church creates a façade to hide their dilemma every time it is confronted point blank. With that, a lot of churches are wary to talk about the conflicts and struggles even within the families and the Church overall.

We can learn something from the dialogue of this Samaritan woman with Jesus. The woman was puzzled by Jesus asking her some water, the fact that Jesus asking the woman for a bucket of water seems to display the idea of being in need. Here the woman was hesitant and cautious, for it is unusual for Jesus to interact with a woman. But the preceding encounter allows us to understand that asking for a hand does not make us less of being human. The vulnerability of our Church is not a measure or an indication of weakness but rather of strength. Acknowledging the different struggles within the church is not just an imagination.

Moreover, Jesus also talked about the woman's private life and the truth of it, is not to shame the woman, rather to put an emphasis on Jesus' declaration of who He was and what is to come and this conversation seems to be a turning point for the woman to acknowledge the things she knows. Relating it to the struggles of our Church, in reality, our churches carry a lot of baggage that has been within the system for a long time. Here in our gospel, we are reminded, at some point in the life of the Church that we need to understand the essence of addressing the church issues and even ours. We need to understand that talking about our struggles in the church, doesn't make us less of a church, after all the church is not perfect. But it is rather a way of acknowledging that as imperfect beings as we are, so as the church and the church needs to be transparent about it.

Lastly, in recognizing that we as a church, are vulnerable and imperfect will lead us to understand that we needed God's provision and guidance to endure life's struggles. The circle of life is a reminder that life is a stream of possibilities and opportunities that believers are both a receiver and channel of living water, and this helps interpret the meaning of living water as a gift of the Spirit of God in the gospel of John. As for us believers, recognizing our pain, struggles, conflicts and hardships in life is important for us to be able to seek more of God, to discern God's gift in our lives. If we acknowledge these burdens within us, others will start to realize and learn how we handle these hardships in our lives. We need to be the witnesses of our own stories, so that others may also testify to their own struggles. Just like the Samaritan woman as she witnessed the glory of Jesus. She only speaks what she knows and leaves questions in a way that moves them to see Jesus with their own eyes.

In many ways, this text suggests that it matters who we know, not what we know. To meet, to experience the light of Jesus' truth and love that illuminates the past and the future, to have the courage and the means to leave behind all that is not and to share what we know not what someone else knows, just what we know. Knowing that we know as witnesses that His abundant grace ascends in us to eternal life.

Opening Sentence

"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store". ***N.T. Wright***

Prelude **(**Piano, Organ, Guitar or any Instrument)

Processional (The Leaders/ Choir will process)

Lighting of Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Liturgist **:** In this season of Lent, let us come into God's midst bringing with us our praises and thanksgiving. Despite the realities of unexpected circumstances and troubles in life.

People **:** *We come into God's presence humbling ourselves for who we are and what we are seeking refuge under God's arms, assured of God's deliverance.*

Liturgist **:** In this season of Lent, let us come into God's midst, also bringing with us our inequities and prejudices, that paved way to our unsolicited judgments towards others.

People **:** *We come in communion with God through Jesus Christ, that we may understood the real essence of being united as one body of Christ regardless of who we are and what we are.*

Liturgist **:** In this season of Lent, let us come to worship God today and to celebrate God's faithfulness and goodness for the things we asked and didn't ask for, the gifts, the talents and all that God has provided.

ALL **:** *We come this day O God, in hope and in faith, that this gathering serves as an expression of our commitment in sharing your Good News, partaking in the life and ministry of the church as mandated by Jesus, and to be inspired by God's Spirit as witnesses to your word and deed. Praise be to God!*

+Opening Hymn ***"Our God, Our Help In Ages Past"*** ***HFJ #348***

Author: Isaac Watts (1719)
Tune: ST. ANNE

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

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!

+Opening Prayer (All)
O God of ageless past, Our Supplier and Deliverer, we humbly submit to your grace. You provide us with divine food, Your Word, Your body. You give us living water to quench our thirst. A stream in the desert. You direct our steps around traps and dangers. You deliver us from the bonds of sin, humiliation, and death. You show us the difficult path to holiness and our place in the world. O God, grow in us a sincere faithfulness to you and your Word so that You may always have our blessing and devotion and always be able to recognize and believe in your good intentions. Amen

Call to Confession (Liturgist)
As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. We are invited by God, therefore, to commit ourselves to love God and our neighbors by confessing our sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in our Lenten discipline.

Symbolic Act of Confession

"Acknowledging the Conflicts and Struggles within our Church"

Liturgist: We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. We have been deaf to our call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

People: ***Have mercy on us, O God.***

(*Members will come forward*)

Liturgist: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness, pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives; our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

People: ***We confess to you, O God.***

(*Members will come forward*)

Liturgist: We confess to You, O God, our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work.

People: ***We confess to you, O God.***

(*Members will come forward*)

Liturgist: We confess to You, O God our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

People: ***Accept our repentance, O God.***

(*Members will come forward*)

Liturgist: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbor, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us. For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

People: ***Accept our repentance, O God.***

(*Members will come forward*)

Liturgist: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

People: ***Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.***

Congregational Response **"Kumbaya, My Lord"**

Music: African-American spiritual

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFffX-3wGLc

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya!
Kum baya, my Lord, kumbaya!
Kum baya, my Lord, kumbaya!
O Lord, kumbaya!

Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya!
Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya!
Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya!
O Lord, kumbaya!

Someone's singing, Lord, kumbaya!
Someone's singing, Lord, kumbaya!
Someone's singing, Lord, kumbaya!
O Lord, kumbaya!

Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya!
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya!
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya!
O Lord, kumbaya!

Assurance of God's Pardon (*Minister*)
Indeed, that which is greater than us accepts us. Which means that, whatever we have done or will do, nothing can change the fact that we have been received in this world, and that even now we can dare to be who we are. We are valued as we are. Life is good as it is given. The future is open. And this is one objective and everlasting truth: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. May we receive this gift and live. Amen

Passing of Peace

Church Concerns/ Community Concerns

Pastoral Prayer (if Pastor is present) **/ Community Prayer**

Lord's Prayer (Sung or Recited)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

+First Reading (Psalm 19)

Congregational Response ***"GOD'S WORD"*** **HFJ #353**

Words: Cirilo A. Rigo; Eng. Transl. Dominica Faurillo, 2002
Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

There is a priceless treasure in God's Word.
Like precious stones of such great worth.
If daily we would read with our heart, mind
Peace, happiness and hope we will find.

There is a healing message in God's Word,
Balm for the sick, the troubled, the sad,
When in our pain and grief we are weary
Our strength and healing comes from above.

There is a radiance coming from God's Word
That brightens the tomorrows of life
If in the hands of God we entrust all
Our wealth and joys, our sorrows and pain.

+Second Reading (John 4:5-42)

Gloria Patri

Glory be 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…

Anthem
Sermon

UCCP Statement of Faith
WE BELIEVE
In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation. That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history. That in the Holy Spirit God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

WE BELIEVE
That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE
That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE
God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's Kingdom — in which love, justice and peace prevail. The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

(*Revised. Version, September 3, 1992 UCCP Faith and Order Committee*)

Call to Offering

Liturgist: Let us now affirm God's faithfulness.

People: We believe that God, the Creator and Lord of the universe, knows and cares for every person. We believe that God makes himself real to us today, through the Scriptures, through our savior Jesus Christ, and through lives of believers.

Liturgist: *We believe that God's Spirit is available every moment,*

People: To convict us of our sinful, selfish ways, and to enable us to rise above ourselves into a Christ-like life.

Liturgist: *We believe that God has a mission for us,*

People: To minister in God's name, and to share his love and blessings with the needy of our own community and of every race and nation.

Liturgist: We believe that, as we offer God our lives, our love, our talents, our offerings,

All: God will bring rich meaning into our lives and will use us as instruments to help others know life in Christ.

The Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+Offertory Prayer

Creator and Redeemer, may you use our offerings of thanksgiving for the preaching of the Good News of your love; for the teaching of Jesus' way of life; for the caring of the needy; and for leading people to know your love in Christ. Consecrate and enable us to proclaim your love to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hymn of Invitation **"Let Us Break Bread Together"** **HFJ #258**

Word & Music: African-American spiritual, 19th century

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. [*Refrain*]

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. [*Refrain*]

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Minister: Jesus went forth in God's name to save the world. We remember in this Sacrament His life and death. We call on Him to live in us and with all people. We look forward to being with Christ forever. This, according to Scripture, was His intention. He wanted all people to receive these symbols of Godly love. At the dinner table, on the very night He was betrayed, He told His disciples: "I have wanted so much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer… Take and eat this bread: this is my Body given for you. Drink this, all of you, for this is my Blood poured out for you. Do this, whenever you want, in memory of Me, until I come again."

We use these symbols then of His Body and Blood, in memory of His life and death, in the faith that He is risen to be with us; and in the hope that we will be with Him to the end of time. Let us pray that as we receive this sacrament, Jesus Christ will become a living reality in our lives and in our life together.

Communion Prayer *(Unison)*
We do not come to this Table, O God, counting on our own goodness. For we know that we have missed the mark of our high calling. We trust only in Your love. We would gladly eat the leftovers from Your Table, but we rejoice that Your love is so great that You invite us to come as guests. Grant that we may receive this Sacrament as a turning point in our lives. May we grow to be like You, as You become the Center of our living. Amen.

The Consecration
Minister: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in the faith, we recall once again the words and acts of Jesus Christ: As they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat! This is my body that is broken for you. Do this to remember me…

Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said, "Drink of it, all of you. For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me."

Come, Holy Spirit, come! Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at Your Table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other and in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

The Giving of the Bread and Cup
The Partaking of the Bread and Wine
Minister*:* Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.
(The community will partake the bread at the same time.)

Minister: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.
(The community will partake the wine at the same time)

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks and praise for Your graciousness and love that we receive. Again, you fed us at your holy table with your own body and blood. May we be led from this world of sorrow into life eternal. Amen.

+Closing Hymn ***"THE HANDS OF GOD"*** **HFJ #295**
Word: Luna L. Dingayan Music: Perla P. Dingayan

The hands of God that makes the whole creation new
That guide us through the path that we must tread
They lifted up the lowly and the poor
Hands that brought down the mighty from their thrones.
Chorus:
The hands of God that guide us through the years,
From doubts and fears those hands have led us through,
They call for faith and hope and love to reign in us,
The hands of God that work through you and me.

The hands that make the lame to walk and blind to see,
The hands that work to set our people free,
The hands that touch the sinners and lonely,
Are hands of God that work through you and me. [Chorus]

The hands of God that make the church to live and grow,
That gives its power to face all fears and woes,
The hands that make for peace to reign all over us,
Are Hands of God that work through you and me [Chorus]

+Closing Prayer
Our gathering in this worship as your people is done, O God, but our duties and responsibilities will not end here. We praise you for reminding us, that our vulnerability in life is not a sign of weakness and frailty but rather a sign of strength and courage, as we endure life's challenges. We continually seek your guidance and mercy; we entrust to You our lives and all our endeavors. Be with us Lord, in all the days of our lives.

+Benediction
Minister: May the God of grace and glory go with you as you follow this Lenten path. Wherever it takes you, and to whomever it takes you, go with the blessing of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer both now and forevermore. Amen

Congregational Response ***"THE HANDS OF GOD"*** **HFJ #295**

Word: Luna L. Dingayan Music: Perla P. Dingayan

Chorus:

The hands of God that guide us through the years
From doubts and fears those hands have led us through
They call for faith and hope and love to reign in us
The hands of God that work through you and me

Postlude

Recessional

REFERENCES:

- *The Holy Bible-New Revised Standard Version*
- *Celebration: A Sourcebook for Christian Worship (New Edition) by Lydia N. Niguidula*
- *UCCP Calendar-2023/2024*
- *Book of Common Worship-UCCP*
- *Hymnal of Faith Journey*
- *Hymnary.org*
- *https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu*

Prepared by Pastor Japhet Kenn Vallera of CMAC-NWMJ

4th Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

Christian Women's Association Sunday
International Women's Sunday

Genesis 2:21-23 NRSV

And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken'.

Mark 5:21-34 NRSV

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Short Reflection:

Assertion is Healing...
Healing is Restoration…
Restoration is Wholeness…

Name is power. Name is identity. Name is Life.
For time immemorial, the name 'woman' in Genesis 2:21-23 was used by the 'powerful' to usurp power against women. The oppressive interpretation on these verses fed the gluttony of the existing patriarchal system. It suppressed the rights, and the dignity of women. They were considered as a property to be owned, traded, enslaved, raped, and killed. This is not surprising because the Bible was written, interpreted, published, and canonized in the midst of patriarchy. Men were considered strong, wise, superior and anointed by God. So, all the privileges, rights and leadership belong to them. On the other hand, women remain nameless. The Bible is a witness on how women was marginalized and demonized, just because they are women. The scars of violence left a mark on women's bodies and souls. The touch of the perpetrators runs after them.

But *women learned to stand up and be part of God's liberating act*. The Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, put their lives at risk as they disobeyed Pharaoh's order. Miriam, the first prophetess mentioned in the Bible, led the celebration of the triumphant exodus of the Hebrew people from the hands of their slave masters. Deborah, another prophetess, became a judge and led the Israelites in victory against their enemies. Mary, the mother of Jesus, courageously accepts the conception of a baby despite her young age. The faithful followers of Jesus who

witnessed his ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection were women, namely, Mary, Martha, Mary of Magdala, Salome.

Women learned to assert for healing and wholeness. Their courageous act goes beyond the boundaries of life and death. They break taboos and social norms. One of these women, is the unnamed woman in Mark 5:21-34, who had been suffering from hemorrhage for 12 years. It was a taboo for a menstruating woman to touch and be touched by others. She was considered unclean and sinful. We could feel her pain, loneliness, emptiness, and brokenness. Yet, she hungers for healing and wholeness. Her coming out to the crowd is an act of assertion. She breaks the barrier that her society constructed. She touches Jesus' cloak, and she was healed.
In herstory, we could recognize the courageous act of women in their struggles for life and dignity. The birth of International Women's Day Celebration is one of the many milestones on women's struggles. The marching of 15,000 women on March 8,1908 who voiced out their demand for the right to vote and put an end to capitalized exploitation is a powerful witness that women will rise up for justice, peace, and righteousness. Even in our Philippine herstory, women played a great role in the movement for independence. The works of women is notably evident also in the life of the church. We could testify how the CWA participate in the establishment of God's kindom.

Therefore, as a Church, let us journey together towards healing and wholeness. Let us name and recognize women. Let us name the oppression they are facing. Let us name the various ways on how to uphold life and dignity.

Name is power. Name is identity. name is life.

Notes for Worship Preparation

- Provide a space where the pictures of the CWA members of the said local church are posted.
  (*This could be one of the many ways to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of women in the local church.)*
- 1 whole Illustration board/ white cloth & purple water base paint
  (The congregation will dip their hands into the purple paint and leave a trace of their hands while singing the Song of Dedication as a sign of commitment to journey with women in their struggles for life and dignity)

- Make a cord through an intertwined purple cloth. Hang this beside the altar. During the Prayer of Commitment, all CWA members will come forward and hold the cord, a symbolic act of women to continue their commitment and solidarity in our advocacy to end the violence against women (and children); and for gender justice and equality.
  (*Purple signifies justice and dignity. It became the official color of women since the International Women's Day was announced and celebrated*)
- Bread and Roses
  (*These symbols were used by women in advocating their socio-economic and political rights.)*

*After the prelude, the CEN committee will facilitate in distributing bread and roses to all women as a token of appreciation, and may extend these to non-members of the Church.

CHURCH WORSHIP SYMBOLS AND ITS MEANING

- **Communion Table-** The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It

signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.

- **Christ's Candle** - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.

- **Bible-** The Bible teaches that reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel message and calls the Church to extend forgiveness and healing to one another. The Bible calls the Church to unity, reminding us of the shared identity we have in Christ. As UCCP, we affirm that the Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation to illumine, guide, correct, and edify believers in their faith and witness.

- **Baptismal Font-** the baptismal font holds deep symbolic significance within Christian faith. It represents cleansing, death and resurrection, incorporation into the Church, union with Christ, regeneration, the presence of the Holy Spirit, initiation into Christ's mission, connection to the Old Testament, obedience, and transformation. It serves as a visual and tangible reminder of the believer's faith journey and their commitment to following Christ.
- **Cross-** The cross calls believers to identify with Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. It represents the call to take up one's own cross, deny oneself, and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24).

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

Silent Meditation:

"The liberation of women is the liberation of us all……"

Entrance of Worship Leaders

(Representatives from different organizations—CYF, CYAF, UCM, and Children's ministry, will bring the bread and roses to the altar.)

+ Processional Song:

"Bread and Roses"

https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsvGPjOLHOM

As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing, bread and roses, bread and roses.

As we come marching, marching, we battle too, for men,
For they are in the struggle and together we shall win.
Our days shall not be sweated from birth until life closes,
Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread, but give us roses.

As we come marching, marching, un-numbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread,
Small art and love and beauty their trudging spirits knew
Yes, it is bread we. fight for, but we fight for roses, too.

Reading of the Herstory of International Women's Day (International Women's Day 2008 Resource Material)

Reader 1: We remember March 8, 1857 when women- garment- factory workers of New York City organized themselves and marched against low wages; 12 hours working days, and inhumane conditions.

Reader 2: We remember March 8, 1908 the first largest mobilization of women that sparked the first declaration of a National Women's Day. Women marched in protest against the same workers' issue, demanding an end to capitalized exploitation and claiming their right to vote.

Reader 3: We remember Ciara Zetkin, in 1910, she had the idea that every year in every country there should be a celebration of a Women's Day to press their demands.

Reader 4: We remember the first ever observance of International Women's Day in 1911. International Women's Day was observed for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, on March 19 less than a week later on March 25, more than 140 women garment workers died in the tragic triangle fire.

Reader 5: We remember the first known commemoration on the International Women's Day in the Philippines on March 1971. Hundreds of women from the Katipunan ng Bagong Kababaihan (KATIPUNAN) staged an all-women rally on the issue of poverty.

Reader 1-5: And the March goes on. Together, let us continue to make our "herstory"

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening of the Bible

THE ACT OF PRAISE

+ Litany for Women's Day by Marilyn E. Thornton (an excerpt)

All Women**: O Lord, you are my covering!**

Liturgist**:** From the very beginning, when darkness covered the face of the deep, You, O God, by Your Spirit and your Word created the universe. You set the planet Earth on its foundations and you cover it as a garment forever. (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 104:5-6)

All Women**: I am Your creation, O Lord, you are my covering!**

Liturgist: You formed every person in the covering of a mother's womb. Humanity is fearfully and wonderfully made. In Eden, You covered us with every precious stone. (Psalm 139:13, Ezekiel 28:13)

All Women**: I am precious to you, O Lord, and You are my covering!**

Liturgist**:** O Lord, You protect your people. You cover us in the shadow of your hand. You are a strong deliverer, covering your people in the days of battle. (Isaiah 51:16, Psalm 140:7)

All Women**: I am a child of God, O Lord, and You are my covering!**

All**: I am sacred to you, O Lord, and you are my covering!**

+ Hymn of Praise **"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"** **HFJ#116**

Mary's Salidummay based on Luke 1:46-55;
Henry W. Kiley, based on Kalinga motive

My soul magnifies the Lord and in God my heart exults
Salidum, salidummay, insinalimdummiway,
Ay, ay salidummay!

Favored look, God cast on me shadowed me so tenderly
Generations then will see, deep things God works silently
Ay, ay salidummay!

To God-fearing souls God's goes on them mercy God bestows
With the strength of God's right arm, scatters all the proud who swarm
Ay, ay salidummay!

Those enthroned God will bring down and the lowly God will crown;
Hungry ones [God] fills with cheer, but the rich [God's] day will fear
Ay, ay salidummay!

So the promise from of old comes to life has not gone cold;
Promise made to Abraham, bears its fruit the *Kin-dom come,
Ay, ay salidummay!

+ Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of refuge and equality, the God who welcomes and accepts us as we are; the God who calls us precious and sacred, we humbly draw near to You as your people: distinct and different from each other; coming from and with different perspective; yet moving towards a common goal. Enlighten our minds with your Truth that we are all created in Your image and likeness. Embody Your presence within us as we acknowledge the gift of uniqueness. We jump for joy as we invoke and celebrate your creativity and hospitality, through the everlasting presence of the Spirit, who creatively moves among us, and unconditionally welcomes us all, Amen.

+ Song Response **"Hymn of Our Faith Journey"** HFJ # 1

Words and music: Helen S. Tejero, 2001
Arranged by: Grace R. Tabada, 2002

Liturgist**:** The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer is the Great Triune God of our lives.
All creation finds purpose and meaning and fulfilment in God's wondrous plan.

People**:** In Christ God became flesh to dwell among us, through the Spirit we're guided along; God empowers us all to live out our faith, to the glory of the triune God.

All: We're created to be in God's image, men and women in equality.
God anointed us all for the service and be stewards of all God's great works.
To live in communion with all creation and establish a just social life.
God created the world for us to enjoy all the blessings that tell of God's love.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession (Liturgist**)**
Oftentimes, we set our own standards and norms that exclude others. We create our own circle, leaving others on the margin. We look on the outward appearance. We limit God's beautiful creation based on gender. We leave our "kapwa" voiceless. We exclude. We discriminate. We judge.

Prayer of Repentance
Liturgist**:** God of creativity and inclusivity, we acknowledge our lack of respect to women's worth and dignity.

Men**: We thought that the blocks we are building will be bridges that connect; however, it became walls that separate.**

Liturgist: God of hospitality and inclusivity, we acknowledge our lack of respect to women whenever we deny their rights and turn a deaf ear towards their sufferings.

Men**: We thought that the existing standards we have set are the righteous ones. We haven't realized that You are also working beyond religion, race and gender.**

Liturgist**:** God of equality and inclusivity, we acknowledge our lack of respect to women whenever we act as superior and forget that they too are created in Your image.

All**: We thought that being silent towards gender justice and equality issues will help for the advancement of Your kin-dom. We thought wrongly. Whenever we are silent, we add another pile into suppression and exclusion.**

Children**: Renew us with your affirmation that life is sacred and worth to be celebrated despite in our differences of skin color, beliefs, age, perspectives, and gender.**

All: Help us recognize our actions that give birth to exclusion, and help us hear our teachings that utter judgment. May we provide a space for everyone at Your table, Amen.

Assurance of God's Pardon

For God hears the voiceless, outcast, despised, and excluded. These inclusive characteristics of God assure us that God, too, listens to those who draw near for repentance…for God looks on the heart.
Receive and embrace God's forgiveness that turns our blindness into sight; from apathy to empathy; from self-righteousness to self-emptying; from death to life.

Passing of Peace

(Our Parent God cares for us all, let us now pass the peace of Christ to one another as a sign of our compassion, while singing Oh I Love You with the Love of the Lord)

Oh, I Love You with The Love of the Lord

Oh, I love you with the love of the Lord. Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.
I can see in you, the glory of God's face. Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

Church Concerns/ Community Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our *God, who are in heaven. Hallowed be your name.
Your Kin-dom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading **Genesis 2: 21-23**

Response **Hymn of our Faith Journey** **HFJ # 1**

Words and music: Helen S. Tejero, 2001
Arranged by: Grace R. Tabada, 2002

Liturgist: *God's inspired instrument to instruct us, is the Bible, the Great Word of God. To illumine, to guide and correct us, and to brighten our pathway to heaven.*

All: *God is working to make us new beings in Christ, and the whole world, God's *kin-dom to be, Where God's presence is felt, the hungry are fed, the oppressed and the captives are freed.*

+ Second Reading **Mark 5:21-34**

+ Gloria Patri: **Glory to The Creator** HFJ# 81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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.

Message through Song (Congregational Singing)

Let Us Build A House
(All Are Welcome)
By Marty Huegen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlnVLP0qFEo

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone.
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith

(Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.
(*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places)

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Call to Offering (Liturgist)
The God of many colors offers an arm that reaches out the needy, despised, and downtrodden; offers an eye that see each one's worth, value and beauty; offers feet that walk the path of acceptance, respect, and hospitality. The arm, eye, and feet that God offers is the church that lives towards inclusivity and advocates equality. As herald of good news, let us participate in the restoration for an inclusive and united faith community.

The Offertory

+ Response **They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love**
(4th Stanza)
Words and music by Peter Scholters
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EBShVUTH0U

All praise to *Creator, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

+ **Offertory Prayer** (Unison)
We give You thanks our Parent God, for leading us to open our eyes, minds, and hearts to see the need in front of us, behind us, beside us, within us and among us. Thank You for giving us the grace and opportunity to offer You our love in different ways: thru teaching, preaching, healing, feeding, serving, and helping those who are in need. Thank You for reminding us that as Your church, our concerns should be inclusive and universal. May this act of selfless offering bring light and hope to the struggles of women for life and dignity. We offer our gratitude thru the name of Jesus, who was born of Mary, Amen.

+ Song of Commitment

(While singing the Song of Commitment, everyone is invited to dip their hands on the water-based paint and leave a hand-print on the white illustration board/ white cloth placed at side of the altar. This serves as a sign of commitment to journey with women in their struggles for life and dignity)

"For Everyone Born"
Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: Brian Mann
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmUlJvzRal4

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for everyone born, a system that's fair,
(Repeat Refrain)

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
(Repeat Refrain)

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
(Repeat Refrain)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
(Repeat Refrain)

+ Prayer of Solidarity and Commitment **(** an excerpt from the International Women's Day 2008 Resource Material)
(all CWA members will come forward and hold the cord, a symbolic act of women to continue their commitment and solidarity in our advocacy to end the violence against women (and children); and for gender justice and equality)

Women: Lord of all, we are the women of your church.
We are the women who live and exist in society.
We are mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, friends and neighbors.
We are victims of oppression and slavery, ourselves, but You called us
to still bear the light for others who are held captive by oppressive systems.

All: Empower us, O Lord through your Holy Spirit that we may break the shackles that bind us in slavery, that we may be freed for ourselves, for our family and for our nation under a huge moral and political crisis.

Women: Strengthen our moral fibers as women of faith that we may not hesitate to proclaim the Gospel, the Good News, the Truth in Jesus Christ despite the threats of vilification.

All: Empower us, O Lord, to translate our faith into works of peace and justice for others. Empower us, O Lord, to commit our lives to You in the service of the least and the last.

Women: Empower us, O Lord to see the realities and to live our lives in solidarity with those who are under the slavery of existing powers and systems.

All: Transform us with Your Spirit to become Your hands and heart in today's world.

+ Benediction: (Pastor)

+ Song Response: **"Bread and Roses"**

https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsvGPjOLHOM

As we go marching, marching, we're standing proud and tall.
The rising of the women means the rising of us all.
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories, bread and roses, bread and roses.

Postlude

(Giving of bread and roses to all women)

Note: *The word kingdom was changed to kin-dom for the sake of inclusivity. No other intentions intended.

References:

International Women's Day 2008 Resource Material

21st Century Africana Liturgy Resources: "Covering: A Litany for Women's Day And Any Worship Service)" Copyright © 2007 Marilyn E. Thornton.

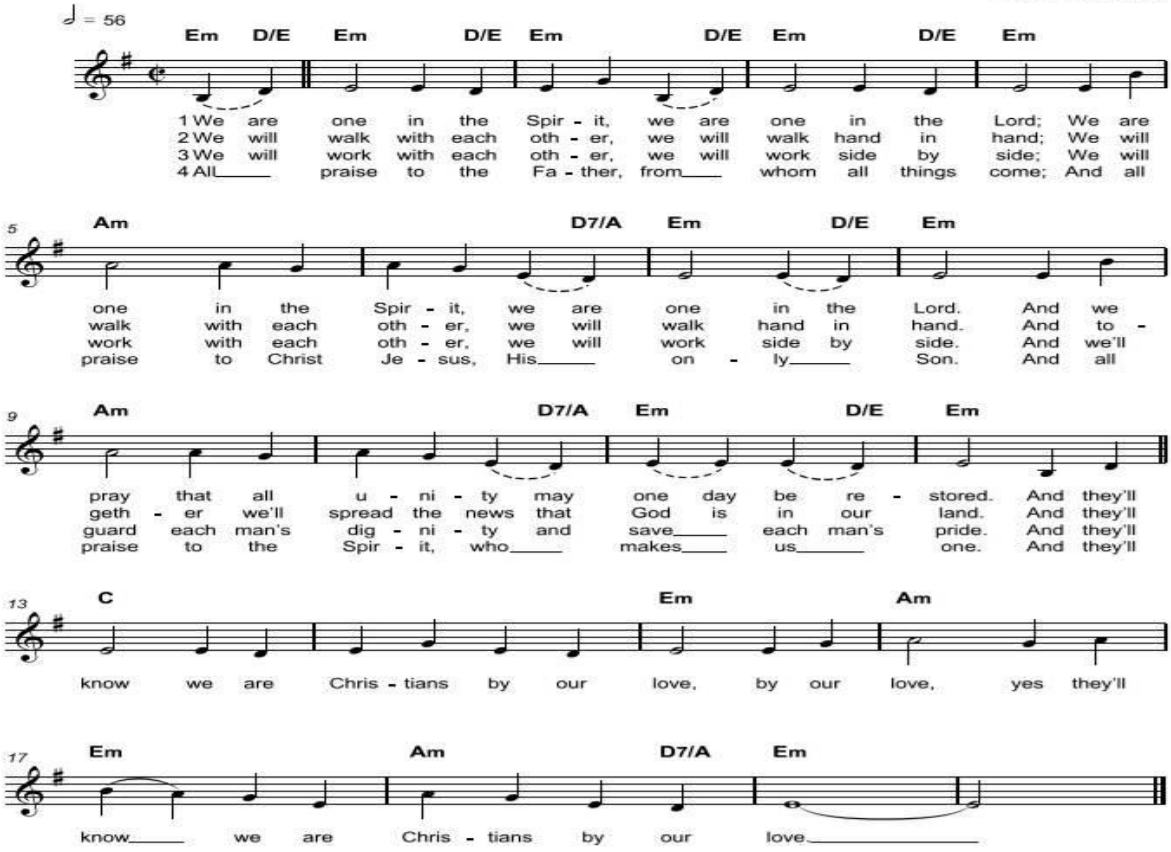
Hymnal of a Faith Journey
United Church of Christ in the Philippines 2002

YouTube

Prepared by Rev. Luisa Givero of SIDC-EVJ

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Words and Music by
Peter Scholtes



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301 Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) C7 (D) F (A) C (D) F (G) B♭ (A) C (Bm) Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) F (A) C (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em) Gm (A) C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) Gm (A7) C7 (G) B♭ (D) F (F♯m) Am (Bm) Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) Gm (A) C (D) F (G) B♭

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1994
Text and Music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

TWO OAKS
9.6.8.6.8.7.10 with refrain

Refrain

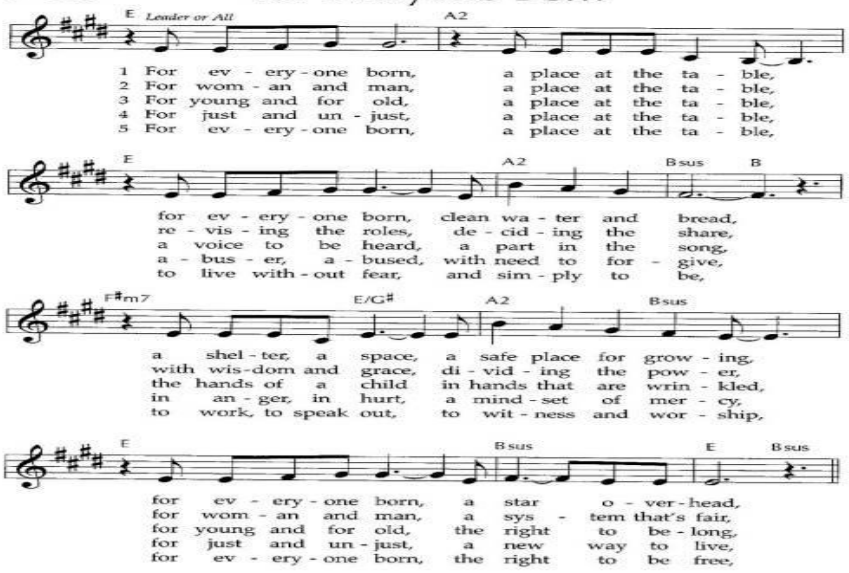
(D) F (G) B♭ (F♯7) A7 (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F♯m) Am (Em) Gm (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F (G) B♭ (D) F (A7) C7

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

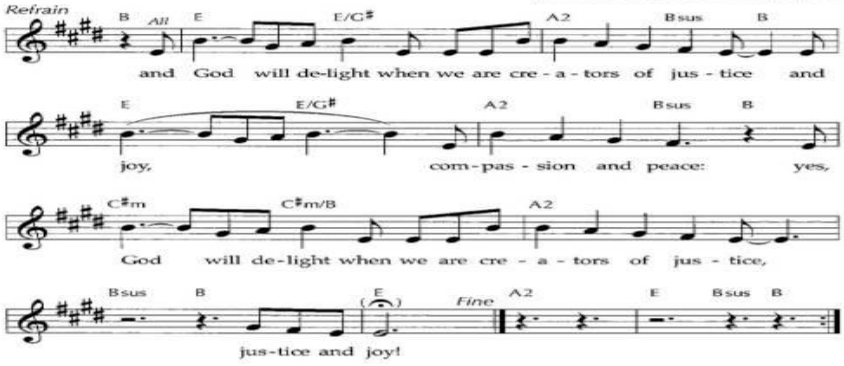
769 For Everyone Born



This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998
MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006
Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

FOR EVERYONE BORN
11.10.11.10 with refrain



Scripture Readings

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8:6-11
- John 11:1-45

Emphasis: "Acknowledging the Struggles for Identity Among Youth and Children."

Notes for Worship Preparations

- For the worship preparation, prepare a regular size cross, with stand and make sure it is sturdy, covered it with floral foam soaked from water have it stand at the center of the altar. The worship center could be a mini landscape, centered with the cross covered with floral foam, open Bible, Lighted Christ Candle or lamp, flowers, plants, and flowers cut with short stem ready to be planted on the cross.

Symbols to be used for the worship:

- Candle or Electronic lamp
- Bible
- Cross
- Cross covered with floral foam.
- Flowers with short stem

Short Reflection

Text: John 11:1-45

"JESUS OF NAZARETH, FRIEND OF SINNERS"

Thank God for Jesus of Nazareth, friend of sinners. He knew what was in the hearts of men and women. He understood the corruption that was there. He also knew there was unclaimed beauty within us.

When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus and asked for it to be unsealed, Mary protested: "By this time he stinks." That was true for Lazarus. It is true for us. There is much that stinks behind long-worn masks. But Jesus was not put off by that. When the tomb was opened, Jesus in a loud voice commanded Lazarus to come back from the dead. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice," Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet swathed in linen bands, and his face wrapped in the cloth. Jesus said, "Loose him free!" So, they unwrapped the cloth from his limbs, and the linen bands from his face.

Would you be daring enough to look at the face of the man who had been dead for some days and stinking with decay? We can imagine the bystanders steeling themselves before looking into the face of Lazarus. When they did lift up their eyes and look, we hear a great gasp of astonishment. For the skin and face of the man who was unmasked by the word of Jesus was smooth, pure, and totally healthy, like the face of a young man in his prime.

That's what the Friend of sinners can do. When we allow the Spirit of Christ to unmask us, whether in deeply personal spiritual moments or with the aid of those whom Christ has asked to do the unmasking, then the removal of the mask leads to a healing of our true face. The word of Christ, who embodies the unconditional love of God, is a word that is far mightier than sin, decay, and death. The word orders us to step out of the tombs

where we have lived and step into the sunlight. In the light of his presence, even before the mask is removed some of that light penetrates through and begins the healing process.

For you and me, unlike Lazarus, we are not suggesting that this unveiling and healing must take place all in the one dramatic moment. The more common pattern is a slow, unmasking and healing process over the years. Often with the aid of many of our fellow disciples who, spurred on by Christ's word, peal back little bits of the mask from our true face. Bit by bit, month by month, year by year, healing replaces fear, decay, and slow death.

Let us not be afraid. Anything the Friend of sinners uncovers is not for harsh criticism and condemnation but for salvation. It is cared for by the salve of Christ's grace, mercy, and peace. Then we allow Christ to do the uncovering, there is nothing to fear. He will never abuse the trust we give him.

Christ speaks to all of us who have something to hide. Lazarus come out! Come out from the graves you have dug for yourselves, come out from the place of darkness and fear, come out from the hiding place where things fester and deform, come out into the light where love amazing and divine waits you with open arms. Lazarus, come out! Remove that cloth from your face. Live in the freedom and joy of redeemed people!

(Source: Worship Resources for March 09, 2008 - Lent5A. archive)

Words to Ponder (from Ezekiel 37 and psalm 130)

Thus says the Lord God to these old human bones:
I shall cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
We wait for the Lord, our souls wait,
and in God's word we place our hope.

O my people, when I open up your tombs
and raise you from your graves,
you shall know that I am the living Lord.
Our soul waits for the Lord,
more than nightwatchmen for the dawn,
more than watchmen for the dawn.

Prelude Pianist
Processional
Lighting the Christ Candle

Introit **"My Peace I Give Unto You"**
(**(84) My peace I give unto you (Instrumental) - YouTube**)

My peace I give unto you, it's a peace that the world cannot give.
It's a peace that the world, cannot understand.
Peace to know, peace to live, my peace I give unto you.

My joy I give unto you, It's the joy that the world cannot give,
It's the joy that world cannot understand, Joy to know, joy to share.
My joy I give unto you.

My love I give unto you, it's love that the world, cannot give.
It's a love that the world cannot understand.
Love to know, love to live, my love I give unto you.

Call to Celebration

Liturgist: Each step on Christ's Way, each step of our lives, takes us to new places, new times.
Youth and Children**:** Some of those are times to rest- like Jesus did, when he stopped to **pray.**
Women**:** Some are times to be challenged- as Jesus was, by the woman from Syrophonecia.
Senior Citizens**:** Some are times to celebrate, even in the face of grief- as Jesus did, when he shared his last meal with his friends.
Men**:** Whether our bones are dry, our spirits weary, or we are filled with energy, ready to go; this is our time to be together-
Liturgist**:** listening for the Sprit,
Minister**:** loving one another,
Liturgist**:** worshipping our God!
All: Worshipping our God!

****Hymn of Celebration** **"The Lily of The Valley" SB#869**

Charles W. Fry, 1881.William S. Hays,
adapted by Charles W. Fry

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's, my stay;
He tells me every care on Him to roll.

Refrain:
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and morning Star,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
In temptation He's my strong and mighty tow'r;
I have all for Him forsaken, and all my idols torn
From my heart and now He keeps me by His pow'r.
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore,
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.

He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
From His manna He my hungry soul shall fill.
Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll.

****Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Loving God, ruler of life and death, as we come before You, please look with compassion on Your people, the children, the youth, the men, and women, and the older ones. As we worship You in the glory of all Your love, multiply the sources of abundant life within us, that we may live boldly, and at the end of this earthly journey, die into your arms without dismay or regret. Our vision expands to discern the signs of mercy and love which are present when we set our minds on your holiness and on the depth of your love for us. We worship and adore you, O God, with hearts filled with gratitude and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The Call to Confession

Liturgist: God has set before us life and death. The choice is ours. Let us acknowledge our misuse of the liberty of choice. Let us pray, first silently, then in spoken words.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Let us ask to be forgiven for the times when we have chosen badly, opting for the easy way of habit and social convention, rather that the higher and harder ways of Christ.

Let us confess that sometimes our choices have been made from rank selfishness, with scant concern for those around us, even for those who love us dearly.

Let us ask to be forgiven for putting off decisions, for hesitating and avoiding choice until opportunity has gone by.

Let us confess that we have at times made outwardly good decisions for the wrong reasons, driven by selfish motives.

Holy God, Savior and Friend, we thank You that long before we face up to ourselves and frame our confessions, your mercy in Christ Jesus is here waiting for us. We rest our mortal lives in your immortal Life, allowing your grace, mercy and peace to cleanse, refresh and straighten us.

Breathe into our humanity, loving God, that we may fully live.
(Touch the whole body)

Please breathe your Spirit in our brains, that our decision making may be pure and wise.
(Touch the Head)

Breathe your Spirit on our lips, that our speech may witness to life and light and holy joy.
(Touch the mouth)

Breathe your Spirit on our hands, that in their busyness they may serve you before all else.
(Touch the hands)

Breathe your Spirit on our feet, that we may tread this earth with gentleness and respect.
(Touch the Feet)

Through Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen!

The Symbolic Act of Confession

(Each one will come to the altar and place the flowers to the cross)

Liturgist: The Cross symbolizes Jesus Christ who gave his life for all. The floral foam having it soaked the water represent the life-given by God. The flower cut with short stem represents us with shortcomings and limitations. The act of planting them on the cross, symbolizes our sincere act of repentance and longing to be renewed with the grace of God, through Jesus Christ.

The Assurance of God's Love and Grace

Minister: Our hope is in God whose steadfast love surrounds us and in whom "is great power to redeem". (Psalm 130: 7) This power is revealed in Jesus Christ who promises us life where there is death, and forgiveness where there is sin. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Response **"Shalom My Friend" HFJ#106**

Shalom my friend, shalom my friend, Shalom! Shalom!
God's Peace be with you, God's peace be with you.
Shalom! Shalom!
(Repeat)

Church and Community Concerns
Community Prayer
Gloria Patri **"Glory To The Creator" HFJ #81**

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.

Scripture Reading
Anthem
Message

Silent Moment of Meditation

The Affirmation of Faith

(Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Offering

Liturgist: Like Lazarus, we awake from sleep at the sound of Jesus' voice. Like Lazarus, we have a new life in front of us - a resurrection life not meant to be hoarded, but to be shared. Like Lazarus, we live in a state of thanksgiving for all that has been and hope for what is to be. Like Lazarus, we have been given

a gift that is meant for all. So let us make our offerings at this altar and pray that the wind of God may breathe upon all that lives upon the earth.

Let us commit to God to use your gifts, talents, and heart for furthering the unfolding realm of God on earth.

Offering of Life and Labor

****Offertory Response** **"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" #94**

Praise GOD the source of life and birth,
Praise GOD the Word who came to earth.
Praise GOD the SPIRIT, Holy flame,
all Glory, honor to GOD's name. Amen

****Offertory Prayer**

Liturgist: O God, accept and bless these gifts which we offer in response to the gracious gift of your life-giving Spirit to us. May these gifts and our lives be used to flesh out your love and justice, mercy, and peace as they are revealed in and through Jesus, our Savior. Amen

****Hymn of Commitment** **"JESUS CALLS US; O'ER THE TUMULT"** **HFJ #284**

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1852;alt.
Music: William H. Jude, 1887

Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth, Saying, "Christian, follow Me."

As of old Saint Andrew heard it, By the Galilean Lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred.
Leaving all for His dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden stole.
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still, He calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love Me more than these."
Jesus calls us; by Thy mercies, Saviour, make us hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience, Serve and love Thee best of all.

Litany of Faith

Minister: We thank you, loving God, for the vulnerable yet wonderful gift of life. To be alive and to know it is an unspeakable honor. We thank you that from birth to growth and maturation, and into decline decay, our life is precious in your sight.

People: We thank you God of faithfulness, that our movement towards physical death and decay is not the final sentence in our story. We thank you that by faith we are born to a new and living hope in a future where love will never be terminated.

Minister: We thank you, holy Friend, that in death, as in life, we are in the hands of a Lover who knows our names and treasures our identity. We thank you for the authority given to Jesus of Nazareth to command the dead to move out of their tombs into greater life.

People: We thank you that those who believe in Jesus have already passed from death to life and are even now fed with the bread of heaven. We thank you that in out heavenly home there is room even for us, where in an abundant life than we can ever imagine, we shall love you better and adore you eternally.

Minister: Most Holy Friend, for this gift of resurrection life, defined by the very being of Christ Jesus, we give you thanks and praise this day and forever.

****Benediction**

Minister: God has set before us life and death. That we may not sit on the fence but choose whom we will serve. That by the grace of Christ we will continue to choose the life that is boundless. God will bless us and keep us, smile upon us and be gracious unto us. Christ will send his own light upon us and give us peace.

May the breath of God give us life.
May the compassion of Jesus Christ shape our life.
May the power of the Holy Spirit stimulate our life.
God's blessings be with us all now and always. Amen!

Response **"Hevenu Shalom Aleichem"** Hebrew Song

(Trans. Peace To You My Brothers and My Sisters"

((84) Hevenu Shalom Alechem || Guitar Chords & Lyrics|| Christian Song - YouTube)

Hevenu Shalom Aleichem, Hevenu Shalom Aleichem
Hevenu Shalom Aleichem, Havenu Shalom Shalom Aleichem

Hevenu Shalom Aleichem, Hevenu Shalom Aleichem
Hevenu Shalom Aleichem, Hevenu Shalom
Shalom Shalom Aleichem

Postlude
Recessional

REFERENCES:

UCCP Hymnal of a Faith

Year A - Lent - Fifth Sunday in Lent : Revised Common Lectionary (vanderbilt.edu)

Moira B Laidlaw, Liturgies Online (commonword.ca)

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/called_to_be_the_church_five_sundays_of_lent.pdf

(84) My peace I give unto you (Instrumental) - YouTube

(84) Hevenu Shalom Alechem || Guitar Chords & Lyrics|| Christian Song - YouTube
(84) The Lily of the Valley | Piano | Lyrics | Accompaniment | Hymns | Hymnals | - YouTube

Prepared by Rev. Bernadette Susas- Curan of CMAC-NWMJ

Sixth Sunday in Lent
Liturgy of the Palms March 24,2024

What to Prepare: *Palm leaves or branches coconut leaves*

Bible Text: *John 12:12-19*

Short Reflection
He was called "one of the bravest persons alive," but he wasn't what others expected. Desmond was a soldier who declined to carry a gun. As a medic, he single-handedly recued seventy-five injured soldiers from harm in one-battle, including some who once called him a coward and ridiculed him for his faith. Running into heavy gunfire, Desmond prayed continually, "Lord, please help me get one more." He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

Scripture tells us that Jesus was greatly misunderstood. On a day foretold by the prophet Zechariah (9:9), Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey and the crowd waved branches, shouting "Hosanna!" (an exclamation of praise meaning "Save!"). Quoting Psalm 118:26, they cried, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!". But the very next verse in that Psalm refers to bringing a sacrifice "with boughs in hand" (Psalm 118:27). While the crowd in John 12 anticipated an earthly king to save them from Rome, Jesus was much more. He was King of Kings and our sacrifice-God in the flesh, willingly embracing the cross to save us from our sins-a purpose prophesied centuries earlier.

"At first his disciples did not understand all this" John writes. Only later "did they realize that these things had been written about Him" (John 12:16). Illumined by His Word, God's eternal purposes became clear. He loves us enough to send a mighty Savior!

-ODB

The Preparation/Prelude
Processional
Lighting of Christ Candle

Greetings
Pastor: Hosanna to the Son of David, the king of Israel!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Opening Song (*while singing, children and youth may come forward bringing and waving the branches/leaves and put it in the chancel*)

"We Greet with Joy this New Day" HFJ #58
Words and Music: Dominga R. Tabada,2001
Eng. Transl., Grace R. Tabada,2001

We greet with joy this new day and raise our grateful voices.
To You, Great Creator, Redeemer and our Guide
Your power is eternal, Your love and mercy keep us
We praise You, O God, now and forever.

Cho. How wonderful are Your works, all that You have created
The trees and all the flowers, O God, You made them all,
Cool is the dew in their freshness of the morning
We praise You O God, now and forever.

United are Your people in joyful adoration
Mighty God You are and Your pow'r is seen by all
For You are the true God of all the generations,
We praise You, O God, now and forever. (Cho.)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.
All: And also, with you.
Liturgist: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Liturgist: It is right to praise You. Almighty God, for the acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.
All Male: On this day, He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of Kings, by those who spread their branches of palm along His way.
All Female: Let these branches be for us signs of His victory and grant that we who bear them in His name, may ever hail Him as our King.
All: And follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life, who lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit now and forever, Amen.

Hymn of Praise ***"We Worship You, God" HFJ#16***

Words: Robert Grant,1833; alt.
Music: Attrib to J. Michael Haydn,1737-1806; Alt. Tune: Hanover

We worship You God; Your power and Your love
Are blazoned abroad around and above,
Our shield and defender the ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

We tell of Your might, we sing of Your grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
Your chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
And broad is your path on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty Your power has founded of old.
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it You cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Opening Prayer (Liturgist)
Eternal God, whose whisper silences the shouts of the mighty, quiet within us every voice but Your own. Speak to us now through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, so we may receive grace to show forth Christ's love. Be upon us in our worship today, this is our prayer, In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Choral Response (*5th stanza of "We worship….)*

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In You do we trust nor find You to fail,
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend. Amen.

Moment of Confession
Liturgist: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins heartily, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Liturgist: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us confess our sins in silence and ask God for the forgiveness we need.

(silent moment of confession while keyboard/guitar is playing)

The Assurance of Pardon
Pastor: While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for all who have sinned.

People: The love of God for us is shown in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Pastor: With hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience, God assured us by His love and mercy.

Choral Response ***"Now Thank We All our God" (3rd stanza only, HFJ#30)***
Words: Martin Rinkart; Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.
Music: Johann Cruger, 1647;
Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ and Spirit too, our help in highest heaven,
The One Eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Community Concerns

The Prayers of the People
Pastor: In peace we pray to You, Lord God
(silence)
Liturgist: For all people in their daily life and work;
People: For our families, friends and neighbors and for those who are alone.

Pastor: For this community, the nation and the world;
Liturgist: For all who work for justice, freedom and oppression.
People: For the just and proper use of Your creation;
Pastor: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression, victims of typhoons, landslides and earthquakes all over the world.
Liturgist: For all who are in danger, sorrow, heavy burden, and any kind of trouble and problems.
People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy.
Pastor: For the peace and unity of Your church, The United Church of Christ in the Philippines.
Liturgist: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth and for all who serve God in His church.
People: Hear us O Lord, For Your mercy is Great. Amen.

Choral Response "Hear Our prayer O Lord"
Hear our prayer, O Lord; hear our prayer, O Lord
Incline thine ear to us and grant us Your peace. Amen

The People Listens to the Word

-thru the Reading of the Holy Scripture

-thru the message of song

-thru the meditation/sermon

The Affirmation of Faith
UCCP Statement of Faith
WE BELIEVE
In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation. That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history. That in the Holy Spirit God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.
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.
WE BELIEVE
That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE
That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.
WE BELIEVE
God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's Kingdom — in which love, justice and peace prevail. The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

(*Revised. Version, September 3, 1992 UCCP Faith and Order Committee*)

Call to Offering

Liturgist: God will bring rich meaning into our lives and will use as instruments to help others know life in Christ. Let us now bring our offerings to God.

Bringing of Tithes, Pledges and all Offerings

Offertory Song

Doxology **"All that We have in Our lives" HFJ pg. 92**

Words and Music : Elena G. Maquiso, 1972-1973;
Engl. Transl. Jeaneth Faller,2002
Harm. Isabel D. Vista,1972

All that we have in our lives come from Your gracious God,
We offer all these back to you to glorify Your name.

Bless these our gift to You, for You are the source of life,
O use us now in building up Your Kingdom here on earth.

Offertory Prayer

All: Creator and Redeemer, may You use our offerings of Thanksgiving for the preaching of the good news of Your love; for the teaching of Jesus 'way of life; For the caring of the needy, for leading people to know Your love in Christ. Consecrate and enable us to proclaim Your love to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Dedication ***"If it is Your Desire to Serve Jesus" HFJ pg. 304***

Words: Vicente Mar Agila; Eng. Transl. Reuel Norman O. Marigza
Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

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.

Cho. 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. ***(Cho.)***

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. ***(Cho.)***

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, he with us now as we follow the way of the cross. In these events of defeat and victory, You have sealed the closeness of death and resurrection, of humiliation and expectation.

All: We thank You for the branches that promise to become for us symbols of Martyrdom and Majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day. May we announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. In Him we pray. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: Go now remembering what we have done here. Go, remembering what God has done here. You are a forgiven people, eternally loved, charged to be obedient and responsible wherever you are. Go into the world to be God's people. May God's peace and joy be with you all. In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

Choral Response "The Kingdom of God is where God's reigns,
a place of love joy and peace" (repeat)

Postlude

Recessional

References:

- The Advocate -An Episcopal Church
- The Book of Common Worship
- The Hymnal of Faith Journey

Prepared by Pastor Ella Joy Fuertes Echin of SDDC-SEMJA

Notes for Worship Preparation

Please prepare the following symbols:

- Christ Candle
- Bible
- Cross
- Flowers
- Communion Elements
- Basin, water and towel

Short Reflection

Text: John 13:1-17

The term "Maundy" originates from the Latin word "mandatum," signifying a "command" or "mandate" and refers to Jesus' commandment to the disciples to "Love one another as I have loved you." On Maundy Thursday, we commemorate Jesus' act of washing His disciples' feet and the Last Supper, during which He set an example for His followers to emulate. His willingness to perform a task typically reserved for servants exemplified a powerful demonstration of His obedience to God, humility, and sacrificial love expected of His followers.

As the head of the Body of Christ, Jesus, despite His divinity, exemplified the essence of servanthood, urging believers to embrace humility in their interactions. Jesus' leadership style goes beyond merely giving commands. Jesus led by example, illustrating how His people should follow Him obediently.

This perfect example of Jesus' servanthood teaches us the following:

1. The importance of passing on the love of God by serving one another. In a world filled with false teachings, the command to love one another becomes clearer, transcending self-centered interests.

2. The importance of seeing Jesus as our guide. His guidance is a perfect illustration, helping us understand God's command. Although washing is just one of the many identified examples of service, it opens our eyes to the truth that demonstrating love and service requires a humble and obedient heart.

3. The importance of continuing God's mission. The example of Jesus unites us for the cause of continuing God's mission. Jesus' mission becomes our common mission as we are now considered part of the Body of Christ. Without His mission, we have no other purpose. To maintain this unity, we must follow Jesus' example.

Maundy Thursday inspires us to reflect on Jesus' leadership style – one that combines command with a great example. Jesus' humility challenges us to serve others selflessly, while His sacrificial love serves as a model for our interactions within the Body of Christ and the wider community. As we commemorate this day, may we be inspired to follow Jesus not only in words but in deeds, embodying the essence of servanthood and sacrificial love in our lives. Amen.

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

Words for Silent Meditation

In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Prelude **(Piano, Organ, Guitar of any Instruments)**
Processional **(The Liturgist/Choir will process)**

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Call to Worship
Liturgist: *(Read or Sung)* **"COME, O COME, ALL YOU PEOPLE"** HFJ#80 *first stanza*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso,1971
English Translation: Laila F. Danaque, 2002
Psalms 100

Come, O come, all you people
Come to praise and worship God
With loud, joyful music
With thanksgiving and celebration
O let us praise God, our Lord
God is our Savior, full of compassion
And ever faithful now and ever
Come, O come, all you people.

†Hymn of Praise **"LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING"** HFJ#113

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; alt. Music: John Zundel, 1855; Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

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.

†Opening Prayer (*Liturgist)*

Lord, we invite Your Holy Spirit to descend upon us, guiding our worship and opening our hearts to the significance of this day. May the humility displayed as Jesus washed His disciples' feet be a reminder of the call to serve one another with love and grace. Grant us discernment to understand the depth of Your sacrifice. May the bread and cup we partake in symbolize not only the body and blood of Christ but also our commitment to follow in His footsteps. May this time of worship draw us nearer to You and deepen our understanding of the redemption we find in Jesus Christ. Amen.

†Hymn Response **"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"** HFJ#73

Music: Harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978; Melody: 12th Century Plainsong, adapt. J. S. Bach, 1726

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores You!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Liturgist: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame. Let us confess our sin to almighty God.

Hymn of Confession **"SEARCH ME, O GOD "** HFJ#216 *First Stanza*

Words: J. Edwin Orr; alt.

Music:Maori melody,arr.

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.

Prayer of Confession (All)

Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to Your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, You have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve You. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to You and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as You intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.)

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven of all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

Hymn Response **"LIVING FOR JESUS"** HFJ#289 *Refrain only*

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm; alt. Music: C. Harold Lowden

REFRAIN

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, Your humble child I'll be;
For You, in Your atonement, You gave Yourself for me

I have no other Savior, God's love to me You've shown
My life, my all, I'll give for You, O Christ, for You alone.

Passing of Peace

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

Church Concerns / Community Concerns

Pastoral Prayer *(To be followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response **"WHISPER A PRAYER"** CPG#103 *Second stanza*

Words and Music: R.J. Hughes

God answers pray'r in the morning,
God answers pray'r at noon,
God answers pray'r in the evening,
To keep your heart in tune.

Words and Music:

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Response (sung) **"WE LIMIT NOT THE TRUTH OF GOD"** TNCH#316 *Third Stanza*

George Rawson, 1853; alt.

Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove
Enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend Your love
And help us all to seek Your will with wiser powers conferred
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from Your Word.

Second Reading (Gospel)

Gloria Patri **"GLORY TO THE CREATOR"** HFJ#81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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.

Anthem
Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith
UCCP Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE

In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.

That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history.

That in the Holy Spirit God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

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.

WE BELIEVE

That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE

God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's Kingdom — in which love, justice and peace prevail.

The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death arid gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Call to Offering

Liturgist: Today we are reflecting on the selfless act of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose life was given for our salvation. In gratitude for this profound love, let our offerings be a testament to our commitment to follow Jesus' works of humility and service. May our offerings not only support the work of the church but also reflect the spirit of unity and compassion that Maundy Thursday represents. Together, as a community bound by faith, let us joyfully participate in this act of giving, honoring the sacrifice of Jesus.

The Offertory

†Doxology **"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"** HFJ#94 (3rd stanza)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter,
One God, Triune, whom we adore.

Offertory Prayer *(Liturgist)*
Sustainer God, in the spirit of Christ's selfless love, we offer these gifts to You, tokens of gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice made on the cross. Bless these offerings, O Lord, may these gifts symbolize our commitment to unity and fellowship within this faith community. Let them be a testament to our desire to follow in the footsteps of our Savior, embracing humility and service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to Communion
Minister: Hear what comfortable words our Lord Jesus Christ has spoken unto us: "Come unto me all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Communion Hymn **"IN MEMORY OF THE LAST MEAL"** HFJ#250

Words: Cirilo A. Rigos
English Translation: Reuel Norman O. Marigza, 2002
Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

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 at Calvary
Our sins were paid, we're set free.

In memory of my dear Lord
From day to day, I'll trust God's Word
As long as there is breath in me
I'll pledge Him my loyalty.

The Words of Institution
Minister: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until the Lord comes.

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also, with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Minister: Holy God, with one voice we offer You our thankful praise. We rejoice that You are God, Maker of heaven and earth and of the covenant of love which binds us to You and to one another. With the church of all times and places we lift our voices in thanksgiving.

ALL: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY GOD OF LOVE AND MAJESTY, THE WHOLE UNIVERSE SPEAKS OF YOUR GLORY, O GOD MOST HIGH. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF OUR GOD! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

The Giving of the Bread and Cup
The Partaking of the Bread and Wine

Minister: Jesus said, "This is my body which is broken for you." Let us eat of this bread in remembrance of Christ; and may the life which was in Him be in us also.

(The community will partake the bread at the same time.)

Minister: Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." Let us drink of this cup in remembrance of Christ's blood that is shed for our sins."

(The community will partake the wine at the same time)

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(Altogether)*

Bountiful God, we give You thanks that You have refreshed us at Your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF SERVANTHOOD

The Washing of the Feet

Minister: Fellow members in the community of Christ, let's unite in this significant act of serving one another, participating in the humble practice of foot washing – a poignant symbol of care and service. Inspired by Christ's example, let's come closer with love and compassion for one another.

People: We respond with open hearts, ready to participate in this sacred act of service, acknowledging the call to love and serve one another as Christ has shown us.

(When your feet have been washed, take the basin, water and towel, and wash the feet of someone else, as an act of love and service.)

†Hymn of Dedication **"O SAVIOR, LET ME WALK WITH YOU"** HFJ#308

Words: Washinton Gladden, 1879;alt.; Music: H. Percy Smith, 1874

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 *(Altogether or Minister only)*
Gracious God, as we conclude this worship service, we thank You for the sacred moments we've shared in reflection and remembrance. May the lessons of humility, love and sacrifice observed on this holy day resonate within our hearts. May the love exemplified by Jesus in the washing of His disciples' feet inspire us to serve one another with selflessness and compassion. Grant us strength, O Lord, to carry the essence of this evening into the days ahead. May the significance of the Last Supper dwell in our hearts, shaping our interactions and relationships. May the journey of Holy Week deepen our understanding of Your boundless love. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Choral Benediction *(May be sung by the choir or the Minister only)*

"COME, O COME, ALL YOU PEOPLE" HFJ#80 *second stanza*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso,1971

English Translation: Laila F. Danaque, 2002

Psalms 100

Go in peace, O you people
May God's blessings be on you
The good Lord be with you,
And all God's grace be poured upon you
And protect you all your days,
God is our Savior, full of compassion
And ever faithful now and ever.
Go in peace, O you people.

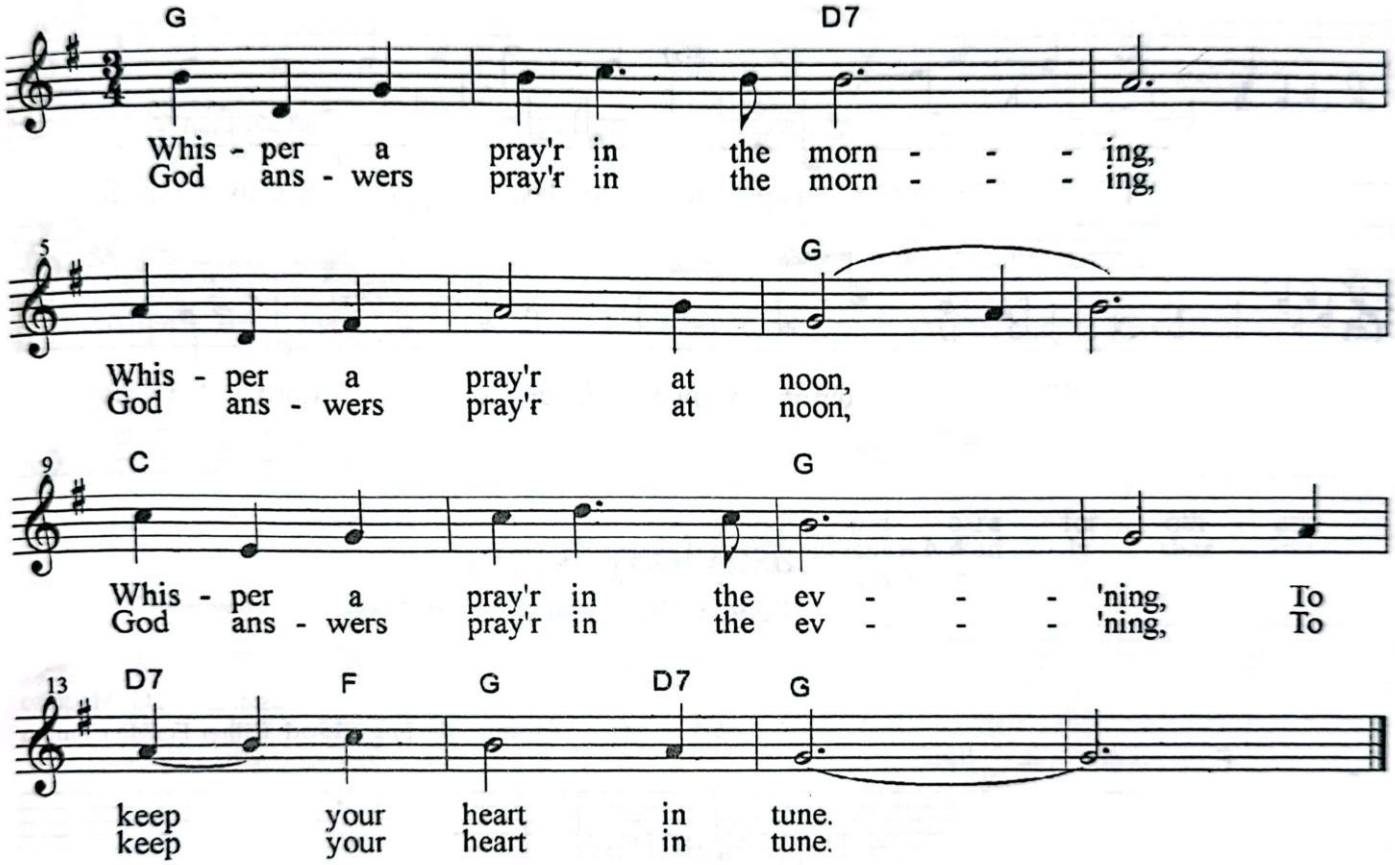
Congregational Response Amen. Amen.
Postlude
Recessional

Sources:
Book of Common Worship
Children Praise God Songbook for Children
Hymnal of a Faith Journey
New Revised Standard Version Bible
The New Century Hymnal

Prepared by Pastor Divillajyn Ursos of BIC-WVJ

Whisper a Prayer

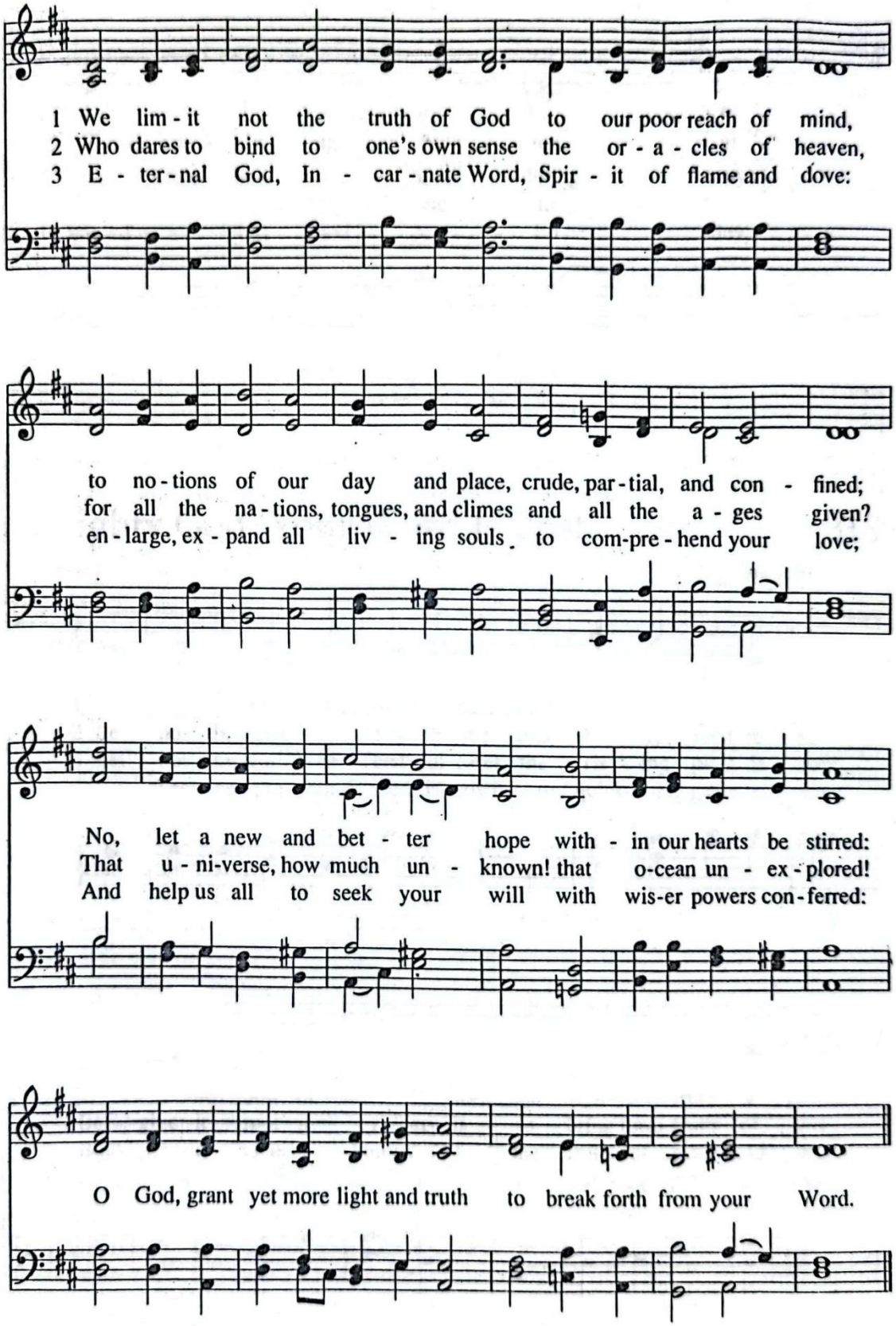
Words and Music: R.J. Hughes



We Limit Not the Truth of God

316

George Rawson, 1853; alt.



George Rawson based this text on the parting words of Pastor John Robinson to the Pilgrim founders in 1620.

Tune: OLD 22nd C.M.D.
Anglo-Genevan Psalter, *1556*
Alternate tunes: FOREST GREEN; ELLACOMBE

REFLECTION GUIDE

(Seven Last Words Reflection)

1. **Father, forgive them.** *Luke 23:34*
   Even as he is wrongfully accused, convicted and tortured, Jesus asks God to grant mercy unto his persecutors.
   Are there people in your life to whom you need to offer forgiveness? Are there people from whom you need to seek forgiveness? How can you find it in your heart to get past injustice and cruelty you might have suffered? Think about how forgiveness could free your heart and help you move forward.

2. **Today you will be with me in paradise.** *Luke 23:43*
   As we reflect on Jesus' words to the penitent thief, let us consider these: To receive and be received in the Presence of God is what Paradise looks like. To live with a passion for justice, mercy, and love is what the kingdom of God looks like. What made that first Good Friday good is that even in the extreme capacity of man for evil and injustice, it did not stop God, in Jesus, to reveal the extent of his goodness, the extent of his love.

3. **Woman, here is your son.** *John 19:26-27*
   Mary becomes not only an example for us of motherly love, but more importantly she shows us how to follow her Son, Jesus. We learn about the love of a true disciple: the kind of love that is rooted at the foot of the cross in hope that grows from the deep and unconditional love of Christ Jesus. And we learn that we are not alone: when we suffer, we are united to our suffering Savior and to our family in the body of Christ. We learn together to imitate Mary's tender but powerful love for our Lord as we receive the call to embrace others who suffer. We learn something of this fierce hope in the resurrection when we allow our brothers and sisters to bear our own burdens with us, and when we gladly shoulder the burdens others bear, the sorrows and wounds they cannot and should not have to bear alone. At their core, these short verses of Scripture offer us a portrait of the church, and they call us to imitate these good things in our own life.
   "In this simple act, Jesus' sow seeds of the new community to come, in which family is redefined in ways that are not restricted to blood kin and in which members of the family are called to be responsible caretakers of one another. *[Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, Feasting on the Word, p. 303].*

4. **My God, why have you forsaken me?** *Mark 16:34, Mathhew 27:46*
   Sometimes we think God is silent in all our struggles. We asked God, Why Have you forsaken me? We need to remember God's faithfulness, his grace and his presence in our lives. Faith isn't always comfortable, and deep down we find it hard to accept that our assurance is not that the things we fear will not come to pass, but that we serve a God who can make all things right.

5. **I am thirsty.** *John 19:28*
   In his most famous teaching, the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls "blessed" those who "thirst": "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." Thirst for justice and freedom

from oppression and enslavement - "righteousness" - in our individual lives, and in our communities and society. Thirst always for this righteousness, Jesus teaches us always thirsts for justice to reign.

6. **It is finished.** *John 19:30*
   Jesus, hanging on the cross, taking time with the last moments that he had, uttered: "It is finished." He has accomplished his mission. He has fulfilled the will of the Father. He has done what He has to do even amidst the sourness of life that he had to embrace--poverty, pain, agony, betrayal, abandonment.

7. **Into your hands I commend my spirit.** *Luke 23:46*
   We see how dedicated He is to seek the will of God and to do it to the best of His ability. It always involved risk, sacrifice, prayer, and service to others. Giving us the best example of entrusting our day-to-day life to God—when we do things that take risks and make sacrifices for the sake of others and for the sake of following God.

Prelude
Processional

† Call to Worship (from Isaiah 53:1,4-5)

Liturgist: But, oh, how few believe it! Who will listen? To whom will God reveal his saving power?
All: Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.
Liturgist: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
All: and by his bruises we are healed.

† Hymn of Preparation **♫ "JUST AS I AM" ♫** *HFJ #157*

WORDS: Charlote Elliot, 1836
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1849

Just as I am without one plea but that your blood was shed for me
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict many a doubt
Fighting and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, you will receive, you will welcome,
Pardon, cleanse, relieve, because your promise
I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, your love unknown has broken
Every barrier down; now to be yours, and
Yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

† Invocation (Unison)
Our ever-loving God, as we prepare to set aside our busyness and to focus intently on Christ's suffering and death, we ask for eyes to see all of the amazing things that Jesus' death means, for understanding You, Your love, and our salvation. As we remember how Your Son Jesus offered his body on the cross for our sin and how He spoke his words of love, may You find us participating in the call of carrying Your cross, heralding the unity of the body of Christ. Amen.

Scripture Reading

First Reading	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm	Psalm 22
Second Reading	Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 5:7-9; Hebrews 10:16-25
Gospel	John 18:1-19:42

Song Response ♫"Gloria Patri" ♫

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen, Amen.

Anthem

Sermon **"HERALDING THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST"**
(Seven Last Words reflection)

**Prepare a cut-out of each of the Seven Last words (like a puzzle piece to make a big cross) and a big cross frame where the cutout words will be assembled. Each speaker will stick the word on the cross after delivering the message.*

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

8. **Father, forgive them.** *Luke 23:34*
   The messenger will stick the word ("Father, forgive them") on the cross frame after delivering the message.
9. **Today you will be with me in paradise.** *Luke 23:43*
   The messenger will stick the word ("Today you will be with me in paradise") on the cross frame after delivering the message.
10. **Woman, here is your son.** *John 19:26-27*
    The messenger will stick the word ("woman, here is your son") on the cross frame after delivering the message.
11. **My God, why have you forsaken me?** *Mark 16:34, Mathhew 27:46*
    The messenger will stick the word ("My God, why have you forsaken me?") on the cross frame after delivering the message.
12. **I am thirsty.** *John 19:28*
    The messenger will stick the word ("I am Thirsty") on the cross frame after delivering the message.
13. **It is finished.** *John 19:30*
    The messenger will stick the word ("it is finished") on the cross frame after delivering the message.
14. **Into your hands I commend my spirit.** *Luke 23:46*

The messenger will stick the word ("into your hands I commend my spirit") on the cross frame after delivering the message.

Prayer [1]

A leader may guide the people in a bidding prayer, with silence for the prayers of the people. Some or all of the following sections may be used.

Leader: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church of God throughout the world that God may guide it and gather it together so that we may worship God in peace and tranquility.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere the faith, to proclaim Your name, and to offer salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

People: AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray for our pastor(s) and other ordained ministers, for all servants of the Church, and for the people of God.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, Your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastor(s) and our leaders; keep them in health and in safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

People: AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism, that God may make them responsive to God's love and give them new in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them a new birth as your children. Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ and Savior.

People: AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray for those who live in the darkness of pride, guilt, apathy and indifference, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the troth of the Gospel. Help us your people, to grow in love for another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

People: AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find the God who is the author and goal of our existence.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, you created humanity so all might long to know You and have peace in You. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, all may recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God of us all. We ask this through Christ our Savior.
People: AMEN.
Leader: Let us pray for those who serve in public, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Savior.
People: AMEN.
Leader: Let us pray that the Almighty and merciful God may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger and disease.

Silent prayer

Leader: Holy and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Savior.
People: AMEN.

Call to Offering
In this manner God taught us how to give with love and abundance, "For God so loved mankind, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Likewise, as His children, let us offer our life, money, skills with full love and abundance.

Offertory
†Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all Creatures her below
Praise God above ye, heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

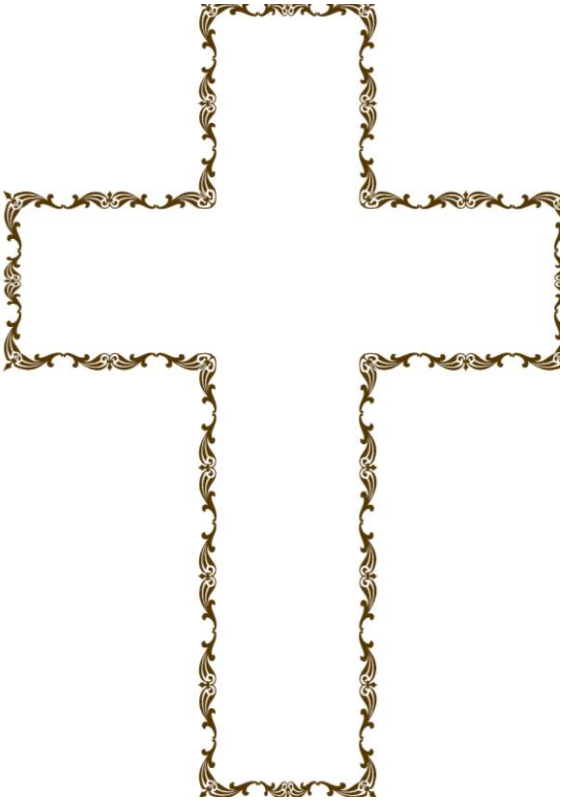
Offertory Prayer

†Hymn of Dedication ♫ **"BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"** ♫ *Hymn of Faith Journey #153*
WORDS & MUSIC: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872
Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1881

†Benediction
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
People: BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

(The leaders may leave in silence. The people may depart quietly as they finish their private meditation.)

REFERENCES:
[1] *The Book of Common Worship pp. 197-198*
Prepared by Pastor Julie Anne Valle Quiros of LCSMC-MLJ



INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT
MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME
YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE
WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON
I THIRST
IT IS FINISH
FATHER FORGIVE THEM

FATHER FORGIVE THEM

YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME

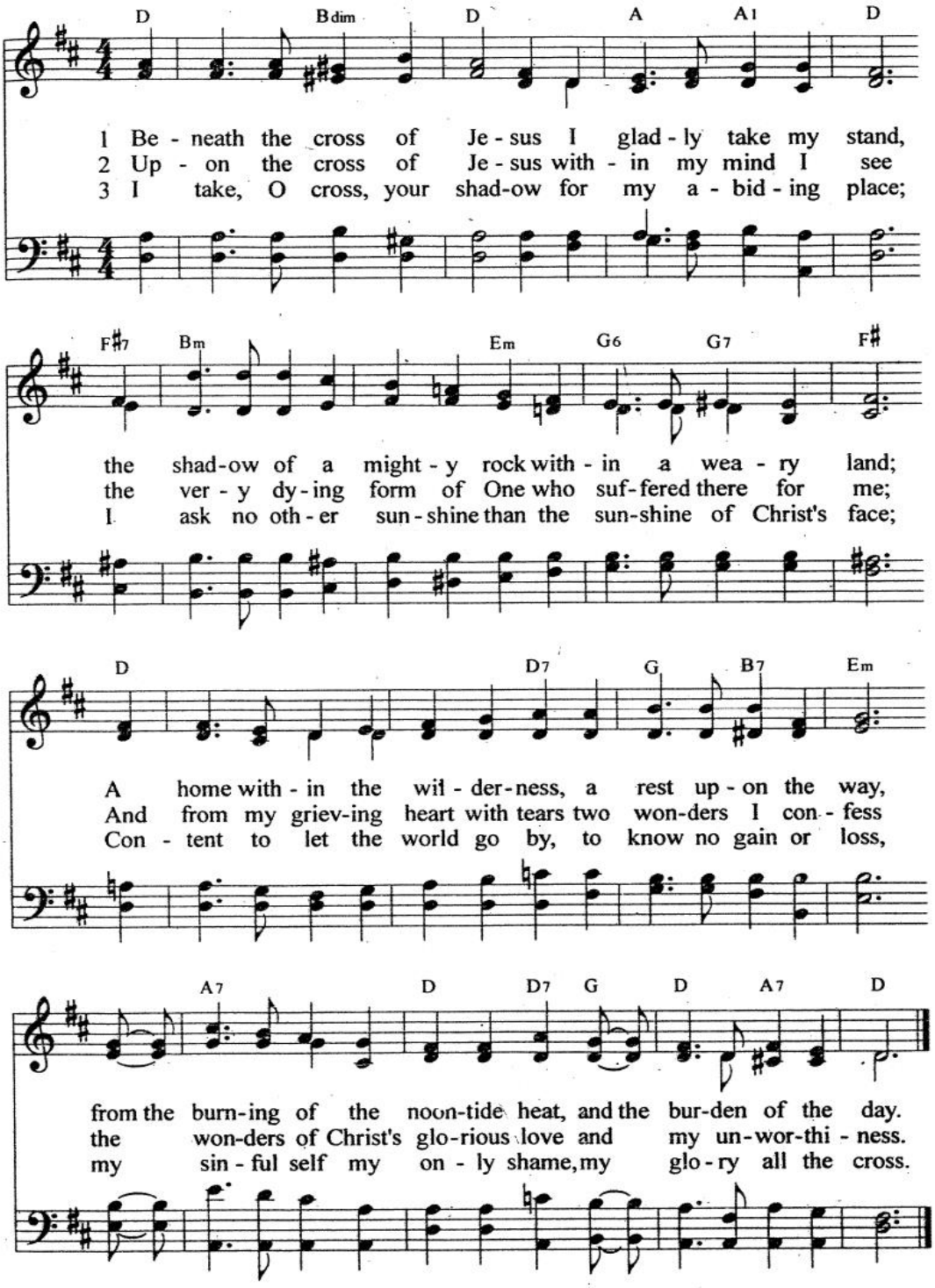
WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON

I THIRST

IT IS FINISH

INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT

Beneath the Cross of Jesus 153



Words: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872; alt.
Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1881

ST. CHRISTOPHER
7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

Short Reflection

In the journey of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus is the basis on which Christianity stands or falls. This belief sustains us no matter what difficulties in life come and uncertainties we may encounter. Resurrection gives us the assurance of what lies ahead. Pondering on the power of resurrection which continue empowering us today, I quoted a book saying, "The "power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10) is an experience that we may enjoy now. It means living in newness of life that comes to us by the resurrected Christ living His life anew through our bodies." We serve a risen Savior. He is in the world today. Victory is ours as we march forward with the conquering Christ as the Head of the Church militant. May others be conscious that He is alive as He lives His life in our bodies." (One Hundred Bible lessons, by Alban Douglas, 1996 Commemorative Edition)

Christianity falls if the message of resurrection remained part of history without bringing its message today. May this worship be a tool for bringing the message of Christ's resurrection so that when the time comes in our life that we felt burned out, stressed, feel tired of all the demands in life. Just remember the message of resurrection and the whole aspect of our being be renewed for the unity of the body of Christ.

THE ACT OF GATHERING

Silent Meditation

"The new life is a gift to us by the risen Christ. A new life means direction, a new perspective, and a new impulse to live out the new life in the concrete duties and responsibilities of the body of believers"

-Anonymous (taken from UCCP Calendar 2022-2024, April 2024-Easter)

Prelude (Piano, Organ, Guitar or any instruments)
Processional (The leaders/choir will include the children who will sing the introit)

Introit: (children) "**God is Here! God is Now**! "HFJ #77

God is here! God is now! It is a time for celebration.
It is a time for exaltation. Our praises need not be confined to old songs.
Let us create new songs of praises to our God.
Let us discover new ways of proclaiming God's greatness and glory!

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in our midst!

People: Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

Liturgist: Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and our strength!

All: We place ourselves before God that we may be touched and empowered by the power of God's Spirit, celebrating Jesus' resurrection as we hope for the continued unity of God's called people.

Hymn of Praise "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" HFJ #163

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.
Arr. From Lyra Davidica,1708

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Al - - - le – lu – ia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Al - le – lu – ia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Al - le - lu - ia!

2. Let the Victor's people sing, Al - - - le – lu – ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le – lu – ia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where your victory, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!

3. Love's redeeming work is done, Al - - - le – lu – ia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Al - le – lu – ia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
God has opened paradise, Al - le - lu - ia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - - le – lu – ia!
Following our exalt Head, Al - le – lu – ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

Invocation (by the Liturgist)
Gloria Patri

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Elder: It is clear that none of us has been fully faithful to God and neighbor. In light of this, and in accord with our Lord's instruction, let us make our common confession together, praying also for God's gracious forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Elder: O Risen and Victorious Christ, whose light and love destroyed the darkness of death, whose compassion forgives all sins of this world especially the sins we now confess to You:
(pause *for silent confession*)

Come, we pray You, into our contrite hearts and so rule our wills by the might of that immortality wherewith You have set us free. Hence, we may evermore be alive to God, through the power of Your glorious resurrection and for the honor of Your Holy Name. Amen

Song Response **"Kyrie Eleison"**

" Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison."

(Bisaya version) "Pasayloa mi O Dios, Pasayloa mi O Dios.
Pasayloa mi O - - - Dios."

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: We know through Jesus Christ that when we are open to receive forgiveness,
the Holy God has long since waited to bestow it. Take this forgiveness seriously,
live as free men and women, and let renewed obedience be the mark of your thanksgiving.
The peace of God be with you.

Passing of Peace

Liturgist: The Spirit descends like a dove, bringing love to unite the world into a just and caring community.

People: (to be sung) "Spirit of the Living God" Church of God in Christ Hymnal #197

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

Liturgist: Let us now share God's peace with one another.
(people share God's peace with one another as organist plays)

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

Church Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (to be sung)

"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive them that sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-9

Response (sung) **"**Bulahan Ka"

Pinasikad sa Lucas 11:28;
Pulong ug Huni: Jean Cuanan-Nalam;Duyog: Gina Raakin

Bulahan ang namati sa Pulong sa Dios
Bulahan ang nagtuman sa Pulong sa Dios
Bulahan angnamati, namati ug nagtuman
Bulahan ang nagtuman sa Pulong sa Dios Bulahan ka!
Bulahan ka!

Second Reading Acts 10:34-43

Song Response "Gloria Patri"

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Message thru Song
Message thru Words

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE
In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provide order, purpose meaning and fulfillment to all creation; That Jesus Christ, who has born of Mary, God become human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history; That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE
That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in the community with God, with other persons and with all creation. That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they 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.

WE BELIEVE
That the Church in one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE
That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE
God is at work, to make each person a new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's kingdom in which love, justice and peace prevail. The Kingdom of God is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

WE BELIEVE
The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. AMEN

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Call to Offering

Liturgist: Having heard the message of Jesus' resurrection proclaimed and interpreted,

let us offer to God our lives and our gifts. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19 NIV)

The Offertory

Doxology "Halad, Dawata O Dios"

Pulong: Divillajyn Ursos ,
Huni:Jean Cuanan-Nalam,Duyog: Gina Raakin

Halad dawata, O Dios, among ibalik Kanimo
Panalangin napahimuslan sa tanan,
Ug padayong mahimong instrumento.
Among kinabuhi sa buluhaton.

OR

"Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought,
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned;
Ours is the faith the will the thought;
The rest, O God, is in thy Hand.

Offertory Prayer

*Liturgist***:** Let us offer our gifts for God's blessing.
All women: And ourselves to be instruments of God's love!
Liturgist: Loving God, may you consecrate these gifts.
All men: For the preaching of the good news of your love;
Children: For the teaching of Jesus' way of life;
Youth: For the healing of broken lives and the caring of the helpless;
All: AND FOR LEADING PERSONS TO EXPERIENCE YOUR LOVE THROUGH THE MESSAGE OF YOUR RESURRECTION. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN

Hymn of Dedication "Christ Rose from the Grave" HFJ #167

Words: Ronie Nitro/Vicente Mar Aguila
Eng. Transl. Reuel Norman O. Marigza,2002
Music: Ricardo Mazo, Jr.

1. Christ rose from the grave and lives forever
He conquered death's blow while hanging on the cross
All because of our sins, the Christ died at Calv'ry
His blood shed and poured out so that we may live free.

2. To heav'n Christ ascended and dwelt in glory
By God's right hand sat, a place of peace and joy
He is there preparing a place where we'll stay
So that where He will be, we shall forever be.

3. Christ rose from the dead and lives forever
For those see-king life, Christ Jesus the sure hope
If we draw near to Him with hearts so sincere
We shall rise up with Him and live forever.

OR (you can choose the following songs below)
" The Hands of God" HFJ295

"We Would Proclaim Your Holy Name" HFJ #300

Prayer of Dedication

People: We gladly give back to You, O Redeemer God, what You have entrusted to us. Gladly we offer to You ourselves for Your blessing. Use us and our gifts, dear God, in the work of proclaiming Your love to all people as we continue doing for the unity of your church. Through Christ our Savior. Amen

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

Benediction

Minister: Now, may the God of Peace who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good as you do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

People sung: "Four -Fold Amen" HFJ #102

Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

OR

"Fivefold Amen"

Postlude

Recessional

References:

The Book of Common Worship 1998

Hymn of Faith Journey 2002

Holy Bible (New International Version)

One Hundred Bible Lessons, Alban Douglas, 1996 Commemorative Edition

Church of God in Christ hymnal #197

Hinalad: A collection of Cebuano Anthems and Liturgical Responses

-Jean Cuanan-Nalam & Dave Jan Fabe

Acknowledgement

Lent holds significant spiritual importance as a period of reflection, repentance, and preparation for the celebration of the day of Christ's resurrection. Lent emphasizes introspection, prayer, fasting, and acts of service. It serves as a time for believers to examine their lives, confess their sins, and renew their commitment to following Christ.

Our Liturgical Material for Lent is a resource material intended to help the worshippers in their journey and celebration through the liturgies that are carefully prepared so that it will accompany the local churches in their preparations for Lent celebration and services.

As always, we are grateful to the following writers who have committed themselves to this endeavor as their participation in the wider life and work of the Church. We would like to sincerely acknowledge the contribution of the following writers with their corresponding work:

Rev. Joshua Job Salva	-	Transfiguration Sunday
Rev. Ericson Aldovino	-	Ash Wednesday; Second Sunday in Lent
Rev. Luisa S. Givero	-	First Sunday in Lent; Fourth Sunday in Lent
Pastor Japhet Kenn Vallera	-	Third Sunday in Lent
Rev. Bernadette Curan	-	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Pastor Ella Joy F. Echin	-	Liturgy of the Palms
Pastor Divillajyn Ursos	-	Maundy Thursday
Pastor Julie Anne V. Quiros	-	Good Friday
Rev. Lilibeth L. Damiao	-	Resurrection Sunday
Joelliane Faye Salcedo	-	cover page

In times of joy, may the liturgies magnify your gratitude and praise. In times of sorrow, may it offer you comfort and hope. And in times of doubt, may it inspire you to seek the light of truth and peace of understanding. May the words and rituals of the liturgies illuminate your path and lead you ever closer to the divine presence and be filled with grace, courage, and wisdom as you walk the sacred journey of faith.

Rev. Annabelle A. Uriarte
Executive Secretary for Laity and Local Church Development Ministries
National Coordinator for Christian Education and Nurture
2022-2026