



To others, through others.

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

Liturgy, Music, and Prayers for Justice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hear these words: "And God saw everything that God had made, and behold, it was very good."

All: Behold, our God is good.

Leader: Hear these words: "You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God. For I, your God, love justice; I hate robbery and wrong."

All: Behold, our God is a God of justice.

Leader: Hear these words: "God has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners."

All: Behold, our God is a God of compassion and liberation.

Leader: Hear these words: "And taking the five loaves and two fish he looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves... and they all ate and were satisfied."

All: Behold, our God is a God who inspires generosity.

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus: "Blessed are those who hear God's word and keep it!"

All: Let us hear God's wisdom. Amen.

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

OR

Leader: Let our prayers and actions rise before you.

All: And may your grace descend upon the world.

Leader: Accept our prayers, guide our actions, bless this gathered community.

All: And send your Spirit to renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: Give to us, God, eyes for seeing and ears to hear your word.

All: Give us an open heart and open hands. Amen.

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you placed me in the world to be its salt.
 I have been afraid of committing myself,
 Afraid of being stained by the world.
 I did not want to hear what “they” might have to say.
 And my salt dissolved as if in water.
 Forgive me, Jesus.

God, you placed me in the world to be its light.
 I was afraid of the shadows, afraid of poverty.
 I did not want to know other people’s struggles.
 And my light slowly faded away.
 Forgive me, Jesus.

God, you placed me in the world
 To live in the community.
 Thus you taught me to love, to share in life,
 To struggle for bread and justice,
 Your truth incarnate in my life.
 So be it, Jesus.
 Amen.

Peggy M. De Cuehlo, Uruguay
Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice

OR

These are words of wisdom from a Brazilian bishop who worked alongside the poor for many years: “I used to think when I was a child that Christ might have been exaggerating when he warned about the danger of wealth. Today I know better. I know how very hard it is to be rich and still keep the milk of human kindness. Money has a dangerous way of putting scales on one’s eyes, a dangerous way of freezing people’s hands, eyes, lips and heart.” - *Dom Helder Camara, Brazil*

Recognizing how easy it is for us to become trapped in words and actions that hurt rather than heal, let us pray: For the times we have not challenged the powers and principalities that uphold inequality, and hate; for the times we have empowered our leaders to make decisions based on selfishness and hurtful assumptions:

GOD HAVE MERCY.

For the times that we have accepted injury, inequality, poverty and division in the Body of Christ as unavoidable and not our business; for the times we have hidden our light under our own fears and anger:

CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

For the times we have seen bruises and looked away; for the times we have heard hateful words and closed our ears; for the times we have seen great need and offered but a moment’s charity:

GOD, HAVE MERCY.

AMEN.

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, CONT'D

For our incapacity to feel the suffering of others,
And our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,
God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,
And the self-interest which strangles compassion,
God forgive us.

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern,
Who cry out "Peace, peace" when there is no peace,
We ask your mercy.

For our failings in community,
Our lack of understanding,
We ask your mercy.

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,
God forgive us.

For times when we are too eager to be better than others,
When we are too rushed to care,
When we are too tired to bother,
When we don't really listen,
When we are too quick to act from
Motives other than love,
God forgive us.

Jeremiah 6:13-15; 8-11

Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness, South Africa

Source: Traidcraft

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the words of Jesus: "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and hides it under a basket, but puts it on a stand where it can give light to the whole house." Even as we are called to be salt and light, so we are given the strength we need for the task through the love of God, the great compassion of the Holy Spirit and the life of justice lived by Jesus. We are surrounded by a worldwide community of seekers after justice and hope. Thanks be to God!

Church World Service (USA)

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice

OR

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly." All over the world, sacred writings and great prophets reveal to us a vision of a God who seeks justice, loves kindness, and pours out gifts to meet our every need. Now the challenge is ours: to hear God's wisdom, follow Jesus' path and live out lives that reflect a spirit of generosity and a refusal to take or use more than our daily bread. May we live generously, may we live with enough; may we live out the justice and peace that God proclaims to a forgiven people. Amen.

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

PASSING THE PEACE

Redeemer Christ, we are one body in you. We see our community gathered together. We know others are gathered in your name at this time in places far and near. We cherish our unity in this diversity. We look to you for guidance, we listen for your word, we hope for tomorrow. We feel welcomed in and through Christ.

Let us come together in this moment and share the peace which Jesus made possible: the peace of Christ.

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty God,

Your creation is big, with some people going every day without that which is sufficient for them. We give this little in remembrance of them. Multiply it, and give us light and strength to give more in the future. Also work with this little for your service in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord let it benefit your people in all nations. Amen.

Solomon Siyakisa Mlambo, Mt. Silinda High School, Zimbabwe

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

PRAYERS

O God of all youth we pray to you:

We are young people,

And we want to celebrate life!

We cry out against all that kills life:

Hunger, poverty

Unemployment, sickness,

Repression, individualism, injustice.

We want to announce fullness of life:

Work, education, health, housing,

Bread for all.

We want communion, a world renewed.

We hope against hope.

With the Lord of history

We want to make all things new.

A group of Brazilian young people (1998 Share Lent kit, CCOOP)

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

PRAYERS, CONT'D

I dare to pray: Lord, let the world be changed,
 For I long to see the end of poverty;
 I dare to pray: Lord, let my life be changed,
 For I long to bring hope where good news is needed.

In the strength of your Spirit and inspired by your compassion,
 I make this promise to work for change,
 And wait confidently for the day when you make all things new.
 Amen.

Source: Peter Graystone, Christian Aid

Lord God of all justice, from the countries which have had the scales of the world's wealth tilted for so long in their favor, we cry out to you. Forgive us for the complacency we have about our comfort. Stir us into action and prayer for those who do without. Change the world until the hungry and poor have all they need and, gracious God, use us to bring about the change. Amen.

Source: Christian Aid

God of life, you have called your people to be one: Grant that we who seek to follow you may no longer be content with doing well, but may seek to do good so that those from whose resources we benefit may see the just reward of their labor, until we come into your presence together without fear and with great joy, through the grace of Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Source: Christian Aid

Dear God,
 May your spirit live in us.
 Help us to follow the ways of peace,
 Cherishing forgiveness and reconciliation.
 Help us to be a voice
 For the poor and powerless, who cannot
 Express their huge needs and hidden hurt.
 Help us to work for change with those
 Who are oppressed.
 Help us to do the work
 Of the ancient prophets in this world.
 We trust in your power Lord,
 But help us to work hard.
 We thank you for making us part of your people,
 A network of caring around the world.

Alicia Gutierrez, Chile

Source: Traidcraft

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(These prayers were written with the help of many voices from all over the world. Use what you need, and encourage people to add names and concerns. Light a candle or offer a symbol at different points of the prayer.)

Sisters and brothers, united in God's great love for us, let us pray. Loving Parent, generous Creator, we come to you as members of your great family of creation. We bring to you our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows. Make us ready for your response.

Loving God, hear our prayers.

You created this earth with enough resources for every need, if only we would share. Give us the eyes to see how our actions may deny others the resources they need to live with dignity and with enough. You know our needs before we speak them, and yet so many go without in our own country and around the world. Awaken us to everyone's need, whether those of the farthest corners of the world or those of our neighbor next door.

God will provide for the world's every need — if we take only what we really need.

You call us to give generously and this we sometimes do. Inspire us to give whatever we can of our resources, yet challenge us to remember that so often what is needed is not the gift or charity of the moment — but rather changes to systems and to beliefs. Your son challenged the system throughout his life on behalf of the poor and the voiceless within it. Call us to do the same, to speak as the prophets do, speaking out against powers and decisions that rob people of dignity, health and resources.

God will provide for the world's every need — if we speak out.

We pray for the people of this community, this country, and this world. For those who do not have enough to eat, who lack clean water, a safe home, good employment, opportunities for care of the body and education of the mind: we pray that you will push us to take action on their behalf, actively supporting them in their struggle. For those who have too much, and cannot find peace of mind nor purpose because of their possessions — inspire them to generosity and a commitment to living life simply. And challenge those who have enough to be thankful, to resist our world's call to accumulate ever more possessions, to give of their gifts for the good of all on earth. In your great wisdom, help us see past the world's obsession with buying more, spending more, owning more. Save us from indifference and greed, we pray.

God will provide for the world's every need — if we say no to greed.

Creator God, Parent God, you teach us to love what is just and kind. Forgive us for creating an economy that makes a very few rich and leaves the majority without basic resources and without a voice. Help us to focus, as Jesus did, on the evils that create an economy that turns children into laborers and prostitutes, and strips young people and older people alike of hope and dignity because they cannot find work. Challenge us to always put dignity before profits and needs before greed, even if we are said to be crazy or misinformed — for justice never comes without a cost.

God will provide for the world's every need — if we say yes to justice.

We pray for the earth, wounded by our greed. Call us to remember that the earth is yours and that we hold it in trust for future generations. Help us to change our actions so that we live more lightly on the earth, using only what we need and no more. Help us to respect and celebrate the gifts you offer us through your creation, and to never take them for granted.

continued...

God will provide for the world's every need — if we respect the Earth.

O God, you know those in need, in this church and in every corner of your wide creation. Whether that need is for food or for love, for housing or for safety, for health or for healing and dignity of the spirit, we hold these needs and names before you now.

God, you provide for the needs of body and spirit; you are our example and our guide.

For all these places, peoples and concerns we pray, asking that the Church may once again give joyful expression to your creative love that breaks down barriers and unites person to person, woman to man, and community to community. Show us your love which gives meaning and hope to empty lives and makes us reach out to each other in generous self-giving and makes us more complete ourselves. So God, fulfill your promise in us for the sake of all human beings and the earth our home, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice, Kairos Canada, and The Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative

PRAYER FOR COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
Because you broke bread with the poor,
You were looked on with contempt.

Because you broke bread with the sinful and the outcast,
You were looked on as ungodly.

Because you broke bread with the joyful,
You were called a wine bibber and a glutton.

Because you broke bread in the upstairs room,
You sealed your acceptance of the way of the cross.

Because you broke bread on the way to Emmaus,
You make scales fall from the disciples' eyes.

Because you broke bread and shared it,
We will do so too,
And ask your blessing.

From daily worship of Your Will Be Done - Mission in Christ's Way, San Antonel conference, 1990, from "With All God's People," WCC 1990

Source: Traidcraft

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Go into the world with a daring and a tender love, this world is waiting. And all that you do, do it for love. And by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus, go in peace. Amen.

Women's Conference, Japan

Source: TEN DAYS for Global Justice

BENEDICTION/BLESSING, CONT'D

Go forth into the world in peace;
 Be of good courage;
 Hold fast to that which is good;
 Render no-one evil for evil;
 Strengthen the faint-hearted;
 Support the weak;
 Help the afflicted;
 Honor all people;
 Love and serve the Lord,
 Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Source: Christian Aid

MUSIC

Banquet of Praise (Bread for the World Songbook)

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“Let Justice Roll Down” — Available in “Praise Worship Songbook 13”

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