

# UCM FELLOWSHIP OF THE BIGGEST COIN SUNDAY

*Sunday, 13 March 2016*

## **Towards a Spirituality for a New Creation HONORING OUR GRACIOUS GOD WITH OUR WEALTH**

### **The Act of Praising the Creator and Redeemer God**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **PREPARATION**

Created in God's likeness and redeemed by God's grace, we respond with deeper commitment to the mission of bringing about God's kin-dom on earth. Our commitment should then lead in the joyful sharing of our talents and material resources all for kin-dom building. Hence, in our celebration today of the Fellowship of the Biggest Coin, we come in gratitude to God who brings us together now and here.

**PROCESSIONAL** (Opening of the Bible and lighting of the Christ candle)

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist (L): Beautiful Sunday! We come today before the throne of a just and ever-loving God who calls us to renewed vigor and commitment to the faithful proclamation of the Gospel of love and holistic salvation.

People (P): Praise be to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God who brings us together in peace and harmony to bind ourselves in doing of God's mission for the transformation of both church and society.

All - Glory and honor belongs to the God of wisdom and freedom. All of our thoughts, words, songs, church, community, resources, time, and lives, all for your glory and honor.  
COME, LET US WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD!

#### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

**HFJ #10**

#### **♪ Let's Worship and Praise God ♪**

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

Chorus: God's grace unfathomed and free  
Flowing on through the night, through the day  
Let's praise God with singing,  
Let's praise God in service;  
Together let's praise the Lord.

Let's worship and praise God with joyful songs  
For Christ Jesus, God's gift to the world  
Let's praise God and worship the Lord with songs  
For Christ Jesus, the Living Word.

Let's worship and praise God with joyful songs,  
Praise and off'rings to Yahweh belong,  
Let's praise God and labor in service true,  
For the blessings so fresh, so new.

**\*INVOCATION** (In unison)

Spirit of the Living, Loving and Liberating God, be with us now in our corporate worship, and even as we go into the world to live, to love and partake of your work at liberating your beloved creation. Make this worship truly an occasion for celebration especially today that we celebrate the Fellowship of the Biggest Coin of the United Church of Men of our beloved UCCP, reminding ourselves of your grace showered to us through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**Response:**                    ♪ **O God in Heaven** ♪ HFJ#50

O God in heaven, grant to your children,  
Mercy and blessing, songs never ceasing,  
Grace to invite us, peace to unite us  
O God in heaven, author of love.

Jesus Redeemer, help us remember,  
Your pain and passion, your resurrection  
Your call to follow, your love tomorrow  
Jesus Redeemer, savior and friend.

Spirit unending, give us your blessing  
Strength for the weary, help for the needy,  
Hope for the scornful, peace for the mournful,  
Spirit unending, comfort and guide.

**RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 58:6-12 (NIV)**

L: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?"

P: Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

L: Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

P: Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.  
“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

L: And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

P: The Lord will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.  
You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

ALL: Our people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

## **The Act of Affirming our Sinfulness Before a Merciful God**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: “You are worthy our Lord God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.” We continue to honor you as we examine ourselves now. Come brothers and sisters in Christ, let us humbly come before our merciful God.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In unison)**

Lord, your ways are not our ways;  
your thoughts are not our thoughts  
what to us seems like eternity is only a moment to you.  
In the face of eternity,  
Help us to be humble.  
If we have been singing praises with our voices  
and kept the joy out of our hearts;  
If we have prayed only for what was possible  
and hope only for what we could see;  
If we have taken your grace for granted  
and expected answers to immediate requests;  
If we have allowed waiting on your Spirit  
To slip into laziness and waiting on the Kingdom to be replaced by apathy;  
If we have only thought of us only waiting on you

and never pondered how you wait for us  
If we have prayed, "Giver of Life, sustain your Creation"  
and succumbed to the economics of consumption;

If we have prayed, "Spirit of Truth, set us free"  
and chosen instead the slavery of silence.

If we have prayed, "Spirit of Unity, reconcile your people"  
and have not met with persons of other confessions or  
traditions in our neighborhood;

If we have prayed, "Holy Spirit, transform and sanctify us"  
and not expected the Spirit to change our lives;

HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US!

*(HFJ Worship Resources, Prayers of Confession, 409)*

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON (Minister)**

Listen, for this is the word of God:

Blessed are all who wait for the Lord,  
God is merciful and God's love is sure and strong.  
Amen.

### **SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

L: Let's us move around and share God's peace with one another as a sign of renewed love and care for each other in the faith community.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **The Act of Listening to God's Word**

**In the Reading from the Old Testament: Isaiah 43:16-21 or 58:6-12**

**\*In the Reading from the New Testament: John 12:1-8 or Matthew 20:1-16**

**In the Proclamation of the Word**

*Moment of individual silent reflection*

### **The Act of Offering our Lives and Gifts Before a Generous God**

#### **CALL TO OFFERING (Liturgist)**

Proverbs 3:9-10 says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."  
Come let us bring to God our material offering as a sign of our lives offered to God's mission.

**OFFERTORY (Collection and giving of tithes, pledges and loose offerings)**

**READING OF THE RATIONALE OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BIGGEST COIN OF THE UCM  
BIGGEST COIN OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING (Deacons)**

God of abundant grace, we thank you for what we have received and what we can share. And most of all we thank you for the gift of life. We offer these gifts and ourselves to be used as instruments of peace based on justice towards the renewal of your creation. In Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

**HFJ #295**

**♪ The Hands of God ♪**

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 (Minister)**

**\*BENEDICTION (Minister)**

Go and let your God be the Creator God and not the god of wealth that destroys. Go now in peace and in love, knowing that the God of peace and love abides with you always as you carry on the mission God has entrusted to your care and stewardship. In the name of God our parent, Jesus our savior and friend and the Holy Spirit, our guide and enabler, we pray. Amen.

**RECESSIONAL**

**POSTLUDE**