



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE SUNDAY

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

“Those who have heard the Good News have to grow and mature, and that means continuing education. Those who have believed need to be nurtured and taught so that their understanding of Jesus Christ can be broadened.”

Paraphrased from Lydia N. Niguidula, “Communicating the Good News in Unexpected Places,”
Communicating the Gospel in Its Wholeness

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100, NRSV, paraphrased

Liturgist: ¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

People: ² **Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God’s presence with singing.**

Liturgist: ³ Know that the Lord is God. God made us, and we are God’s people, the sheep of God’s pasture.

People: ⁴ **Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and the courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless God’s name!**

All: ⁵ **For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever, and God’s faithfulness to all generations.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Alleluia, Let Us Praise the Lord God

HFJ 2

*INVOCATION (Unison)

You are always with us, O God, as we continue to strive towards our Church’s Vision of a responsible, empowered, self-reliant and caring community of Christian believers committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society towards an abundant and meaningful life for all. Strengthen us as we do Your Mission of establishing and uniting the community of faith for the life-proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ towards the transformation of both church and society. Renew and invigorate us through your Spirit to pursue our Goals of strengthening the faith community, enriching the life-work of communities where local churches are located, and to deepen the impact of the Church’s collective response to societal issues and concerns. May we continue to educate and nurture ourselves in faith even as we seek to do all these tasks entrusted to us, inspired and led by your Son Jesus Christ who we seek to emulate and in whose name we pray. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Creator God

HFJ 19

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: We live in a country rich in diverse natural resources. But majority of the people are poor while only a few enjoy the bounty of the land.

People: Forgive us, O God, when we do not have the concerns and grievances of the basic masses at heart, but instead kowtow to the whims and caprices of the gods of globalization, of trans-nationals and monopolies of power in government, religious institutions, and socio-economic circles.

Liturgist: We suffer from a national financial crisis, with the basic masses suffering from the staggering lack of basic social services for health, housing, and education.

People: Forgive us, O God, when we are in a state of denial of this situation and even boast of economic gains and statistical figures that are not felt nor shared by the majority of the suffering poor.

Liturgist: Children die of preventable diseases like the common cold and diarrhea. Children do not reach their maximum intellectual potential due to malnutrition. Infant mortality rate is quite high.

People: Forgive us, O God, when we turn a deaf ear to the cries of hungry children, and turn away to avoid seeing the misery in a begging child's face.

Liturgist: Majority of our youth are not able to afford decent education. Tuition fees remain exorbitant and continue to be hiked.

People: Forgive us, O God, when we boast of "quality of life", which includes high GDP, life expectancy, adult literacy, growth in school enrolment—all meaningless scores in a tally board survey because they are not felt at the grassroots.

Liturgist: Women still endure unnecessary suffering just because they are women. There is sexual discrimination and gender bias in all spheres of society. Women still suffer gender-based violence including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse.

People: Forgive us, O God, as even the church is not always a safe place for women.

Liturgist: Thousands of people leave the country every day to find greener pastures elsewhere. Mothers cannot care for their own children because they are far away caring for other women's children. Fathers break their backs toiling in fields they do not own, producing food that do not land on their tables.

People: Forgive us, O God, as hundreds of thousands of families still live in abodes that can hardly be called houses, when families are split-up due to the government's labor export policy.

Liturgist: Mono-cropping production, large-scale mining and logging operations lay waste to vast tracts of land, even those of our tribal peoples' ancestral domains.

People: Forgive us, O God, when we are afraid to speak out against these injustices, when we allow for the environment to be ravaged and our national patrimony to be trampled upon.

SILENT MOMENT OF CONFESSION

SONG OF SUPPLICATION

O God in Heaven

HFJ 50

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Minister: God, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, calls us by grace. We are called to be change agents in order that the old order may pass away, giving way to a new heaven and new earth.

People: We are renewed in the image of God our Creator, that we may be one in love and service for God's people for the transformation of society and the world.

Minister: Today is the day God upholds national sovereignty and territorial integrity, respects human rights and gives full play to democracy, reasserts our economic sovereignty and national patrimony.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God carries out national industrialization as the lead factor of economic development and as the key to solving unemployment, poverty and under-development.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God implements land reform as a matter of democratic right and social justice, as the foundation of economic development and as a method of liberating the landless tillers, releasing capital, promoting rural development and creating a domestic market.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God improves the wage and living conditions of the workers, protects and promotes all possible means of livelihood and raises the people's standard of living, expands social services, especially in education, health and housing, and improves public utilities.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God stops plunder and all forms of graft and corruption and punishes the perpetrators, ends the pork barrel system and channels government funds to economic development, infrastructure development, and expansion of social services.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God reduces military expenditures and channels the savings to economic development and social services, promotes a patriotic, democratic, scientific and progressive system of education and culture, upholds gender equality in all fields of social activity, and combats gender and sexual discrimination.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God ensures the wise utilization of natural resources and the protection of the environment, respects the rights of national minorities to self-determination and development.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God continues peace negotiations between the government and the NDFP and completes those with the MILF, pursues an independent policy and develops closest cooperation with all neighboring countries for the purpose of international solidarity, peace and development.

People: And so must we.

Minister: Today is the day God nurtures, renews, transforms and calls us to bring the Good News of peace with justice and love for a transformed humanity, church, society, and world.

All: As a people who have heard the Good News, we are nurtured, renewed and transformed in Jesus Christ to bring this Good News unto all the world. Let us therefore do God's work with joy and thanksgiving!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Liturgist: As a nurtured, renewed and transformed people, let us greet and fellowship with each other in God's peace.

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Habakkuk 3: 17-18

Philippians 4: 4-7

Ephesians 4:11-16

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG

MESSAGE THROUGH THE SPOKEN WORD

RECITING OF THE 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

That 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.

That 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

That 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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER (Minister)

RESPONSE

We Thank You, Lord

HFJ 194

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: Let us present with joy our offering of commitment and support to the work of furthering God's Reign here on earth.

People: Let us prepare Christ's Table with the offerings of our life and labor.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God the Source of Life and Birth

Praise God the Source of Life and Birth, praise God the Word who came to earth.

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Liturgist)

Dear God, Provider and Sustainer of life, thank you for all that you give us. We offer you with joyful hearts these tokens of our gratitude for your continued sustenance of our lives. Use these and our lives for the furtherance of Your Reign of peace, justice and love in the here and now. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Minister: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day sat at the table with the disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's Table.

Minister: This Table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Minister: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: We give you thanks, God of love and grace, for calling forth creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and to all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are not.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be the Good News, born of Mary, our sister in faith. Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

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!

Minister: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the Feast of Passover.

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also, he took 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."

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Minister: Eternal God, we unite in the covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your great grace that is able to make all things new.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Minister: (*breaking the bread*) The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

(*raising the cup*) The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this Holy Meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in these critical times. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Here on a Table Spread

HFJ 261

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Minister: Go forth into the world and do our God-given responsibility of helping shape persons towards maturity in faith, leading to transformation and liberation of self, church, community and society. God is the teacher, we are the channels. Jesus Christ started this educating and nurturing task and thus we continue and propagate it as his disciples. Let us do this, encouraged and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Be of good courage, love sincerely, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil. Love and serve God, love and serve God's people. The blessing of God Almighty: the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier, be with you all.

People: Amen.