

## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

### PRELUDE

*Mr. Israel C. Bombasi, pianist*

### CHORALE INTROIT

**“This is the Day”**

*Cosmopolitan Joint Choir*

***The Lord Has Made*** *Mr. Pamfilo M. Boroja, conducting*

MARK HAYES

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *A United and Uniting Church* HFJ#244

ROSIE C. DELA CRUZ, 1998

#### **Refrain:**

A united and uniting church, that we may all be one  
Reformed and transforming in mission and in faith,  
Onward UCCP, building God’s Kingdom of peace.

Come, let us all remember, a heritage of faithfulness,  
Of ardent men and women, devoted to Christ’s way;  
Covenanting as one together, with God’s Spirit, sole Enabler. [refrain]

Come, let’s reclaim together the vision of the pioneers,  
To serve beyond all burden, reach out to one and all,  
In obedience to God’s divine will, we seek the reign of God. [refrain]

Come, dreamers, visionaries, examples of true witnesses,  
Leaving the trace of footprints, for people to tread on,  
With a burning faith and commitment, proclaiming God’s message of love. [refrain]

### WORDS OF GATHERING

*Ms. Melinda Grace B. Aoanan, liturgist*

Leader: Dearly beloved in Christ, we are gathered to give thanks.

**People: We give thanks to God for God’s abiding presence in our life.**

Leader: We are gathered to ask for God’s guidance and to hear God’s Holy Word.

**People: We ask God to guide us and teach us as we serve God and God’s people.**

Leader: We are gathered desiring God’s companionship and blessing.

**All: It is our fervent hope that in all we do, our will will be aligned with God’s Will for the world, and that in walking and living with God, and working for God’s Kin-dom here on earth, we will be blessed with God’s companionship and faithfulness!**

### OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Callum R. Tabada **ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR,**  
UCCP COSMOPOLITAN CHURCH

God, our loving Parent, we come before your presence in the midst of struggle and joy, as individuals and as a community. Be with us in this hour of worship and thanksgiving, as you are always with us, Immanuel. Through our litanies, songs, prayers and meditation, speak to us, teach us, and bless us, so that as we go forth from this place, we will always be with You. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Companion. Amen.

Sung Response

*In Great Thanksgiving*  
MELCHIZEDEK M. SOLIS/MUTYA L. SOLIS

HFJ#29

*In exaltation of Christ, our Lord,  
Who for the faithful true life ensured,  
We laud him Savior, we teach his way of peace  
With justice, hope for today.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

*Atty. James K. Raterta*  
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON,  
UCCP COSMOPOLITAN CHURCH

*Bishop Emergencio D. Padillo*  
MIDDLE LUZON JURISDICTION

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** [LEADER]

Let us all stand and extend a hand of welcome to our neighbor, greeting each other with the peace of Christ.

**CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVICE**

Leader: God, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, calls us by grace.

**People: To be 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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 underdevelopment.

**People: And so must we.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: Today is the day God resumes 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.**

Leader: Today is the day God calls us to do peace with justice and love towards a transformed humanity, church, society, and world.

**All: This is the day that God has made. Let us do God's work with joy and thanksgiving!**

**HYMN RESPONSE *Faith in the Service of the People* HFJ#306**

LUNA L. DINGAYAN/PERLA S. DINGAYAN

***Refrain:***

***Faith in the service of the people, faith in the service of the poor;  
This is our response to the call of God, faith in the service of the poor.***

***Peasants of the field have the vision of land that is rich and free;  
They till the land from dawn to setting sun, yet they remain to be poor. [refrain]***

***People of the church have the vision of a Kingdom of God on earth,  
A Kingdom of justice and righteousness, a kingdom of joy and love. [refrain]***

***Let us come and celebrate together our joys in the service of God,  
And giving thanks for all the work well done, pray for years to come. [refrain]***

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

**Psalm 33 *Bishop Marino I. Inong***

*New Revised Standard Version*

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

***Praise, Thanksgiving, Glory, Honor***

JOHANN CHRISTIAN BECHLER/CLARENCE AND HELEN DICKINSON

*Cosmopolitan Joint Choir*  
*Ms. Dominga R. Tabada, conducting*

**MESSAGE THROUGH THE SPOKEN WORD**

**Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza**  
GENERAL SECRETARY

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY** [LEADER]

Let us present with joy and gratitude our offering of commitment and support for the work of God's mission.

**OFFERTORY  
ANTHEM**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God, Manila Concert Choir*  
MARTIN LUTHER *Ms. Rachel Visaya, directing*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**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.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Bishop Elmer B. Bolocon**  
BISHOP EMERITUS

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.

**ACT OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION**

*[Bishops, ministers and government officials stand in front]*

Government Officials: We have been called from among the people to serve God and God's people. May we always strive to know and understand the situation of the people by living it.

Bishops: May you always walk with the people, siding with them as Jesus did, and may you never rest until their understanding of peace and justice is honored by those in power.

Government Officials: May we always reflect on God's Word and discern how God wants us to respond to the needs of the people.

Ministers: May our gracious God, source of all wisdom, righteousness and peace, bless you with wisdom and critical discernment as you take on the tasks delegated to you.

Government Officials: May we always strive to act according to God's will. May we be prophets of our time: denouncing evil and announcing the Good News of God's Shalom. May our work be our contribution to bringing about God's Reign of love, justice and peace.

General Secretary: Let us pray. Our God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, it is with grateful hearts that we present to You and to this community gathered here our sisters and brothers who have committed themselves to the great task of nation-building, public service, and prophetic witness. Uphold them with your grace, guide them in your wisdom, and enfold them with your love as they embark in this awesome responsibility. May we, your Church, walk with them in this opportunity for ministry, and be a source of inspiration and strength. May they constantly feel Your presence in their lives so that all their deeds will be in accordance with Your will, ministering to Your people, instead of being ministered unto. We pray in the name of Jesus who came to serve and not to be served. Amen.

*[The General Secretary and the UCCP Cosmopolitan Church Council Chairperson will give the tokens of consecration to the honorees, while a choral tribute, "Glorious Everlasting" by M. Thomas Cousins, is being rendered by the Manila Concert Choir.]*

Bishops and Ministers *[while laying hands on the honorees]*: God consecrates you to public service and prophetic witness. In this consecration, we thank God for strength and hope, provision and blessing, companionship and community. May you indeed be one with God and God's people, working towards the fulfillment of God's Reign.

**\*All: Let us all work together, witnessing to the Good News of God's salvation and shalom, striving towards a new humanity in these critical times.**

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT** *[Honorees kneel as they are able.]*

***Take My Life***

HFJ#279

FRANCES R. HAVERGAL/JUSTIN H. KNECHT

***Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

***Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose,  
All its powers as you choose.***

***Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place,  
Make of it your dwelling place.***

***Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community,  
Part of Christ's community.***

**\*THE BLESSING**

*[All bishops and ministers lay hands on the honorees and the whole congregation]*

General Secretary: In your consecration, may God's power be at work in you that you may infinitely do more than we can ever ask or imagine.

Government Officials: In our consecration, may God's faithfulness be our courage and strength.

**All: We, as the body of Christ, are consecrated to do God's mission. May we continue to be faithful followers of Christ as we accept the challenge of being servants of God's people.**

All Bishops and Ministers: Go therefore and follow Christ, loving God and serving the people. Go in peace; work for peace! Amen!

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Lift Up the Lamb* *Cosmopolitan Joint Choirs*  
DAVID CLYDESDALE AND CLAIRE CLONINGER

**POSTLUDE**

*Mr. Israel C. Bombasi, pianist*