



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST INT THE PHILIPPINES

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PEACE SUNDAY

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“Genuine peace comes when justice is served. For as long as peasants remain landless, for as long as laborers do not receive just wages, for as long as we are politically and economically dominated by foreign nations, for as long as we channel more money to the military than to basic social services, for as long as the causes of social unrest remain untouched, there will be no peace.” (Peacemaking: Our Ministry – UCCP Council of Bishops, August 21, 1986)

SOUND OF THE FLUTE AND RAIN

STICK CALL TO GATHERING

Leader: We gather today to reflect, pray and discern ways by which we can spread peace. Let us pray.
God our Parent, you call us to spread peace and love in the world. Help us to live in peace with each other in our homes, in our classrooms, in our community and in our world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord of peace. Amen.

READING 1: Isaiah 32: 15-18

READING 2: Psalm 122: 6-9

HYMN OF GATHERING

“Lead On, Eternal Sovereign” (HFJ 366)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We call on the Lord in our distress, and he answers us. Save us, O Lord, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues. What will he do to you, and what more besides, O deceitful tongue? He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows, with burning coals of the broom tree. Too long have we lived among those who hate peace and seek out war to justify their means. Teach us to be persons of peace, so that we may do our part in bringing love and peace to the world. -- Adapted from Psalm 120

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ is our peace; in his flesh he has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, that he might create one new humanity in place of the two. He came and proclaimed peace to those who were far off and peace to those who were near. Through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. --Adapted from Ephesians 2:14, 18

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty God, who through your prophets foretold a day when swords will be beaten into plowshares and who in Jesus Christ made peace through the blood of the cross, pour out your Spirit on all people everywhere so that we may be delivered from hate, hostility, and self-seeking, and find our peace in your will. We earnestly bring before your attention our hope for peace in our land; that the peace process between conflicting groups may finally come to reality and that the peace negotiations may bring forth a true lasting peace in the whole country. We pray, O God, for openness of hearts and minds among those in the negotiation table that they may arrive at agreements beneficial to the Filipino people. In your mercy, make us instruments of your peace, that your name may be hallowed, your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHALLENGE THROUGH SONG

CHOIR

THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE (*The pastor or another person may now offer a short reflection on the readings and how they pertain to the lives of the people in the community. Some points you may wish to include are:*

- Peacemakers come in all shapes and sizes, in all generations and times in history. The prophets of long ago like Isaiah predicted what peaceful living with faith in God could be like.
- Jesus talked about peace a lot. He even said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.” He talked about needing to be peaceful with each other in our daily lives.
- There are many actions that can be peacemaking actions. Each local church community could make a list of ways that the members of the church will work for peace in their respective areas of witness.
- Allow a few minutes for silent reflection on what peaceful behavior might look like in your community.

READING OF UCCP STATEMENT ON “PEACEMAKING OUR MINISTRY”

(may be done with creative movements or other creative ways)

OFFERING OF LABORS AND

COMMITMENTS OFFERTORY SONG

OFFERING PRAYER

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“Genuine and Lasting Peace” (HFJ 370)

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

SONG RESPONSE

“Trees of the Field” (HFJ 100)

POSTLUDE