



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
Children: Heralds of Hope

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

There is hope for your future, says the Lord.
Your children will come back to their own land.

- Jeremiah 31: 17, ICB, paraphrased

PRELUDE

Indigenous musical instruments

PROCESSIONAL

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 149: 1-5, ICB, paraphrased

Leader: ¹ Praise the Lord! Sing a new song to the Lord. Sing God's praise in the meeting of the faithful.

People: ² **Let the Israelites be happy because of God, their Maker. Let the children of Jerusalem rejoice because of God.**

Leader: ³ They should praise God with dancing. They should praise God with tambourines and harps.

People: ⁴ **The Lord is pleased with God's people. God saves those who are humble.**

All: ⁵ **Let the faithful rejoice in glory. Let them sing for joy everywhere!**

INVOCATION

Psalm 119: 33-40, ICB, paraphrased

Leader: ³³ Lord, teach me your mandates.
Then I will obey them until the end.

All: ³⁴ **Help us understand, so we can obey your teachings.
We will obey them with all our heart.**

Leader: ³⁵ Help me obey your commands
because that makes me happy.

All: ³⁶ **Turn our hearts to your decrees
instead of selfishly wanting riches.**

Leader: ³⁷ Keep me from looking at worthless things.
Let me live by your word.

All: ³⁸ **Keep your promise to us, your servants,
so you will be feared.**

Leader: ³⁹ Take away the disgrace I fear.
Your laws are good.

All: ⁴⁰ **How we want to follow your orders.
Give us life because of your goodness. Be with us! Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Magpasalamat/O Let Us Give Thanks HFJ 320/Children Praise God 146

[Words and music: Helen S. Tejero, based on a Manobo tune motif; English: Grace R. Tabada;
Suggested accompaniment: kulintang, agong, kudyapi, drums]

[Intro: Gong, kulintang]

Magpasalamat kay Bathala na may kulintang, agong at tambol,
Mangagsitugtog ng mga papuri sa kudyaping dalawa ang kwerdas,
Mangagsiawit ng bagong awit at magsitugtog tayong lahat.

[Kulintang interlude]

Isang daang taon ang ating narating, magpasalamat at magdiriwang,
Mangagsiawit, mangagsitugtog sa ating Dios ng kasaysayan,
Mangagsiawit ng bagong awit at magsitugtog tayong lahat.

[Kulintang interlude]

O let us give thanks to our God with the kulintang, agong and the drum,
Let's praise our God now with the lively plucking of the kudyapi playing the two strings.
Let's raise our voices now, our new songs singing, our instruments sounding joyfully.

[Kulintang interlude]

So many years have passed, the present we have reached,
With grateful hearts now we shall celebrate;
Let us keep singing, let us keep playing for Creator God of history,
Let's sing a new song, and with our instruments,
Let's play and praise our God with joyful hearts!

[Kulintang ending]

A LITANY OF HOPE

Transposed with **Job 11: 13-20**, ICB, paraphrased

Leader: ¹³ Give your whole heart to God. Hold out your hands to God for help.

People: For every child who falls prey to the violence of the war in Mindanao, we remember the dark days of Martial Law past. Then we are jolted: there is martial law once again in our midst!

Leader: ¹⁴ Lord, put away the sin that is in our hands. Let no evil live in our tents.

People: We remember how there were children born in cold and dark prison cells because their mothers have been unjustly detained as political prisoners only because they stood for what is right, just and liberating.

Leader: ¹⁵ Lift up your face without shame, o people. Stand strong without fear.

People: Administration after administration has implemented operation plans that have wreaked havoc on children's lives: children killed, children raped, children fleeing for safety from bombs, children not able to go to school, children not able to play as children should, children not able to grow into their fullest capacity.

Leader: ¹⁶ You will forget your trouble. You will remember your troubles only as water that has passed by.

People: At the beginning of this present dispensation, there was a glimmer of hope: peace talks were resumed and there was a promise of the release of political prisoners, among so many promises. We have yet to see these promises fulfilled. Instead, we see children evacuating their homes because of strife and bombs. We see children not able to go to school because the military has encamped there. We see children not able to play because of trauma from all their harrowing experiences. We see children not living in peace. But God's people will not rest until God's peace—genuine and lasting peace—is at hand.

Leader: ¹⁷ Your life will be as bright as the noonday sun. And darkness will seem like morning.

People: Children will live a full life. They will no longer be harmed. They will come home to their communities safe and sound. They will benefit from transformative and relevant education. They will be free to play as children should. They will blossom into their fullest potential.

Leader: ¹⁸ You, o children of God, will feel safe because there is hope. You will look around and rest in safety.

People: We have hope because our children will lead us. We have hope because with the children, we will work for God's Shalom. We have hope because God is with us, Immanuel. We have hope as we hold on to God's promise that our children will go back to their own land.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Liturgist: As people of peace and children of hope, let us pass God's peace and our hope with each other.

*SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 33

Proverbs 15: 33

Romans 15: 1-6

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG OR CREATIVE MOVEMENT

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

My Dream

Children Praise God 116

[Words and music: Jeaneth Harris]

I am but a little child but I have a dream like you;
I hope that every day we all live peacefully.
I hope that someday we'll live in harmony.

CALL TO OFFERING

Leader: Let us now offer our lives and resources in order that our hope for peace may become a reality for our children and for all of us very soon.

***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 in whom our hope lies, sanctify these gifts and our lives so that these may be used for furthering your Reign of love, peace and justice, for the sake of all children and for all of us in the here and now. Amen.

***SONG OF COMMITMENT**

Tell the Truth

HFJ 374/Children Praise God 125

[Words: Luna L. Dingayan; Music: Perla P. Dingayan]

We have come to thank our God, for the things that our God has done,
For the glories in years that passed, for the hope in years to come,
Let us all be one in Christ, let us heed our God's command.

Refrain:

We are called to live to tell the truth that sets all people free.

In a world of fame and might, where the wrong is considered right,
Where the evil is seen as good, where the forces of death seem strong,
Where injustice all abound, and the truth is compromised. *(Refrain)*

They have eyes but cannot see, they have ears but cannot hear,
They have minds but cannot think, they have mouths but cannot speak,
When our people live such lives, and are held by sting of death. *(Refrain)*

Tell the truth that sets all free, share the news over land and sea;
Though the bearers of truth may die, yet the truth alone shall live.
When they are fed with lies, people then are cowed in fear. *(Refrain)*

We are called to live in truth, in our mission and ministry;

Genuine freedom will be the fruit, if in truth we shall be one.
Let us then commit our lives, in the truth of Christ we stand. (*Refrain*)

***THE BLESSING**

HFJ 445, paraphrased

Minister: We commit ourselves to God,

People: who is love and who has given the earth to all peoples.

Minister: We commit ourselves to Jesus Christ,

People: who came to heal us and free us from all forms of oppression.

Minister: We commit ourselves to the Spirit of God,

People: who works in and through all who have yearned towards the truth.

Minister: We commit ourselves to the community of faith,

People: who is called to be at the service of all people.

**All: We commit ourselves to God's promise and our hope
to finally destroy the power of sin in us all,
and to establish God's Reign of love and peace with justice for all the earth.
Amen!**

SUNG RESPONSE

Have Faith, Hope and Charity

Children Praise God 125

[Unknown; transcribed by Esther Ferido Camino]

Have faith, hope and charity, that's the way to live successfully.
How do I know? The Bible tells me so.
Don't worry about tomorrow; just be real good today.
The Lord will sit beside you, will guide you on your way.
So the Bible tells of faith, hope and charity; that's the way to live successfully.
How do I know? The Bible tells me so.