

A LITURGY OF CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION

WORDS FOR MEDITATION:

Help us keep up to our commitment as workers of the Church—the United Church of Christ in the Philippines—that we may firmly and faithfully uphold its faith, doctrines, principles and fundamental laws; that we may dependably regard our co-workers with utmost respect and treat those in ecclesiastical leadership with high esteem; that we may always work and contribute to the preservation and strengthening of unity among church workers; demonstrate an attitude of openness and modesty to members of local churches and people in the community.

(from *The Church Workers Prayer, UCWO-CBL*)

Instrumental Music

Processional

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sharing of Community Concerns/News

Litany of Supplication

Liturgist: When I kept silence, my body wasted away, through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. (*Psalms 32:3-4*)

People: (singing) “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 183  
Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew.  
That I may love what you do love, and do what you would do.

Liturgist: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. My tears have been my food day and night.  
(*Psalms 42: 2a-3*)

People: (singing) Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Liturgist: I pour out my complaint to the Lord, I tell my trouble. When my spirit is faint, you know my way. (*Psalms 142:2*)

People: (singing) Breathe on me, breath O God, till I am wholly yours,  
Until this earthly part of me, glows with your holy fire.

Liturgist: Accept us O God in your presence. Cleanse us from all iniquities and frailties. Make us worthy of your grace and mercy.

The Act of Cleansing (The Pastor will perform the symbolic cleansing of the feet of the elders. The elders will do the same to the members, while a child sings “Be Glorified”)

“Be Glorified”

In our lives Lord, be glorified, be glorified  
In our lives Lord, be glorified today.

- In our work Lord, be glorified
- In our words Lord, be glorified

Pastor: (after the foot washing)

Sisters and brothers, arise!

Men: Arise and lift our hearts!

Women: Arise and lift our voices!

Pastor: Once we were no people. Now we are God's people!

Let us reach out toward each other. For our God in Jesus gave his life to forgive us and to reconcile us with each other and the rest of creation. Amen.

#### Passing of God's Peace

Song of Praise "We Praise You O God" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 33

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
 In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
 We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you,  
 We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.  
 We worship you God of our mothers and fathers,  
 Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.  
 When perils o'ertake us, you never will forsake us,  
 And with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
 And gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.  
 Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,  
 To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praised!

#### Call to Praise:

Liturgist: God calls people to live in harmony with God and each other. God is alive who works within us.

People: Let us come and worship God who calls us!

Liturgist: God gave us different capacities but the same Spirit; varieties of services, but the same Lord; varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone so that all may manifest God's reign.

People: Let us come and worship God who calls us!

Liturgist: God anoints and calls people who would carry the cross and give their lives for the proclamation of the Kingdom and service of the people.

People: Let us come and worship God who calls us!

Liturgist: God's grace is poured out according to Christ's gifts. Some are called to become prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry and for building up the body of Christ.

All: Let us come and worship God who calls and unites us!

#### Community Prayer

We come together in your presence, O God, with humility and gratefulness. We are here to remember all church workers who have dedicated their lives to the ministry of the church despite the challenges that have come their way. Enable us, O Lord, to recognize their value in the life of the church and community. Enable us to recognize their contribution to the growth and vigor of churches. Accept us as we bring ourselves to you and bind us with your love and mercy. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Tribute to Church Workers (a representative each from the children, youth, and adult members or an elder may give words of recognition for church workers)

Song of Affirmation "I Will Serve You"

I will serve you because I love you  
You have given life to me

I was nothing until you found me  
You have given life to me  
Heartaches, broken people  
Ruined lives are why you died on Calv'ry  
Your touch is what I long for  
You have given life to me.

The Proclamation of God's Word

The Scripture Reading

The Message Through Song "MISYON" by Gary Granada

Hangga't may isang naggugutom  
Hangga't may isang nauuhaw  
Hangga't mayroong mga pusong nagdurusa't namamanglaw

Hangga't mayrong naaalipin  
Sa layaw ay nalululong  
Tayo ay mayroong gawain  
Tayo ay mayroong misyon.

Hangga't may isang nauulila  
Hangga't may isang nakapiit  
May kapansana't napinsala  
Naging balo't nagkasakit.

Hangga't may isip at damdamin  
Naghahagilap ng tugon  
Tayo ay mayroong gawain  
Tayo ay mayroong misyon.

Hangga't ang Kanyang katarungan  
Pagpapala at pagmamahal  
Mangyayari sa sandaigdigang  
At pangalan Nya'y itanghal.

Hangga't may luhang papahirin  
Hangga't may pagkakataon  
Tayo ay mayroong gawain  
Tayo ay mayroong misyon.

The Message Through the Spoken Word

## The Call to Offering

Liturgist: Having heard the word of God proclaimed, let us offer our lives through our gifts. Let us give not because we are forced to but because gratitude overflows from our heart. Let us give thanks to God for our church workers whose lives have been dedicated to carry out Christ's mission in the world.

## The Offertory

### Doxology

### Intercessory Prayers

- For all church workers who are sick
- For all church workers who are in conflict
- For all church workers who are victims of vilification
- For all church workers who are suffering

## The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Hymn of Dedication "I Am Yours, O Lord" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 283

I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice and it told your love to me,  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith, drawn to you eternally.

Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord to the cross where you have died  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to your precious bleeding side.

O the pure delight of a single hour that before your throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer and with you my God, I commune as friend with friend.

Consecrate me now to your holy work by the power of grace divine,  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, let your will be done not mine.

### Prayer of Dedication (by an elder)

### Benediction (Pastor)

With differing gifts we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to become ministers to each other. Let us then go out and tell the Good News that God is with us. Let us carry our cross, follow and obey Jesus our Christ. Amen.

### Congregational Response "Trees of the Field" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 100

We shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace  
The mountains and hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy.

### Postlude

### Recessional