

United Church of Christ in the Philippines

LITURGICAL RESOURCE MATERIAL



Rebuilding and Restoring with Hope:
HERALDING THE WORK
OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD



JUNE 2024

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- 1 Samuel 8: 4-11 (12-15) 16-20, (11:14-15)
- Psalm 138
- Genesis 3:8-15
- 2 Corinthians 4: 13- 5:15
- Mark 3:20-35

Emphasis: "Freedom Sunday"

Notes for Worship Preparations

- For the worship preparation, prepare a regular size cross, with stand and make sure it is sturdy, at both sides have the standee free hands with broken chain or rope to symbolize freedom.
- In cases the standee hands aren't available, a cross with a dove on freeing position will be a good replacement. *(make sure it is visually captivating the message of freedom)*

Materials:

- Regular size Cross, standee Hands and a cut out Dove Styrofoam ¼ size.

Symbols to be used for the worship:

- **Communion Table-** The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.
- **Christ's Candle** - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.
- **Bible-** The Bible serves as a guide and foundation for the sustenance of unity within the Church and the embrace of its identity. Its teachings on unity, love, covenant, diversity, and the Church's relationship with Christ all contribute to fostering a sense of belonging and purpose among believers.
- **Cross** -The cross is a central symbol of Christianity, signifying Christ's sacrifice for humanity's salvation. The cross emphasizes the unity of believers under the banner of Christ's sacrificial love. It signifies a shared identity rooted in the Gospel message and encourages believers to embrace their roles as part of the body of Christ.

- **Baptismal Font-** The baptismal font serves as a physical reminder of this transformative experience, encouraging believers to embrace their identity as redeemed and renewed individuals within the larger family of God. Its presence and significance remind believers of their shared journey, common identity in Christ, and the call to embrace unity while celebrating the diversity that enriches the body of believers.

REFLECTION

Text: Mark 3:20-35

Freedom Sunday is a special day where we celebrate the freedom we have in Christ and reflect on how we can stand against injustice and oppression within the community.

Mark 3:20-35 depicts a series of encounters Jesus had, illustrating the tension between freedom and societal norms or expectations. In this passage, Jesus faces opposition from both his own family and religious leaders. They accuse him of being possessed by demons and of blasphemy for claiming authority over demons. However, Jesus responds by emphasizing a broader understanding of family and identity, suggesting that those who do the will of God are his true family. This challenges traditional familial ties and societal structures, emphasizing the freedom found in following God's will rather than conforming to societal expectations.

This passage reminds us that even when faced with challenges, we can trust in God's strength and truth. Jesus challenges the oppressive systems of his time and teaches us the importance of standing up for what is right, even if it means going against the norms of society.

As a Church, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) is consistent with its dedication to social justice, peace, human rights, and environmental stewardship. Our various programs and ministries reflect this commitment. For instance, our Justice, Peace, and Human Rights Desk (JPHR) engages in advocacy, education, and mobilization efforts to tackle issues like human rights violations and social injustice. We also conduct community-based human rights advocacy, providing legal aid and raising awareness through forums. Additionally, our peacebuilding initiatives focus on promoting dialogue and reconciliation in conflict areas. Environmental advocacy is another key aspect, encompassing waste management and policy advocacy. We prioritize the rights of women and indigenous peoples, advocating for gender equality and indigenous rights. Through educational initiatives, we aim to raise awareness and empower communities for positive social change. Our ecumenical and interfaith partnerships further strengthen our impact in addressing social issues.

These programs and ministries of UCCP demonstrate our commitment to liberation and freedom by actively working towards a more just, peaceful, and sustainable society.

As we observe Freedom Sunday, let us remember Jesus' example and renew our dedication to fighting for freedom and justice in our communities. Let us fight to be mouthpieces of truth and advocates of change, working towards a community where all people can experience the fullness of God's love that liberates and gives freedom.

THE LITURGY

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS TO PONDER

Let us take this moment to pause, reflect, and cherish the precious gift of liberty, honoring those who've fought and continue to fight for freedom.

“Freedom is not just a state of being. It's a flame within the soul, playing with the power of choice, the dignity of autonomy, and the responsibility to safeguard it for all.”- unknown

PRELUDE

Pianist

PROCESSIONAL *(The entrance of the Church Choir, Liturgist, Preacher, and Minister)*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

MINISTERIAL GREETINGS

Minister: Welcome to our celebration of Freedom Sunday, where together we hold the power of unity, within the body of Christ-the Church. Let us herald the works of the people of God for peace and freedom as we strive for a world filled with harmony and peace. May our hearts be open, our actions guided by love, and our voices instruments of reconciliation.

INTROIT

“Come, O Come, All You People” HFJ, 80(a)

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1971

Engl. Transl.: Laila F. Danaque, 2002

Come, O come, all you people, come to praise and worship God
With loud, joyful music, with thanksgiving and celebrations
O let us praise God, our Lord, God is our Savior, full of compassion,
And ever faithful now and forever. Come, o come, all you people.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: People of God, let us lift our voices in gratitude for the precious gift of liberty.

All: We gather, bound by the bond of freedom, knit by the sacrifices of many.

Liturgist: With a delighted heart, let us honor those who have prepared the path to freedom.

All: Their bravery and courage resound throughout history, encouraging us to value and protect freedom.

Liturgist: Today, we celebrate the diversity of voices, each adding to the rich experiences of freedom resonant with the world.

All: In unity and solidarity, we stand, embracing the integral dignity of every human being.

Liturgist: As we gather today, let our hearts be moved to uphold the sanctity of our connection to God as our creator. God deserves our jubilant praises. Come, let us worship together!

+HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Let Us Praise God” HFJ,6

Words: Danilo C. Sanchez; Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

Eng. Transl. Norman O. Marigza, 2002

O let us praise God, O Let us Praise God, the mighty and great Lord.
Let us gather to give thanks with our glad songs of praise
O proclaim God’s name forever now, to echo throughout the world
O praise God in heaven, O praise God here on earth.

O seek God’s blessings, O seek God’s blessings, O you people of God.
Truly serve God without fail and follow God each day
Take the love of God with you and share it wherever you will go
Life’s bountiful blessings to you God will bestow.

O let us trust God, O let us trust God, our lives we must offer
To God’s bosom we draw near, surrender now our all
God pours blessings and keep blessing, the rest of our days on earth
Let’s praise God, O people let’s praise God evermore.

+OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of creation, You have bestowed Your breath - Your life - upon the individuals whom You have created. You granted us freedom and enabled us to enjoy the beauty of Your creation. Today, we celebrate this freedom. We raise our voices in acclamation to praise and worship You. Come now, O God, into our midst; grace us with Your presence through the Holy Spirit and allow us to freely enjoy Your company as we gather together. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+GLORIA PATRI

“Glory To The Creator” HFJ,81

Music: Henry W. Greatore, 1851

*Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in one.
As it was from the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: Let us take a moment to acknowledge our failings and shortcomings. Let us free ourselves from sin, oppression, greed, and fear. We recognize where we have fallen short of living our lives free from these burdens. Let us humbly confess our sins and seek forgiveness, asking for God's grace to guide us towards true freedom.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: Compassionate God, we are sorry for allowing ourselves to be participants in practicing oppression by exploiting and mistreating others based on race, gender, religion, and socio-economic status.

People: We are sorry because we ignore the needs and rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Unconsciously we use our power and authority to control or suppress others unfairly.

Liturgist: Greed controls us. We hoard our resources while ignoring the needs of others. We pursue material possessions and financial gain at the expense of moral values in engaging in corrupt practices for personal enrichment.

People: Injustice overwhelmed us in condoning systems and practices that prolong inequality. failing to speak out for truth against discrimination, prejudice, violence, and denying others their rights and dignity based on biases and stereotypes.

Liturgist: Forgive us for allowing fear to dictate our actions and our response towards other people. Forgive us for discriminating those different from us due to fear of confrontations. We are seeking forgiveness and striving for transformation.

All: Hear our prayer, O God.

THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF CONFESSION

(As the piano/music plays, the Pastor shall symbolically release a Dove, or if none is available, an artistically crafted cut-out Dove shall be moved around the altar as a symbol of freedom).

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Minister: In God's boundless forgiveness, we find assurance and liberation from the sins that bind us. Regardless of our pride, greed, unjust actions, or discriminatory attitudes, God's forgiveness offers freedom from these burdens. It is through God's mercy that we are set free, liberated from the chains of our wrongdoings, and empowered to live in harmony with God's saving love.

+PASSING OF PEACE

+Singing:

"Shalom My Friend" HFJ,106

Shalom my friend, shalom my friend, Shalom! Shalom!

God's Peace be with you, God's peace be with you.

Shalom! Shalom!

(Repeat)

CHURCH CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND ENDED WITH SINGING OF "THE LORD'S PRAYER..."

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+1ST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34

+RESPONSE

"Wonderful Words Of Life" HFJ,358 (Chorus only)

Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss 1874; alt

Beautiful word, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,

Beautiful word, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

+2ND READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Mark 3:20-35

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG

MESSAGE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The UCCP Statement of Faith”

Revised by the FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE

(September 3, 1992)

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

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. 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

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and give 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.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: As a community of faith, many of us encounter challenges when it comes to making ends meet. As a manifestation of our worship, let us unite in solidarity to uplift one another and embrace the freedom to live abundantly in every aspect of our lives. God has blessed us with a community and entrusted us to care for one another. Giving is the expression of freedom to enable all to live life to the fullest. Let us now bring our offerings to God.

GIVING THE OFFERING (*Tithes, pledges, thanksgiving*)

OFFERTORY SONG

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” HFJ,94

*Praise GOD the source of life and birth,
Praise GOD the Word who came to earth.
Praise GOD the SPIRIT, Holy flame,
all Glory, honor to GOD's name. Amen*

+OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Generous and liberating God, we rejoice in the abundance of blessings You have showered upon us. We are grateful for the generosity of this faith community, and their willingness to share their resources, and offer them to You. We present these offerings before You, asking for Your blessing and guidance in using them for Your purpose. These gifts symbolize our commitment to Your ministry of liberation, freeing people from the chains of poverty and struggle. Grant us always the wisdom and strength to be faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+ HYMN OF DEDICATION “We’ve a Story To Tell To The Nation HFJ #310

Words & Music: H. Ernest Nichol

We've a story to tell, to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right
A story of truth, and mercy, a story of peace and of light
A story of peace and light

Chorus:

*And the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noon-day bright
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on the earth, It's the kingdom of love and light.*

We've a song to be sung to the nations that shall lift their hearts to the Lord
It's a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and the sword
And shatter the pear and sword.

We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigns above
Has sent us the Christ to save us and to show us that God,
And show us that God is love and show us that God is love.

We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow has trod
That all of the world's great peoples, might come to the truth of God
Might come to the truth of God.

+CLOSING PRAYER (Pastor)

God of Justice and Love, as we conclude our celebration of the Freedom Sunday, we are so full of the message we've heard. Thank you for enlightening us through the shared experiences of Your people, whether it be through singing hymns, listening to sermons, or exchanging inspiring smiles.

The message we've received today has deeply touched us, motivating us to stand in solidarity with those who are in need, oppressed, and deprived of justice and equality. Help us to become a community that supports one another's efforts, demonstrating Your love by serving all who are in need.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

+THE CHARGE (Pastor)

Siblings in Christ, as we leave this place, let us take the torch of freedom with us and pass it on to others, engaging ourselves among the people, in giving hope and encouragement by sharing God's message of love and liberation wherever we go.

+BENEDICTION (All)

Singing: "Come, O Come, All You People" HFJ,80(b)

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1971

Engl. Transl.: Laila F. Danaque, 2002

Go in peace, O you people, may God's blessings on you.
The good Lord be with you, and all God's grace be poured upon you
And protect you all your days, God is our Savior, full of compassion.
And ever faithful now and ever. Go in peace, O you, people. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE

RECESSIONAL

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost/Father's Sunday

June 16,2024

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- 1 Samuel 15:3- 16:13
- Psalm 20
- Ezekiel 17:22-24, Genesis 3:6-15
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-`3) 14-17
- Mark 4:26-34

Emphasis: Third Sunday After Pentecost and Father's Sunday

Notes for Worship Preparations

- For the worship preparation, prepare a standee human-size male figure cut out of Styrofoam and have it stand on the church altar.

- Prepare a brown meta card (1/8 size) to be inserted into the printed liturgy. Masking tape will be provided for posting.

Materials:

- Standee human- size male figure cut out of Styrofoam.
- Writing materials (Pen and brown paper)

Symbols to be used for the worship:

- **Communion Table-** The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.
- **Christ's Candle** - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.
- **Bible-** The Bible serves as a guide and foundation for the sustenance of unity within the Church and the embrace of its identity. Its teachings on unity, love, covenant, diversity, and the Church's relationship with Christ all contribute to fostering a sense of belonging and purpose among believers.
- **Cross** -The cross is a central symbol of Christianity, signifying Christ's sacrifice for humanity's salvation. The cross emphasizes the unity of believers under the banner of Christ's sacrificial love. It signifies a shared identity rooted in the Gospel message and encourages believers to embrace their roles as part of the body of Christ.
- **Baptismal Font-** The baptismal font serves as a physical reminder of this transformative experience, encouraging believers to embrace their identity as redeemed and renewed individuals within the larger family of God. Its presence and significance remind believers of their shared journey, common identity in Christ, and the call to embrace unity while celebrating the diversity that enriches the body of believers.

REFLECTION

Text: Genesis 3:6-15

Genesis 3:6-15 describes a vital moment in the Bible where Adam and Eve disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit. This act leads to their realization of their nakedness, feelings of shame, and eventual separation from God. Reflecting on this passage on the third Sunday after Pentecost, we are reminded of the seriousness of sin and the importance of repentance. This story highlights the beginning of human struggles and the need for God's grace and redemption, which is fully realized in Jesus Christ.

Historically, Genesis 3:6-15 has been seen as the account of the fall of humanity. It explains the origin of sin and the brokenness of the world, marking the start of humanity's need for salvation. Understanding this background helps us grasp the gravity of sin and the incredible gift of God's forgiveness and redemption. On Father's Sunday, this context encourages fathers to strive towards godliness and to lead their families with wisdom and love, reflecting the redemption offered through Christ.

Father's Sunday provides an opportunity to reflect on the crucial role fathers play in the church, family, and community. *First, fathers are called to be protectors.* This means they have the responsibility to keep their families safe from harm. Just as Adam was supposed to protect and guide his family in the Garden of Eden, fathers today are expected to watch over their families. This protection isn't just physical safety but also involves guarding their loved ones from negative influences and harmful situations. It includes ensuring that their home is a place where everyone feels safe and secure, emotionally, and spiritually.

Second, fathers are leaders, responsible for setting a godly example and guiding their families in faith. Being a leader means setting a good example for everyone to follow. In a Christian context, this means living out their faith in everyday life. Fathers should be role models of honesty, kindness, and faithfulness. They should lead by showing how to pray, read the Bible, and trust in God. A father's actions and decisions should reflect Christian values, guiding their family toward a closer relationship with God. By leading with integrity and faith, they help their families grow stronger in their faith journey.

Lastly, fathers are nurturers, tasked with providing emotional and spiritual support to their children and spouses. A nurturing father listens to his family's concerns, offers comfort and encouragement,

and helps them through tough times. He is there to share in their joys and sorrows, fostering a loving and supportive environment. Spiritually, a nurturing father prays for and with his family, teaches them about God's love, and encourages them to develop their faith. By nurturing their family's emotional and spiritual well-being, fathers help their loved ones feel valued and cared for, building a strong, faith-filled family unit. By fulfilling these roles, fathers can help their families grow in love and faith, and progress a strong and supportive community.

When a Christian father faithfully fulfills his role as protector, leader, and nurturer, he deserves deep respect, gratitude, and love from his family and community. His hard work and dedication create a strong, loving home where everyone feels safe and valued. This respect and appreciation are shown in the everyday acts of love from his children and spouse, as well as special times like Father's Day.

Practically, his efforts result in strong family bonds and a supportive home environment. His children grow up feeling secure and loved, learning valuable life lessons from his example. This nurturing and guidance help them become confident, caring, and faith-filled individuals.

Theologically, a faithful Christian father is promised blessings from God. By leading his family in faith and living according to God's principles, he leaves a lasting spiritual legacy that influences future generations. He experiences the joy and fulfillment of seeing his family thrive and knowing he has made a significant impact. Moreover, he can look forward to God's eternal rewards for his faithfulness and dedication.

In simple terms, a faithful father deserves to be honored and appreciated for all he does. His love and commitment make a lasting difference in his family's lives and reflect God's love and care.

THE LITURGY

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS TO PONDER

"A Christian father is a dedicated protector, leader, and nurturer of his family. He ensures his loved ones are safe, sets a godly example, and guides his family in faith. By providing emotional and spiritual support, he fosters a loving, secure home. His actions reflect God's love, and he leaves a lasting legacy of faith and integrity." - Anonymous

PRELUDE

Pianist

PROCESSIONAL *(The entrance of the Church Choir, Liturgist, Preacher, and Minister)*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

MINISTERIAL GREETINGS

Minister: Good morning, siblings in Christ, and welcome to the fourth Sunday after Pentecost and our Father's Day Sunday service. Today, we gather to honor and celebrate the fathers and father figures in our lives. We give thanks for their love, guidance, and strength. May our time together be filled with gratitude and joy as we worship God and reflect on the important role of fathers in our families and community. Let's open our hearts to God's presence and begin this special service with prayer.

INTROIT

“Everybody Ought To Know”

[Everybody Ought To Know \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Refrain: Everybody ought to know, everybody ought to know

Everybody ought to know, who Jesus is.

Everybody ought to know, everybody ought to know

Everybody ought to know, who Jesus is.

He's the lily of the valley, He's the brightest morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand, everybody ought to know.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love - too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

People: Some of our fathers are here; some were never here.

Liturgist: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

People: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

All: On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.

Liturgist: Let us celebrate the lives of our fathers as we come before this fellowship. Come, let us worship our God!

+HYMN OF PRAISE

“Sing Praise To God For Life” HFJ,372

Words: Bill Wallace, New Zealand

Music: Kenyan Melody

Arr: Alison Carey

Sing Praise to God, sing praise to God for life,
For beauty hope and love, for tenderness and grace
Sing praise to God, sing praise to God for life
With all of earth sing the praise of God’s life.

Lift up your eyes to see the works of God
In every blade of grass in every human face,
Lift up your eyes to see the works of God
Throughout all life, in all time and all space.

Open your ears to hear the cries of pain
Arising from the poor and all who are oppressed
Open your minds and use your wits to find
Who are the cause of this world’s unjust ways.
Reach out your hands and share the wealth God gave
With those who are oppressed and those who are alone,
Reach out your hands and gently touch with Christ
Each frozen heart which has said “No!” to love.

With all our hearts we’ll love the world with Christ,
Each person in this world, each creature of the earth,
With all our heart we’ll love the one who hates
And in their heart find a part of our self.

+OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Our Parent God, we come before You with thankful hearts on this Father's Day. We invite Your Holy Spirit to be with us as we gather to worship and celebrate the fathers in our lives. Guide our thoughts and inspire our hearts as we honor the gifts of love, guidance, and strength they bring to our families. We acknowledge that You are our ultimate Father, the source of all wisdom and strength. Help us to feel Your presence in our worship today. May our songs, prayers, and reflections bring glory to Your name. Let this time deepen our faith and strengthen our bonds as a community of faith.

We ask that You bless all fathers, giving them the grace to continue their vital role with love and dedication. Thank You for their commitment and sacrifices. May they always look to You as their example and guide. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+RESPONSE

“Oh Lord Hear Our Prayer “

[O Lord, Hear My Prayer \(Taizé\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] \(youtube.com\)](#)

Oh Lord hear our prayer, Oh Lord Hear our prayer

When we call answer us

Oh Lord hear our prayer, Oh Lord hear our prayer

Come and listen to us.

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: Beloved in Christ, as we gather in the presence of our holy and merciful God, let us humbly acknowledge the brokenness in our relationships- both with our Creator and with our fellow beings. Let us come before God, confessing our sins, and seeking God's grace and mercy. In humility and faith, let us open our hearts to God's healing and renewal. Trusting in God's unfailing love, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: We confess, O Lord, that at times we have failed in our relationship with You. We have allowed distractions and worldly desires to come between us, neglecting our spiritual growth and failing to prioritize communion with You.

People: Forgive us, O God, for our lack of devotion and for seeking fulfillment in places other than Your presence.

Liturgist: We recognize the disharmony in our relationships with the rest of creation. We have exploited and abused the earth, forgetting our responsibility as stewards of Your creation. Our actions have contributed to environmental degradation and harmed the delicate balance of Your intricate design.

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord, and grant us the wisdom and humility to care for Your creation with reverence and gratitude.

Liturgist: We lament the fractures in our relationships with our fellow human beings. We have harbored resentment, spoken words of division, and acted with selfishness and pride. Our failures to love our neighbors as ourselves have caused pain and division in our communities.

People: Forgive us, O God, and teach us to love one another with the same love with which You have loved us.

Liturgist: Furthermore, we confess, O Lord, that pride and stubbornness often drive a wedge between fathers and their children. Fathers, in their authority, may sometimes exercise control with harshness, failing to extend the grace and understanding that You, our divine Father, offer to us. Likewise, children may rebel against their fathers, resisting their guidance and seeking independence without regard for the wisdom and experience their fathers possess.

People: Forgive us, O God, for the lack of communication and understanding that often characterizes these relationships. We repent of the hurts we have caused one another through words spoken in anger and actions driven by selfishness. Help us to embrace humility and understanding, seeking reconciliation and restoration in our familial bonds.

All. Grant us, O Lord, the grace to embody Your love and grace within our families. We pray that fathers emulate Your nurturing and protective care, guiding their children with gentleness and wisdom. May children honor their fathers with respect and obedience, recognizing the authority You have entrusted to them. We confess in Jesus' Name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SELF INTROSPECTION

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Minister: Our loving God, heal the wounds of broken relationships and bring reconciliation and harmony within our families. Strengthen the bonds between fathers, children, and all others in the entire household of God, so that they may reflect God's divine love and unity. Through Christ our Lord, who reconciles us to God and one another, be assured of God's love and forgiveness. Amen.

+PASSING OF PEACE

(While singing the song, let everyone share the peace of God through a handshake, a hug, or a Christian kiss.)

+Singing: "Here We Are" (Chorus and First Stanza only)

Chorus: *Here we are, all together, as we sing our song joyfully*

Here we are, all together, as we pray, we will always be.

Join we now as friends and celebrate,
The brotherhood we share all as one
Keep the fire burning, kindle it with care
And we'll all join in and sing. (chorus)

CHURCH CONCERNS

GIVING TRIBUTE TO FATHERS

(The fathers will line up at the entrance and proceed to the front in a procession. Once there, they will be given a token)

Read a Poem

“My Father's Voice in Prayer”

By: May Hastings Nottage

(Written in 1901 and published by Classic Reprint Series, this work of poetry celebrates the cherished memories of a grown woman tenderly recalling from childhood the voice of her father in prayer)

In the silence that falls on my spirit,
When the clamor of life loudest seems,
Comes a voice that floats in tremulous notes.
Far over my sea of dreams.
I remember the dim old vestry,
And my father kneeling there;
And the old hymns thrill with the memory still
Of my father's voice in prayer.
I can see the glance of approval
As my part in the hymn, I took;
I remember the grace of my mother's face
And the tenderness of her look;
And I knew that a gracious memory
Cast its light on that face so fair,
As her cheek flushed faint- O mother, my saint!—
At my father's voice in prayer.
'Neath the stress of that marvelous pleading
All childish dissensions died;
Each rebellious will sank conquered and still
In a passion of love and pride.
Ah, the years have held dear voices,

And melodies tender and rare;
But tenderest seems the voice of my dreams—
My father's voice in prayer.

Song Tribute (by a Child)

(While the song is being sung, each person will write a message to their father or a description of their father on a note card. They will then post it onto the standee human-sized male figure made of Styrofoam using masking tape)

PASTORAL PRAYER

SINGING

“THE LORD’S PRAYER...” (by a Youth)

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+1ST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 3:6-15

+RESPONSE

“Why We Are UCCP” HFJ # 243 (3rd stanza and Chorus only)

Words and Music: Helen S. Tejero, 2001 Arrange: Grace R. Tabada, 2002

The Bible is God’s revelation in His’try and in Christ
A faithful witness to God’s work
To guide and illumine believers and build them up in faith
Equip them to witness to the world.

Chorus:

That’s why we are UCCP; we are taught what the Lord has said,
To live a life in community with God and all,
Assured of life even after death, no more sorrows and no more defeat
There’s only love, justice and peace all creation new.

+2ND READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG

MESSAGE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The UCCP Statement of Faith

Revised by the FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE

(September 3, 1992)

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

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. 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

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and give 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.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: Gathered in worship, let us unite in offering our heartfelt gratitude, praise, and devotion to the One who tenderly crafted our being, steadfastly leads us, and graciously sustains us with unwavering care. As we honor and celebrate the Fatherhood of God, let our offerings of tithes, pledges, and expressions of thanksgiving flow forth, symbolizing our deep appreciation and commitment to His divine providence in our lives.

GIVING THE OFFERING (*Tithes, pledges, thanksgiving*)

OFFERTORY SONG

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE **“Praise God from whom all blessings flow” #94**

*Praise GOD the source of life and birth,
Praise GOD the Word who came to earth.
Praise GOD the SPIRIT, Holy flame,
all Glory, honor to GOD's name. Amen*

+OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Creator and Sustainer of all life, Your boundless love and providence sustain us each day. You formed us in Your image, breathed life into our beings, and continue to uphold us with Your unwavering care. We present to You the fruits of our labor, recognizing that all we have is a gift from Your generous hand. These tithes and offerings are tangible expression of our trust in Your provision and our desire to participate in Your work of love and redemption in the world.

As we contribute our resources, we ask for Your blessing upon them. Empower us, O God, to be faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted to us, recognizing that we are but caretakers of Your abundant blessings. May our giving be an act of worship, reflecting our gratitude for Your sustaining grace and our commitment to live as faithful disciples. All glory and honor be unto You. Amen.

+ CLOSING HYMN

“O Bless Our Family, Dear God” HFJ #190

Word: Exequil C. Puracan, 1971 Eng. Trana. Laila Fuertes, 2001

Music: Elena P. Puracan, 1971 Harm.: Grace R. Tabada, 1971

O bless our family O God,
Pour out your blessings on us all
And grant to us your peace and harmony, O God
And help us, Lord, to follow You

O give to us your patience Lord
Your goodness unto us below
Your mercy and your love will bind us into one
Whatever hardship we may face.

+A LITANY FOR FATHER’S DAY

Pastor: Let us praise those fathers who have sought to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice.

All: Let us praise those fathers who, without a good model for a father, have worked to become a good father.

Pastor: Let us praise those fathers who, by their own account, were not always there for their children, but who now offer those children their love and support.

All: Let us pray for those fathers who have been wounded by the neglect and hostility of their children.

Pastor: Let us praise those fathers who, despite marital separation, have remained in their children's lives.

All: Let us praise those fathers who have adopted children, and whose love and support have offered new life.

Pastor: Let us praise those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and always strive for their stepchildren's love and respect.

All: Let us pray for those fathers who have lost a child to death and continue to hold the child in their heart.

Pastor: Let us praise those men who have no children but cherish the next generation as if they were their own.

All: Let us praise those men who have fathered us in their role as mentors and guides.

Pastor: Let us praise those men who are about to become fathers and pray that they may they openly delight in their children.

All: And let us praise fathers who have died, but always live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us.

Fathers: Let us offer our heartfelt praise to God, the Father of all fathers, whose boundless love brought forth our existence, cherishes us unconditionally, and upholds us through every moment of our lives.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

+THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (Pastor)

The grace of our God surrounds us always, guiding our steps with love and understanding. Let us find strength in the assurance of God's provision and unwavering care. As we go forth from this place, let our lives be a testament to the goodness and grace of our God. Receive the blessings of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer now and always. Amen.

+RESPONSE

"The Way That He Loves"

[The Way That He Loves – W. Elmo Mercer | Lyric Video \(youtube.com\)](#)

The way that He loves is as fair as the day
That blesses my way with light
The way that He loves is as soft as the breeze
Caressing the trees at night
So tender and precious is He
Contented with Jesus I'll be
The way that He loves is so thrilling because
His love reaches even me.

The way that He loves is as deep as the sea
His Spirit shall be my stay
The way that He loves is as pure as a rose
Much sweeter He grows each day
His peace hovers near like a dove
I know there's a Heaven above
To Jesus I cling, life's a wonderful thing
Because of the way He loves.

POSTLUDE
RECESSIONAL

REFERENCES:

1. UCCP Hymnal of a Faith Journey
2. [O Lord, Hear My Prayer \(Taizé\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] \(youtube.com\)](#)
3. [The Way That He Loves – W. Elmo Mercer | Lyric Video \(youtube.com\)](#)
4. [Everybody Ought to Know \(youtube.com\)](#)
5. [june 21 2015.pdf \(unitedchurchmapleton.org\)](#)

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost/Gender Justice Sunday

June 23, 2024

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-9, 17: 57-18:5, 18:10-16
- Psalm 8:9-20; 107:1-3, 23-32
- 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
- Mark 4:35-41

Emphasis: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost and Gender Justice Sunday



Notes for Worship Preparation

For the worship preparation, create a standee 3D symbol of Gender Justice and have it carried in a procession to the altar during the processional.

Materials

- Standee 3D symbol of Gender Justice

Symbols to be used for the worship:

- **Communion Table**- The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.
- **Christ's Candle** - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.
- **Bible**- The Bible serves as a guide and foundation for the sustenance of unity within the Church and the embrace of its identity. Its teachings on unity, love, covenant, diversity, and the Church's relationship with Christ all contribute to fostering a sense of belonging and purpose among believers.
- **Cross** -The cross is a central symbol of Christianity, signifying Christ's sacrifice for humanity's salvation. The cross emphasizes the unity of believers under the banner of Christ's sacrificial love. It signifies a shared identity rooted in the Gospel message and encourages believers to embrace their roles as part of the body of Christ.
- **Baptismal Font**- The baptismal font serves as a physical reminder of this transformative experience, encouraging believers to embrace their identity as redeemed and renewed individuals within the larger family of God. Its presence and significance remind believers of their shared journey, common identity in Christ, and the call to embrace unity while celebrating the diversity that enriches the body of believers.

REFLECTION

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

I. Introduction and Background of the Text

Paul had a close but complicated relationship with the Corinthians. He had founded the church in Corinth and spent a significant amount of time there. However, after he left, various issues arose, including challenges to his authority and divisions within the church. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians to

address these issues, defend his ministry, and encourage the believers to stay faithful to the teachings of Jesus. This letter is more personal and emotional compared to his other letters, reflecting his deep concern for the Corinthians.

In this part of the letter of 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Paul is urging the Corinthians not to take God's grace for granted and to live in a way that reflects their faith. He wants them to understand the seriousness of their commitment to God and to reject any behavior that would undermine their faith or the community.

Reflecting on 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 through the lens of gender justice and inclusivity, especially in light of our Church- the United Church of Christ in the Philippines' (UCCP) statement "Let Grace Be Total" (LGBTQ), we find a powerful message about the all-embracing nature of God's grace and the call for justice and love for all people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

II. Key Points of Reflection

1. God's Grace for All

Paul's message in this passage is clear, God's grace is a gift that should not be taken lightly. It is meant for everyone, and we are all called to live in a way that honors this grace. In the context of gender justice, this means recognizing that every person, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, is a recipient of God's grace.

The UCCP's "Let Grace Be Total" emphasizes this inclusive understanding, affirming that God's grace does not exclude anyone. This aligns with Paul's plea to not receive God's grace in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1).

2. Endurance and Integrity

Paul speaks about the hardships faced in the ministry and the need to endure these with integrity and love. For many LGBTQI+ individuals, enduring hardship is a familiar experience, for they often face discrimination and exclusion.

The church is called to stand in solidarity with all who face such challenges, advocating their rights and dignity. This endurance should be coupled with a commitment to justice and equality, reflecting the purity, knowledge, and sincere love Paul talks about (2 Corinthians 6:6).

3. Open Hearts

Paul's appeal for mutual openness and affection (2 Corinthians 6:11-13) speaks deeply with the call for an inclusive and loving community. Gender justice involves creating spaces where

everyone can open their hearts without fear of rejection or prejudice.

The church should be a place where all individuals, including those from the LGBTQ community, feel welcomed and loved. This openness is a testament to living out the fullness of God's grace.

III. Applying This to Church and Community

- **Inclusivity in Practice**

Churches and communities should actively ensure that their practices, policies, and language are inclusive. This means not only welcoming LGBTQ individuals but also advocating for their rights and addressing any form of discrimination or injustice they might face. Practical steps can include revising church policies to be inclusive, providing education on gender justice, and creating support groups for LGBTQ members.

- **Education and Awareness**

Educating the community about gender justice and the importance of inclusivity is crucial. This can involve workshops, sermons, and open discussions that emphasize the message of God's all-encompassing grace. Highlighting stories and testimonies of LGBTQ individuals can also foster empathy and understanding.

- **Advocacy and Action**

Reflecting Paul's commitment to integrity and endurance, churches can take a proactive role in advocating for gender justice in broader society. This could mean supporting legislation that protects the rights of LGBTQ individuals and partnering with organizations that promote gender equality. Advocacy is not just about words but also about tangible actions that demonstrate the church's commitment to justice and love.

IV. Conclusion

In reflecting 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 with a focus on gender justice, we see a call to embrace God's grace in its totality, recognizing it as a gift meant for all people. This involves enduring our commitment to justice, opening our hearts to all, and actively creating an inclusive community. By living out these principles, we honor the message of Paul and the inclusive vision of the UCCP, truly making grace total for everyone.

THE LITURGY

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS TO PONDER

"Let us embrace God's grace fully, recognizing that every person, regardless of gender or identity, is deserving of our love, respect, and acceptance. In God's eyes, we are all equal and cherished."

- *Anonymous*

PRELUDE

Pianist

PROCESSIONAL *(The entrance of the Church Choir, Liturgist, Preacher, and Minister. Also bringing the symbol of Gender justice)*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

MINISTERIAL GREETINGS

Minister: Good morning, everyone! Today is the fifth Sunday after the resurrection, as a faith community of _____ (*Local church*), let us continue to celebrate the new life and hope we have in Christ. Today is also Gender Justice Sunday, a special day to reaffirm our commitment to love and respect all people, embracing everyone as equal in God's eyes. Let us worship together with open hearts, reflecting Christ's inclusive love in all we do. Welcome to our service!

INTROIT

"Hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord!"

[Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord \(children singing\) with lyrics \(youtube.com\)](#)

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!
Praise Ye the Lord, Alleluia, Praise Ye the Lord Alleluia
Praise Ye the Lord, Alleluia, Praise Ye the Lord Alleluia.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: On this fifth Sunday after the resurrection, we gather to celebrate the new life and hope that Jesus brings.

People: We come with joyful hearts, ready to embrace His love and grace.

Liturgist: Today, we also celebrate Gender Justice Sunday, affirming our commitment to love and respect all people.

People: We stand together for justice, equality, and dignity for everyone, regardless of gender.

Liturgist: As we worship, let us reflect Christ's inclusive love and transformative power.

People: With open hearts, we welcome the Spirit's work among us, uniting us in love and justice.

Liturgist: Come, let us worship the risen Lord!

People: Let us worship with joy and unity!

+HYMN OF PRAISE

"For The Beauty Of The Earth" HFJ,233

Words: St. 1-3, Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.

Refrain: *God of all, to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise. Amen*

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.

+OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Loving and Just God, we gather today with hearts full of thanksgiving for the new life and hope we have in Christ. As we celebrate Gender Justice Sunday, we seek Your presence among us in a powerful way. Open our hearts and minds to Your amazing love and grace. Inspire us with Your message of justice, equality, and dignity for all people. Allow our worship today to draw us closer to You and one another, as we commit to living out Your inclusive love in our faith community. Be with us, guide us, and fill this place with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+RESPONSE

"God Answers Prayer"

[\(36\) God Answers Prayer in theMorning - YouTube](#)

God answers prayer in the morning,
God answers through the day,

God answers prayer in the evening,
He hears every time we pray. (Repeat)

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: Children of the living God, as we gather in the light of Christ's resurrection, we are reminded of the boundless grace and mercy that God offers to each of us. Today, as we celebrate Gender Justice Sunday, we recognize our call to love and respect all people as God does. Yet, we know that we have often fallen short in our thoughts, words, and actions. Let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking forgiveness and renewal. Together, let us confess our sins and shortcomings, trusting in God's unwavering love and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: Merciful and Just God, as a community of faith, we come before You with heavy hearts, acknowledging our failure to respond to Your call for gender justice. We confess that we have often lacked understanding and education about gender equality, and this has led to judgment and discrimination in various aspects of our lives.

All: We confess that in our homes, we have sometimes perpetuated harmful stereotypes and unequal treatment based on gender. In our churches, we have not always created safe and inclusive spaces for everyone to worship and serve. In our workplaces and schools, we have tolerated, and sometimes even participated in, practices that marginalize and exclude. In our broader community, we have remained silent when we should have spoken out against injustice.

Liturgist: Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we have failed to honor the dignity and worth of every person. Forgive us for the judgments we have made and the discrimination we have practiced. Open our eyes to see where we have gone wrong and our hearts to embrace Your vision of equality and justice.

All: Help us to seek education and understanding, to listen to those who have been marginalized, and to stand up against all forms of discrimination. Empower us to create change in our homes, our church, our workplaces, our schools, and our community, reflecting Your inclusive love and justice. Renew us with Your Spirit, that we might be true bearers of Your grace and advocates for gender justice in all areas of our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

Words and Music: Haldor Lillenas (1885-1959)

[Wonderful Grace of Jesus - piano instrumental hymn with lyrics \(youtube.com\)](#)

Minister: Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

All: (Refrain)

*Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All-sufficient grace for even me!
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame;
Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus, Praise His Name!*

Minister: Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost,
By it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost;
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

All: (Refrain)

*Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All-sufficient grace for even me!
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame;
Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus. Praise His Name!*

Minister: Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled,
By its transforming power, making him God's dear child,
Purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity—
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

All: (Refrain)

*Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All-sufficient grace for even me!
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
Greater far than all my sin and shame;
Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus. Praise His Name!*

+PASSING OF PEACE

(While singing the song, let everyone share the peace of God through a handshake, a hug, or a Christian kiss.)

+Singing:

“We’re Blessed”

[I'M BLESSED AND I KNOW THAT I AM // Sis Jane Togan \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

*We’re blessed and we know that we are,
since Jesus took control of our lives.
We’re blessed and we know that we are,
since God promised us to give a new life.
We’re blessed cause God walks with us
and he leads us wherever we go
And if you happened to ask one,
“How are you dear friends?”
We’re blessed! We’re blessed! We’re blessed!*

CHURCH CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND END WITH “THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+1ST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23

+RESPONSE

“When The Spirit Of The Lord Is In Our Hearts” (Third Stanza only)

[When the Spirit of the Lord Moves in My Heart \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

When the Spirit of the Lord moves in our Hearts,
We will preach as PETER preached. (2x)

We will preach, oh Lord, we will preach, oh Lord
We will preach as PETER preached. (2x)

+2ND READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:35-41

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG

MESSAGE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The UCCP Statement of Faith”

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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.

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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

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. 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

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and give 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.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: God has blessed us beyond measure, and our generosity allows us to use a portion of these blessings to minister to others. We invite everyone to gather their gifts and offer them to God as an act of worship. Let us come together and worship through our generosity.

GIVING THE OFFERING *(Tithes, pledges, thanksgiving)*

OFFERTORY SONG

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE **“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” HFJ,94**

*Praise GOD the source of life and birth,
Praise GOD the Word who came to earth.
Praise GOD the SPIRIT, Holy flame,
all Glory, honor to GOD's name. Amen*

+OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Bless these offerings, O God, and use them to further Your work in our church, our community, and the world. May they support efforts to promote understanding, end discrimination, and uplift those who are marginalized. We joyfully give our treasure to bring hope, love, and healing to those who are hurting. Empower us to be instruments of Your peace and justice, using our time, talents, and treasures to reflect Your inclusive love. May these gifts be blessed, multiplied, and used to provide ministry for those who are too often pushed to the margins of society. We offer them in faith and with thanksgiving in our hearts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+ CLOSING HYMN

“Life Of The World” HFJ,240

Word: Luna Dingayan, 1988 Music: Nelie M. Cleto, 1988

Life of the World and God’s beloved son,
Jesus the Christ, in whom we are all one,
One body we, one Spirit and one call,
One mighty God, above and in us all.

Behold your people in this desp’rate day,
Suff’ring fro war and want and sin’s decay,
Call us from death to your eternal life,
Grant us your peace and end this night of strife.

We are your hands to lift up people’s load,
We are your feet on paths where suff’ring goad,
We are your voice of witness to the world,
We are your church, your gift of love unfurled.

Life of the world, bestowed by God above,
Flow through our lives in loyalty and love,
Make known your grace to every needy one,
Your Kingdom come, your holy will be done.

+LITANY FOR GENDER JUSTICE MINISTRY

Pastor: Loving God, You have called us to be agents of Your justice and love in the world. Today, we commit ourselves to the ministry of gender justice.

People: We commit to actively participating in all efforts to promote gender justice.

Leader: We recognize the importance of treating every person with fairness and respect, regardless of their gender.

People: We pledge to stand against discrimination and inequality in all its forms.

Pastor: In our homes, may we foster environments of equality and respect.

People: We commit to challenging stereotypes and promoting understanding within our families.

Pastor: In our church, let us be a community that welcomes and values everyone.

People: We will support and uplift each person, celebrating our diversity as a strength.

Pastor: In our workplaces and schools, may we advocate for policies and practices that ensure equal opportunities for all.

People: We will speak out against injustice and work towards inclusive environments.

Pastor: In our communities, let us be voices for those who are marginalized and oppressed.

People: We will strive to bring hope and change through our actions and advocacy.

Leader: Empower us, O God, to be faithful stewards of Your justice and love.

People: We will educate ourselves and others, seeking to grow in understanding and empathy.

Leader: Guide us in our journey towards a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

People: With Your help, we will work tirelessly for justice, love, and peace for all people.

Leader: Together, let us commit to the ministry of gender justice in all that we do.

People: We dedicate ourselves to this sacred work, trusting in God's guidance and strength.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

+ BENEDICTION (Pastor)

Go forth with courage, advocating for justice and equality in your homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. Our Just God will strengthen us in all our endeavors. In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

+RESPONSE "Three-Fold Amen"

POSTLUDE

RECESSIONAL

REFERENCES:

1. UCCP Hymnal of a Faith Journey
2. [Open and Affirming Sunday - UCC Open and Affirming Coalition](#)
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpvGppJyF50>
4. [Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord \(children singing\) with lyrics \(youtube.com\)](#)
5. [\(36\) God Answers Prayer in theMorning - YouTube](#)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
- Psalm 130
- Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- Mark 5:21-43

Emphasis: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Symbols to be used for the worship:

- **Communion Table-** The communion table serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ. In partaking of the bread and wine, Christians symbolically affirm their shared faith in Jesus as the Savior. It signifies that all believers, regardless of their backgrounds, are part of the body of Christ. It represents Christ's sacrifice, unity among believers, spiritual nourishment, the new covenant, anticipation of the kingdom, personal examination, and a call to sacrificial living.
- **Christ's Candle** - Jesus Christ is often referred to as the "Light of the World." This symbolism of the lighting of the Christ's Candle is derived from passages such as John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The candle can represent Christ's presence and guidance within the Church, illuminating the path of faith and unity.
- **Bible-** The Bible serves as a guide and foundation for the sustenance of unity within the Church and the embrace of its identity. Its teachings on unity, love, covenant, diversity, and the Church's relationship with Christ all contribute to fostering a sense of belonging and purpose among believers.
- **Cross** -The cross is a central symbol of Christianity, signifying Christ's sacrifice for humanity's salvation. The cross emphasizes the unity of believers under the banner of Christ's sacrificial love. It signifies a shared identity rooted in the Gospel message and encourages believers to embrace their roles as part of the body of Christ.
- **Baptismal Font-** The baptismal font serves as a physical reminder of this transformative experience, encouraging believers to embrace their identity as redeemed and renewed individuals within the larger family of God. Its presence and significance remind believers of

their shared journey, common identity in Christ, and the call to embrace unity while celebrating the diversity that enriches the body of believers.

REFLECTION

Text: Mark 5:21-43

Mark 5:21-43 narrates two intertwined stories of healing by Jesus. The first is about Jairus, a synagogue leader, who pleads with Jesus to heal his dying daughter. The second story involves a woman who has been suffering from a bleeding disorder for twelve years. Both stories showcase Jesus's compassion and miraculous power.

The context of the story happened after Jesus has just returned from the region of the Gerasenes, also known as the Gerasenes' territory, which was located on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. It is part of the Decapolis, a group of ten cities with a significant Greco-Roman cultural influence, where he healed a demon-possessed man. As he arrives back on the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathers around Him. Jairus, a respected synagogue leader, falls at Jesus's feet, begging Him to heal his critically-ill daughter (verses 21-24). Jesus agrees to go with Jairus, and a large crowd follows.

As Jesus is on His way to Jairus's house, a woman suffering from a chronic bleeding condition for twelve years touches His cloak, believing it will heal her (verses 25-34). Her condition was more than just a physical ailment; it deeply affected every aspect of her life. Physically, she had been bleeding continuously, which would have left her weak and in constant discomfort. Spiritually, according to Jewish law, her bleeding made her ritually unclean. This meant she couldn't participate in religious activities or worship at the temple. Emotionally, after twelve years of suffering, she likely felt hopeless and desperate. She had spent all her money on doctors, but none had been able to help her. Socially, being considered unclean meant she was isolated from her community, including her family who would have taken care of her condition. People would avoid touching her, and she would have been excluded from social gatherings and normal daily interactions.

When she touched Jesus's cloak, she did so with great faith, believing that even this small act could heal her. Her story highlights her courage and faith despite her long-term suffering and social isolation.

While Jesus is speaking to the woman, people come from Jairus's house to inform him that his daughter has died and suggest there's no need to bother Jesus anymore. Jesus overhears and tells Jairus not to fear, but to believe. Jesus takes only Peter, James, and John with Him to Jairus's house. On arrival, they

find people mourning the girl's death. Jesus tells them she is not dead but sleeping, and they laugh at Him. He takes the girl's parents and His disciples into the room where the girl is lying, takes her by the hand, and says, "Talitha kum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" The girl immediately gets up and begins walking around, astonishing everyone. Jesus instructs them to give her something to eat and tells them not to tell anyone about this miracle (verses 35-43).

Jairus was a respected leader in the synagogue, a position that gave him significant religious and social standing in his community. As a synagogue leader, he was responsible for organizing worship, teaching, and maintaining the synagogue.

The act of pleading for help from Jesus, who had a questionable reputation among Jewish leaders at the time, could have negatively impacted him. Approaching Jesus, a controversial figure among many Jewish leaders, was a bold move. Jairus risked his reputation and position by publicly seeking Jesus's help. His plea showed his desperation as a father and his faith in Jesus's ability to heal, prioritizing his daughter's life over potential criticism. Furthermore, by aligning himself with Jesus, Jairus could have faced condemnation or barring from other religious leaders and members of the synagogue who opposed Jesus.

Despite these risks, Jairus's actions demonstrated his deep love for his daughter and his belief in Jesus's power to heal. His story highlights the impact of personal crisis on faith and social dynamics.

The lessons from the two stories in Mark 5:21-43 are that both Jairus and the woman exhibit deep faith in Jesus's power to heal, despite their desperate situations. Jesus shows compassion by responding to both Jairus's and the woman's needs. He has authority over illness and death. Indeed, Jesus's healing of the ritually unclean woman and the young girl demonstrates that His ministry is for everyone, regardless of social or religious barriers.

This passage encourages us to approach Jesus with faith and trust, even in our most desperate times. It also reminds us of the inclusive and compassionate nature of Jesus's ministry, calling us to be instruments of His healing and hope in our communities.

As we reflect on this passage, let's consider the work and ministry of Jesus through our Church, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). Much like Jesus's ministry of healing and restoration, our Church is committed to rebuilding and restoring communities with hope. Through diverse programs- whether providing disaster relief, supporting marginalized communities, or advocating for social justice-the UCCP embodies the spirit of Jesus's healing touch in today's world.

In our daily lives, we are called to be agents of hope and restoration. Just as Jesus responded to the desperate pleas of Jairus and the suffering woman, we are called to listen to and act on the needs of those around us. Our efforts, no matter how small, contribute to the greater work of God's people.

So, let us be inspired by these stories from Mark and the impactful work of the UCCP. Let us embrace our role in heralding hope and actively participate in the mission of rebuilding and restoring our communities as the people of God. Through faith and action, we continue the work of Christ, bringing healing and new life to those in need.

THE LITURGY

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS TO PONDER

Jesus' healing goes beyond physical ailments; it reaches the depths of our souls, restoring our relationship with God and one another. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He offers us holistic healing—spiritual, emotional, and physical—bringing us into the fullness of life in God's kingdom. Reflect on His promise: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

PRELUDE

Pianist

PROCESSIONAL *(The entrance of the Church Choir, Liturgist, Preacher, and Minister. Also bringing the symbol of Gender justice)*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

MINISTERIAL GREETINGS

Minister: Good morning, everyone! Welcome to our worship service on this beautiful sixth Sunday after Pentecost. It's so wonderful to see all of you here today. Whether you're joining us for the first time or have been with us for years, your presence is a blessing to our community. As we gather together in fellowship and faith, let's open our hearts to the message and the love of God that brings us together. Let this time be a moment of renewal, encouragement, and connection with one another and with our Lord.

Let's rejoice in the gift of community and worship as one family in Christ. May we be uplifted, inspired, and filled with His grace today. Welcome, and God bless you all!

CHORAL ACCLAMATION

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: People of God, let us come together as a community of faith, ready to praise and worship our God, even in the midst of challenges.

People: We gather to lift our hearts and voices, seeking strength and hope in the Lord.

Liturgist: As we face the trials and struggles of life, let us remember that we are called to rebuild and restore with hope, trusting in God's unfailing love.

People: With faith and determination, we herald the works of the people of God, knowing that His power is made perfect in our weakness.

Liturgist: Come, let us worship and praise the God, who gives us courage, strength, and a spirit of resilience.

All: We come together in faith, ready to be renewed and inspired by God's grace. Let us worship God!

+OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Loving God, we gather here today to worship You and to feel Your presence among us. We invite You to dwell in our hearts and our midst as we come together in Your name. Make our experience whole and complete, so that we leave here renewed and inspired. Guide our actions and our work as Your people, so that we may reflect Your goodness and grace in everything we do. Let Your presence bring healing to the broken, strength to the weary, and hope to the discouraged. Unite us as your one body and empower us to carry Your light into the world.

Be with us, hear our prayers, and for fill us with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE "The Church That Is Called By God" HFJ #315

*Words: Longino V. Daamo, Jr. and Avenida J. Lumapguid, 1970
Eng. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2002*

In the church that is called by God,
Where the believers come to worship God
with joy and gladness in their hearts,
For Jesus Christ is the Lord that reigns
In their lives binding them in pureness of his love.

Chorus: Praise you, God, you are Lord of humankind.
You are Savior of the world, You are savior of us all
Let all people their voices raise to the Lord eternal praise,
To the Lord eternal praise.

In the church that is called by God,
Where the believers strive to obey
And serve and to the will of the Lord,
In times of ease and in times of great need,
All would follow Christ's command.

In the church that you have called, O God,
Where the believers strive to live in love,
And good will abound with joy and hope,
O strengthen them in your love and spirit, Lord,
And may you be praised forevermore.

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us take this moment to acknowledge our shortcomings and seek God's forgiveness. Let us confess that, as a Church, we have not always been faithful in carrying out the ministry that Christ has entrusted to us. We have sometimes fallen short in our efforts to rebuild and restore our community with the hope found in Jesus Christ. Let us humbly ask for God's mercy and forgiveness, so that we may be continued in the service and better herald the works of God's people, bringing healing and hope to the world. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: Gracious God, we come before You with humble hearts, acknowledging our failures and struggles as Your church. We confess that at times we have fallen short in our mission to rebuild and restore, to bring wholeness to all.

All: Forgive us, O God, when we have allowed division to hinder our unity, when fear has paralyzed our action, and when indifference has dulled our compassion.

Liturgist: We confess our reluctance to step out in faith, our hesitation to embrace change, and our resistance to Your leading. Help us, O God, to recognize the opportunities for ministry that You place before us and to respond with courage and dedication. Renew our commitment to be Your hands and feet in the world, bringing healing and hope wherever we go.

All: Grant us strength to persevere in our calling; wisdom to discern Your will, and the humility to follow Your guidance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (Pastor)

Children of God, hear the good news: God always keeps promises. When we turn to Him and confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us and help us start fresh. As we continue working for Jesus' ministry, know that God's love and forgiveness are with us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and empowered to do His work. Amen.

+PASSING OF PEACE

While singing the song, let everyone share the peace of God through a handshake, a hug, or a Christian kiss.

+Singing:

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

(38) Halle, Halle, Hallelujah [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube

Words: Caribbean Traditional

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hal. lelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah!

CHURCH CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND END WITH “THE LORD’S PRAYER

RESPONSE

“We Know That God Will Answer All Our Prayers”

(38) I Know The Lord Will Make A Way (El Shaddai Gospel Music Ministry) - Papuri Sa Panginoon! - YouTube

We know that God will answer all our prayers.

We know that God will answer all our prayers.

If we live a holy life, shun the wrong and do the right.

We know that God will answer all our prayers.

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+1ST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

+SONG

+2ND READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Mark 5:21-43

MESSAGE THROUGH SONG

MESSAGE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The UCCP Statement of Faith”

Revised by the FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE

(September 3, 1992)

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

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. 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

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and give 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.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION**CALL TO OFFERING**

Liturgist: Know that God blesses us abundantly so that we may bless others in return. So let us give cheerfully and generously, trusting that our gifts will be used to further God's kingdom and bring about positive change in the lives of those who are hurting and lacking. When we give, we participate in God's work of love and compassion in the world. Our offerings help to support those in need and expand the reach of ministry, spreading the message of hope and redemption to all corners of the earth. Let give our offering to God.

GIVING THE OFFERING (*Tithes, pledges, thanksgiving*)

OFFERTORY SONG

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow” #94

*Praise GOD the source of life and birth,
Praise GOD the Word who came to earth.
Praise GOD the SPIRIT, Holy flame,
all Glory, honor to GOD's name. Amen*

+OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, we come before You with grateful hearts, acknowledging the abundance of blessings You have bestowed upon us. Thank You for the privilege of participating in Your ministry, for allowing us to be instruments of Your grace in the lives of the needy, the deprived, the sick, and the poor.

As we offer these gifts, we recognize that everything we have comes from You. We are but stewards of Your blessings, called to share generously with those in need. May these offerings be used to bring comfort to the afflicted, healing to the sick, and hope to the despairing, as we seek to fulfill Your commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Bless these gifts, O Lord, and multiply them for the advancement of Your kingdom. May our giving be a reflection of Your goodness and grace, and may it bring glory to Your holy name. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

+ CLOSING HYMN

“I Would Be True” HFJ 281

Word: Howard Arnold Walter, 1917; Music: Joseph Y.

I would be true for there are those who trust me
I would be pure for there are those who care
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer
I would be brave, for there is much to dare
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless
I would be giving, and forget the gift
I would be humble for I know my weakness
I would look up, and laugh, and love and live
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.

I would be prayerful through each busy moment
I would be constantly in touch with God
I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whisper
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

+ CLOSING PRAYER (Minister)

Gracious and loving God, Your presence among us gives strength and inspiration to dedicate ourselves anew to Your ministry and to serving Your people. Fill us with Your Spirit, so that we may go forth with courage and compassion, committed to doing Your will. Help us to be faithful servants, reaching out to those in need, sharing Your love, and spreading the message of hope and redemption. Guide our actions and our words, so that we may reflect Your grace and bring glory to Your name.

We willingly respond to Your calling for us to be part of Your mission. We trust in Your guidance and rely on Your strength as we seek to build Your kingdom here on earth. In Jesus' name, we pray.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

+ BENEDICTION (Pastor)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we depart from this place, let us go forth with hearts filled with the love of Christ and a burning passion to serve the world around us. Let us therefore embrace our calling as ambassadors of God's grace, carrying God's message of hope and redemption wherever we go. Let us be bold in our witness, compassionate in our actions, and steadfast in our commitment to rebuilding and restoration.

Let us go forth confident in the knowledge that God is with us every step of the way. God's presence guides us, God's love sustains us, and God's peace fill our hearts now and forevermore.

+RESPONSE **"Three-Fold Amen"**

POSTLUDE

RECESSIONAL

REFERENCES:

1. UCCP Hymnal of a Faith Journey
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFQQS6CRh3E>
3. *(38) I Know The Lord Will Make A Way (El Shaddai Gospel Music Ministry) - Papuri Sa Panginoon! - YouTube*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The UCCP Liturgical Resource Writers composed of Church Workers coming from the different jurisdictions have decided and committed to write and produce a liturgical resource material for the whole ecclesiastical year 2024-2025. The said material is aimed to uphold the unity of the body of Christ and recognize the work of the people through our celebrations based on our monthly emphasis and regular Sunday services.

We therefore express our gratitude to our dedicated and talented liturgiologists who have dedicated their knowledge, strength, time and capacities in the service of God and further the ministries entrusted to the Church.

The liturgies for the **month of June** for this ecclesiastical year 2024-2025 are prepared and designed by **Rev. Bernadette S. Curan**, an ordained Minister from Central Mindanao Area Conference of Northwest Mindanao Jurisdictional Area.

May we all find meaning and joy in our celebrations and truly worship God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

(Sgd.) Rev. Annabelle A. Uriarte
Executive Secretary, LLCDM
National Coordinator, CEN