

United Church of Christ in the Philippines

LITURGICAL RESOURCE MATERIAL



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



JULY 2024

SHORT REFLECTION **“GOD’S EMPOWERING MERCY”**

Texts: Ezekiel 2:1-5

“¹He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when He spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard Him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord God.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.”

Ezekiel, a Jewish priest, was commissioned by God through a vision to deliver God's message to the rebellious house of Israel. His prophetic calling tells us of the following:

A **Merciful God** whose loving nature was exemplified in reaching out to Israel amidst their sin and transgressions. God's warning is a manifestation of love to Israel who were led astray. And the love of God will pave the way for them to come back and live as God's people. God wants us to live a life in abundance. However, by disobedience, we have walked away from God leading us to walk away from the fullness of life.

In the context of rural life, God has been graciously supporting us in our needs so that we may share with other people. Our experience of the hot season in the Philippines is a warning for us to care for creation, to be reminded of what's important and necessary while enacting any long-term action where everyone can benefit. Truly, God's merciful nature shows how great the love of God is for us all.

An **Empowering God** will strengthen and equip us through the Holy Spirit. Such is an important reminder that we are nothing without God. We are weak and incapable without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One who will strengthen us to be obedient to God's calling especially in heralding God's truth.

Like Ezekiel who was being called by God to go to Israel and warn the rebellious people, sometimes we are also called to go to places where we don't want to go, to preach God's good news. But it is through our reverence in God that the Holy Spirit will work in us and around us. Through the Holy Spirit, we will be assured and courageous in delivering God's message.

A **Faithful God** will sustain and humble us through our humanity. Ezekiel was called by God "mortal", a term that emphasizes humanity and humility. This reminds us of our limitations, weaknesses and the need for God's power and supplication in us. Our humanity is a reminder that we are all God's creation and that we must trust in God's power and timing.

God chooses us despite our frailties to be God's instruments with extraordinary calling. With that, it is important to respond to God's call with humility, recognizing that it is the Holy Spirit who empowers us. It is not by our might but by God's Spirit.

Recognizing who God is, our faithful service becomes witness to God's enduring presence and power in our communities. God's statement to Ezekiel, i.e. "...whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them," reminds us that although we may somehow feel hopeless, God is and will always be working in the midst of us, and that God's justice and righteousness will be appropriated in God's very own time.

In our rural communities, we are constantly reminded of God's mercies through all of nature. We acknowledge that our strength comes from God, and our calling is to humbly serve God. And so, our faithful service becomes a testament to acknowledging God's enduring presence and power in our communities. Therefore, brothers and sisters in Christ, let us take heed and not fall short lest we will be held accountable. May we strive and persevere in following God's commands. May we make allowances for each other's faults but not tolerate others remaining in sin because of our inaction. May we take heart when others choose to listen or not, accept or disregard, as God's ultimate judgment shall prevail. May we simply listen and humbly fulfill what God requires of us, as did Ezekiel. In Jesus' name.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

Please prepare the following symbols:

- Christ Candle
- Bible
- Cross
- Communion Table
- Wine and Bread
- Flowers
- Offering Baskets/Bags

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS FOR SILENT MEDITATION

"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness"

2 Corinthians 12:9a

PRELUDE (*soft music from any available instrument*)

PROCESSIONAL (*Symbols - Cross, Bible, Christ Candle, Flowers, Offering Baskets/Bags, The Worship Leaders – Minister, Preacher and Liturgist, choir*)

Cross – symbol of Christian faith and a reminder of Christ's salvific grace.

Bible – a symbol of God's revelation, authority, spiritual nourishment, guidance, truth, faithfulness, and the foundation of our faith and tradition.

Christ Candle – symbol of Christ's presence, light and the fulfillment of God's promises.

Communion Table – serves as a reminder of the unity of all believers in Christ.

Wine and Bread – elements which symbolizes the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the new covenant, remembrance and proclamation of Christ's sacrifice.

Fresh Flowers – symbolizes the beauty and abundance of God's creations.

Offering Baskets/Bags – symbolize the act of giving back to God and supporting the work of the church.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Our unity today is a testament to God’s Holy Spirit working in us.

People: In the light of God’s presence, we come together.

Liturgist: Inspired by God’s faithfulness, we worship together.

People: In the light of God’s supplication, we give thanks together.

Liturgist: Let us celebrate God’s faithfulness and the life within us.

†HYMN OF PRAISE

“I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD”

HFJ,24

Word: Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Music: Gersangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies,
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day,
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food,
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounce them good,
Oh, how Your wonders are displayed where’er I turn my eye;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there’s not a plant or flower but makes Your glory known,
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from Your throne,
All life is but a gift from You and ever in Your care,
Wherever people gather, You, O God are present there.

†OPENING PRAYER *(Liturgist or Altogether)*

Together in this holy sanctuary, O God, we lift our praises to You. Come into our midst, and help us open our hearts and minds as we listen and ponder Your Word. Let Your Holy Spirit fill us so that we may live out Your teachings. We offer our worship now in thanksgiving for Your sustaining mercy and love. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI

“GLORY TO THE CREATOR”

HFJ,81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: People of God, let us recognize that there are times when we have gone our own way – acting in selfishness, bitterness, anger and greed – failing to embody God’s love and care for ourselves and others. Let us acknowledge God’s presence among us and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in confessing what has hindered us from experiencing God’s abundant mercy.

RESPONSE

“KYRIE ELEISON ” HFJ,90

Words: Ancient Greek

Music: Russian Orthodox tradition

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

(Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer while soft music is being played.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: People of God, the Lord hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. Despite our shortcomings, God calls us and offers abundant grace and mercy through the Holy Spirit. As we recognize God’s presence in our lives, let us embrace His forgiveness and the assurance of pardon found in Jesus Christ. May this be the beginning of our transformed life in Him. Thanks be to God for His unfailing love and forgiveness.

HYMN RESPONSE

“GLORY TO GOD” HFJ#69

Words: Mutya Lopez Solis, 1987

Music: Bisayan Daygon

Glory to God in the highest,
Peace to God’s people on earth
Glory to God in the highest,
Peace to God’s people on earth.

PASSING OF PEACE

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

CHURCH CONCERNS / COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER *(To be followed by reciting the Lord’s Prayer)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“O HEAR OUR PRAYER, ALMIGHTY GOD”

HFJ,83

Words and Music: Anonymous; Eng. Transl. Melchizedek M. Solis, 1972

O hear our pray’r, Almighty God, in faith and trust we make our plea!
O hear our pray’r, O Loving God
As is Your will, so let it be,
SO LET IT BE.

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN

“YOUR LIVING WORD, O SAVIOR”

HFJ,352 *First Stanza*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1969; Engl. Transl. Feliciano Ursos, 2001

Your living Word, O Savior, is light unchanging ever,
It gives us full assurance, our strength and joy forever.

FIRST READING

RESPONSE (SUNG)

“YOUR LIVING WORD, O SAVIOR”

HFJ,352 *Second & Third Stanza*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1969; Engl. Transl. Feliciano Ursos, 2001

When hardships come upon us, Your Word sustains, empowers;
Your voice we hear above the storms, speaking from the Scriptures.

Ready we are to listen, Your call ignore no longer,
Word from the sacred writings, words of truth and power.

SECOND READING (GOSPEL)

RESPONSE (SUNG)

“YOUR LIVING WORD, O SAVIOR”

HFJ,352 *Fourth Stanza*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1969; Engl. Transl. Feliciano Ursos, 2001

May we discern Your teachings in our daily living
From the Holy Bible, Your love to us revealing.

ANTHEM

SERMON

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

NICENE CREED *(Altogether)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: As we recognize God's presence in our lives and celebrate the grace and mercy given to us through the Holy Spirit, we are invited to respond with gratitude. Our offerings today reflect our transformed lives in Jesus Christ. Let us give generously, knowing that our contributions support the work of God's kingdom and extend His love and care to those in need. Thanks be to God for His continual guidance and abundant blessings.

THE OFFERTORY *(Tithes, harvests, and talents are being offered as thanksgiving offerings)*

†DOXOLOGY

"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW" HFJ,94 *Stanza 2*

Words : Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Praise God the Source of life and birth;
Praise God the Son who came to earth;
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Flame;
All glory, honor to God's name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Altogether)*

Loving God, we come before You with thankful hearts, recognizing Your presence and the grace and mercy You bestow upon us through the Holy Spirit. As we present our offerings, we do so in gratitude for the transformation You bring to our lives through Jesus Christ. Use these gifts to further Your kingdom, spreading Your love and care to those in need. Guide us continually, and bless these offerings to reflect Your glory and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

"MORE ABOUT JESUS" HFJ#143

Words: Eliza E. Hewitt

Music: John R. Sweney

More about Jesus would I know, More of His grace to others show
More of His saving fullness seem, More of His love who died for me.

REFRAIN

More, more about Jesus, More, more about Jesus,
More of His saving fullness see, More of His love who died for me.

More about Jesus let me learn, More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me. **REFRAIN**

More about Jesus in His Word, Holding communion with my Lord,
Hearing His voice in every line, Making each faithful saying mine. **REFRAIN**

More about Jesus on His throne, Riches in glory all His own,
More of His kingdom's sure increase; More of His coming, Prince of Peace. **REFRAIN**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Minister: This is the Lord's Table and Christ invites you to share this meal of grace.

Christ recognizes you and looks upon you with favor.

Christ befriends you and wants you within His circle.

Count yourself among Christ's disciples by partaking in this feast of fellowship.

PRAYER AT THE TABLE *(Altogether)*

With grateful hearts, O God, we come to Christ's Table:

remembering that You spoke creation into existence and pronounced it good;

remembering that You called servants to make Your word known and declared Your reign;

remembering that You effected salvation through Jesus Christ and reconciled us to You.

Be known to us now, through the gift of Your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the drinking of cup;

renew Your image within us;

restore our trust in Your love;

refresh our spirits for caring service.

Join us with all Your people everywhere in joyous praise for Your everlasting love.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Minister: Let us recall "that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as You eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, NRSV)

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THE PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Minister: Jesus said, "This is my body which is broken for you." Let us eat of this bread in remembrance of Christ; and may the life which was in Him be in us also.

(The community will partake the bread at the same time.)

Minister: Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." Let us drink of this cup in remembrance of Christ's blood that is shed for our sins.

(The community will drink the wine at the same time)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Altogether)*

O God, we thank You for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung Your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen Your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in Your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

†HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"LIVING FOR JESUS"

HFJ,289

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm; alt.

Music: C. Harold Lowden

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do,
Yielding allegiance, gladhearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

REFRAIN

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, Your humble child I'll be;
For You, in Your atonement, You gave Yourself for me,
I have no other Savior, God's love to me You've shown
My life, my all, I'll give for You, O Christ, for You alone.

Living for Jesus, who died in my place,
Bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace,
Such love constrains me to answer His call,
Follow His leading and give Him my all. **REFRAIN**

Living for Jesus wherever I am,
Doing each duty in His holy name,
Willing to suffer affliction or loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross. **REFRAIN**

Living for Jesus thro' earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile,
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

†CLOSING PRAYER *(Altogether or Minister only)*

God, as we conclude this time of worship, we are reminded of Your mercies evident in all of nature around us, especially in our rural communities. We acknowledge that our strength comes from You, and our calling is to serve You humbly and faithfully. May our service be a testament to Your enduring presence and power.

Lord, help us to be accountable in following Your commands, understanding that You hold us responsible for our actions and inactions. Grant us the courage to act and speak according to Your will, knowing that whether others heed our words or not, the ultimate judgment belongs to You.

Empower us to fulfill what is required of us, living out our faith with integrity and dedication. As we leave this place, may we carry Your light into our communities, reflecting Your love and grace in all that we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

†BENEDICTION *(Minister)*

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted;
honor all people; love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“FOUR-FOLD AMEN”

HFJ,102

Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

Amen, Amen
Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE *(soft music from any available instruments)*

RECESSIONAL

Sources:

Chalice Hymnal

Hymnal of a Faith Journey

New Revised Standard Version Bible

SHORT REFLECTION

“GOD’S CIRCLE OF BLESSINGS IN RURAL LIVING”

Text/s: **Psalm 24**

“¹The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; ²for He has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. ³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? ⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. ⁵They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. ⁶Such is the company of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in. ⁸Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. ⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in. ¹⁰Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.”

Ephesians 1:3-14

“³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of His glory. ¹³In Him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of His glory.”

In Psalms 24, God is revealed as the Creator of the world. A proclamation of David, it is traditionally understood as a hymn of praise celebrating God’s sovereignty over creation and God’s presence among God’s people. While the exact occasion or context of its composition has not been specified, it is often interpreted as a song being sung during a procession while bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the city of Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Ephesians 1:3-14 is considered one of the beautiful passages in the Bible revealing the circle of blessings of our Lord. “Eulogētos” or in English “Blessed” is only used to describe the Lord in the New Testament. Such is a revelation that nothing more wonderful can be imagined of or spoken with than God. And in God’s

blessedness, God reaches it to God's created people. God's circle of blessings can only be completed if God's people whom are blessed is able to recognize the source and resource, and that is the Lord, our God Almighty.

The celebration of Rural Life Emphasis Sunday is a reminder of the beauty and richness of the world created by God. Humans, as one of God's creations on earth, have been given freely to survive in daily life. But with the passing of time and the many vital changes that's been happening, people have claimed ownership of the things that belong to God. Because of this, the abundance of God's creation has become unavailable to others, especially those who are struggling with financial resources as our present time gives more value to what is inside our wallets and that everything seems to be already given a price. For this reason, God's beauty and abundance of creation have seemingly become too luxurious.

Reading thoroughly and reflecting on the Biblical texts, we are reminded of these four truths in rural life.

In the rural life, we know that the Lord is the very owner of the whole earth and all creation. This is a powerful revelation that God is the sole and real owner of everything including the rural landscapes that surround us. In the rural life we can experience the abundance of the Lord. In organic and fresh food, clean water and air, beautiful landscapes and peaceful living, we are reminded of God's ownership and sovereignty over the land. And we as God's children through Jesus Christ, in rural life, experience our dependence on the Lord's provision. God gives life to all plants and animals on land, in the air, and the waters, especially us, God's chosen people as entrusted to take care of all these.

In rural life we can connect to our roots as part of God's creation. The complications, however, brought about by our busyness in improving life per se, have left us wanting for more and pushing us to venture in urban cities and prompting us to rarely return to our own respective provinces. And only then when we go home that we are able to get reconnected with our loved ones and families. It is with our families where we are allowed to experience God's concrete expression of genuine love and the root of our faith in Jesus Christ. Just as we return to the roots of our birth in the circle of God's blessings, we recognize that the source of our blessings is the Lord our God, our Maker. And by God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, we have become a blessing as God never ceases to reach out to us. And so, as God's children, we must always seek God. May we always open our hearts and minds for God to enter and work through us in our lives in Jesus Christ.

In rural life we can experience the blessing of redemption, forgiveness and salvation. Because of God's great love for us, even in our sinfulness, our Creator God saved us through the great sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Like this, in rural life, we are reminded through planting and harvesting that we need God's provision and the need for forgiveness and renewal. We are saved by the Lord not only through the blood of Jesus Christ but in our daily resources. But like the complexity of planting, taking care of growing it, we must also do ask for God's forgiveness, and live a forgiven life. So that we can experience the sweetness of the fruit that we will harvest.

In rural life we can see our interconnectedness with each other. In the circle of God's blessing, the blessing is from God, reached to God's people, the people share it and recognize that God is the source of all these. Because we are connected to the Lord and to each other, the Lord sealed us through the Holy Spirit as a mark that we are owned and protected by God and an assurance that we belong to God forever. In rural communities, where the bonds of community are strong and reliance on one another is essential, we can see the work of the Holy Spirit at play in our relationships and interactions and extended even to urban living brothers and sisters. As we are being sustained by our needs through God's creation, we are also called to sustain the creation, to develop, to care and to share it with one and all.

In this celebration of Rural Life Emphasis Sunday, let us thank God for the abundance of life through the abundant fruits of the earth, the riches of the sea, the simple and peaceful living, the warmth of human

connection and the wonderful creation that helps us always reflect and thank God who is the Source of all this. Let us also renew our commitment to God in building relationships with God in the development of the earth and in helping one another. Just as worship is done in unity, let us also cultivate and share God's blessings in unity.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP

Please prepare the following symbols:

- Christ Candle
- Bible
- Cross
- Fresh Flowers
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Live Rice plant – should be prepared weeks before the worship
- Water in clay jar
- Seashells

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS FOR SILENT MEDITATION

“The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it”

-Psalm 24:1

PRELUDE (*Celebrative music of indigenous percussion instruments*)

PROCESSIONAL (*Symbols - Cross, Bible, Trinity Candles, Flowers, Offering Baskets/Bags, Fruits, Vegetables, Rice plant, Water in clay jar; The Worship Leaders – Preacher and Liturgist, choir*)

Cross – Symbol of Christian faith and a reminder of Christ's salvific grace.

Trinity Candle – Symbol of the Triune God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Fresh Flowers – Symbolizes the beauty and abundance of God's creations.

Offering Baskets/Bags – Symbolize the act of giving back to God and supporting the work of the church.

Rice Plant – Symbolizes abundance, prosperity, and sustenance. It represents the importance of agriculture and the livelihood it provides to many Filipinos.

Water in clay jar – Symbolizes the essential role of water in sustaining crops, nourishing the land, and ensuring agricultural abundance.

Shells – Symbols of abundance, diversity and the beauty and wonder of aquatic life.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: In the abundance of God's creation, we gather today.

People: With hearts full of gratitude, we come to sing and pray.

Liturgist: The rice plant, a symbol of provision true, nurtured by God's hand, in fields of green and blue.

(A member will come forward, pick up the rice plant and raise it before the congregation)

People: In its growth, we see the Creator's care, blessing the earth with abundance rare.

Liturgy: Water, source of life, in its gentle flow, reminds us of God's love.

(A member will come forward, pick up the water in a clay jar and raise it before the congregation)

People: A symbol of nourishment and sustenance day by day.

Liturgist: The shells, from the depths of the water to the river banks and sandy shore.

(A member will come forward, pick up the shells and raise it before the congregation)

People: They remind us of God's abundant blessings evermore.

All: Let us worship God with hearts full of praise, in awe of God's goodness that never cease. With gratitude and joy, let our voices raise. And may God's abundant blessings guide our way.

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"O PRAISE OUR GREAT GOD"

HFJ,4

Words & Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1955

O praise our great God, raise up your voice, O people,
God created all things on earth and heaven,
Let us worship through joyful songs and anthem,
Praise to our God with all our hearts and mind.

The firmament glows with brilliance in its splendor,
Sun and moon and the stars reveal God's glory,
Hills and mountains and plains they are proclaiming
God, the Maker, Creator of them all.

The blooming flowers, their fragrance fills the air,
Waters so clean, cascading freely flowing,
Cool and gentle the breeze so softly blowing,
God made them all, how wonderful to feel.

We praise and thank You for all the works of beauty,
All creation proclaims and sings God's glory,
Let our voices now shout in adulation
Praise the Lord God with hearts so full and pure.

†OPENING PRAYER *(Altogether)*

Almighty Creator God, we humbly lift our voices in praise to You, acknowledging You O God as the Source of all our resources. Thank You O Lord for Your continuous provision, sustaining our every need and even more than what we can expect. Bless our worship on this Rural Life Emphasis Sunday. May it be the beginning of renewal in our commitment to becoming instruments of righteousness and growth in Your entire creation. Guide us in reflecting on our dedication to You and empower us to offer ourselves more fully in worship today. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI

“GLORY TO THE CREATOR”

HFJ,81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

OR

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

HFJ,73

Music: Harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978; Melody: 12th Century Plainsong, adapt. J. S. Bach, 1726

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores You!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: We gather today, not just to celebrate God’s provision and blessings, but also acknowledge our shortcomings, our failures to care for the earth and our neglect of those who work the land. Let us confess our tendencies to exploit rather than nurture, to consume without thought for sustainability, and to prioritize profit over stewardship. Let us bring to mind those whose livelihoods depend on the land, and consider how our actions impact their lives and the fragile ecosystems that sustain us all. Let us confess our shortcomings to God, as we strive to live more responsibly and justly.

(Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer or the sounds of nature such as birdsong, flowing water and breeze of the wind may be heard.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Sung*)

“HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD ”

HFJ#87

Words: Traditional, Pakistan

Music: R.F. Liberius, Pakistan

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us,
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us,
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us,

Have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us,
Have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us,
Have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Just as the seed must die to live, the love of God gives us redemption so that we may receive a new life - life in righteousness and care of God. Let us accept the assurance in God and let our lives bear spiritual fruits.

HYMN RESPONSE

“THANK YOU, LORD”

HFJ,34 1st & 2nd Lines

Transc. Jeaneth Faller; Engl. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2002; Music: Traditional Cordillera

Thank You, Lord, for Your gift of salvation for the world,
Insinalidumaay.

Thank You, Lord, for the life that You gave all humankind,
Insinalidumaay

PASSING OF PEACE

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

CHURCH CONCERNS / COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER *(To be followed by reciting the Lord's Prayer)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

“O LORD HEAR MY PRAYER”

Taizé; Music by Jacques Berthier; from Psalm 102

<https://youtu.be/G3pbxmErohg?si=D5R-ELqiRGnVw-h1>

O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear our prayer
When we call answer us,
O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear our prayer
Come and listen to us. (Repeat)

**The word 'my' was replaced by 'our,' 'I' with 'we' and 'me' with 'us' to be inclusive.*

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSE (SUNG)

“BLESS THE LORD”

Taizé; Music by Jacques Berthier; Words by Robert Batastini

https://youtu.be/3y_2ZStGV58?si=dp9McVnhnTW3zKQd

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (Repeat)

SECOND READING (GOSPEL)

**ANTHEM
SERMON**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCCP Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE

In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.

That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history.

That in the Holy Spirit God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE

That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.

That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they are redeemed in Jesus Christ.

That being entrusted with God's creation, they are called to participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.

WE BELIEVE

That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE

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 gives assurance of life after death.

And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: As we gather on this celebration of rural living, let our offerings be a testament to the abundance of God's provision in the fields and waters. Let our gifts reflect our gratitude for the labor of those who cultivate the land and harvest the sea. May our generosity be a source of hope and sustenance for all who rely on the fruits of rural life, and may God's blessings multiply as we give with open hearts.

THE OFFERTORY *(Tithes, harvests, and talents are being offered as thanksgiving offerings)*

†RESPONSE

"THANK YOU LORD" HFJ#34 3rd & 4th Lines

Transc. Jeaneth Faller; Engl. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2002; Music: Traditional Cordillera

Thank You, Lord for the food that sustains our daily needs
Insinalidumaay

Thank You, Lord, for the rain, cooling, watering the earth,
Insinalidumaay

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Altogether)*

We offer these gifts to You, Lord, as a symbol of our thankfulness for the abundance of provision You have given us. May they be used to support and uplift those who work the land and harvest the sea, sustaining livelihoods and enriching our communities. Bless these offerings, O God, and multiply them like the seeds sown in the fertile soil. May they bring forth a harvest of hope, compassion, and joy for all who are blessed by them. Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and humility to be good stewards of the blessings You have entrusted to us. Help us to care for the land and its resources with reverence and respect, honoring the sacredness of creation. In offering these gifts, we recognize our dependence on You, O God, and we trust in Your providence to guide us in all that we do. May our actions reflect Your love and grace, and may they bring glory to Your holy name. Amen.

†HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"HONOUR THE EARTH"

Words: Shirley E. Murray, New Zealand

Music: HONOR THE EARTH; Douglas Mews, New Zealand

God of the galaxies spinning in space,
God of the smallest seed our living source;
Yours is the gift of this beautiful place.

REFRAIN

Let us care for Your garden
And honour the earth.

Careless and covetous, gross are our greeds
Taking the riches the garden provides,
Wasting its goodness, forgetting its needs. **REFRAIN**

Forests and rivers are ravaged and die,
Raped is the land till it bleeds in its clay
Silenced the birdsong and plundered the sea. **REFRAIN**

Let there be beauty and let there be air
Fragrant with peace, never poisoned with fear,
Freed from the plagues of pollution and war. **REFRAIN**

Life is a holy thing, life is a whole,
Linking each creature and blessing us all,
Making connections of body and soul. **REFRAIN**

OR

“HARVEST TIME HAS COME, O GOD” HFJ,323

Words and Music: Minda P. Puracan, 1970; Engl. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2002

Harvest time has come, O God, and we raise our grateful voice,
For abundance of the grains and all the goods produced
Laden the coconut trees, golden corn upon the stalks
Out thanksgiving knows no bounds to our gracious, caring God.

Ripened fruits upon the tree, bending branches with their weight
Fertile earth where food is grown shows all the healthy root crops,
Animals so many, helping us with all the work,
Joyful we are O our God, for the blessings we receive.

You provided sun that shines and the cooling rain as well,
For the growing of the plants that we have in our land,
Blessings, You have given all creation that You made,
We can't help but praise You, Lord, mighty and most powerful God.

Harvest time has come, O God, so our thanks to You, we raise,
For this blessing that we have, we give You back a portion,
This will be the best part of the harvest from the land,
And we glorify You, God, Owner of the universe.

†CLOSING PRAYER (*Altogether or Minister only*)

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for Your abundant blessings. May the lessons learned and the blessings shared today inspire us to be faithful stewards of the land and caretakers of Your creation. Guide us in our daily lives to honor the labor of those who work the fields and harvest the seas, and may we always strive to live in harmony with nature and to share Your love with others. May Your presence go with us as we leave this place.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

†BENEDICTION *Minister*

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. As you depart from this place, carry with you the spirit of gratitude for the blessings of rural life. Walk in the knowledge of God's abundant provision, trusting in God's guidance and care. Go forth in love, compassion, and stewardship

of the land, shining as lights in the world. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“YOUR WILL BE DONE”

Text: From the Lord’s Prayer; Music: South African Traditional,

as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana; Trans. John L. Bell; Arr.:1990 Iona Community, GIA Publications

<https://youtu.be/5M0U21-6j6g?si=nUwW9A37TXDgG7-6>

Your will (*Your will*)

Be done on earth, O Lord, 2x

Your will be done on earth, O Lord
Your will be done on earth, O Lord,
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. (Repeat all)

POSTLUDE (*Celebrative music of indigenous percussion instruments*)

RECESSIONAL

Sources:

Hymnal of a Faith Journey

New Revised Standard Version Bible

The Oxford Bible Commentary

O Lord hear my Prayer

[FRANCE]

Prayerfully

O Lord hear my Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer. O Lord hear my prayer:

Em G/D Am/C D

when I call an - swer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O

G/B C Am B Em G/D

Lord hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Am/C D Em/G Am Bm Em



from Psalm 4



Jacques Berthier



Ateliers et Presses de Taizé
via Colonus

O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer:
when I call answer me,
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.




This Taizé chant may be sung repeatedly as a preface to prayer or worship; or it may be sung as a congregational response during intercessions.

Bless the Lord


Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Bless the Lord". It consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the top staff. The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady accompaniment.


HONOUR THE EARTH



1. God of the ga - lax - ies spin - ning in space,
2. Care - less and cov - e - tous, gross are our greeds
3. For - ests and riv - ers are rav - aged and die,
4. Let there be beau - ty and let there be air
5. Life is a ho - ly thing, life is a whole,



God of the small - est seed our liv - ing source:
tak - ing the rich - es the gar - den pro - vides,
raped is the land till it bleeds in its clay,
fra - grant with peace, nev - er poi - soned with fear,
link - ing each crea - ture and bless - ing us all,



yours is the gift of this beau - ti - ful place -
wast - ing its good - ness, for - get - ting its needs,
si - lenced the bird - song and plun - dered the sea -
freed from the plagues of pol - lu - tion and war,
mak - ing con - nec - tions of bod - y and soul,



Refrain



Let us care for your gar -



den and hon - our the earth.

Genesis 1:27-31

Words: Shirley E. Murray, New Zealand

Music: HONOR THE EARTH; Douglas Mews, New Zealand

Mayenziwe (Your will be done)

Ma - ye - (Ma - ye) nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma -
Your will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - (Ma - ye) nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -
will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we done 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Text: from the Lord's Prayer

Music: South African traditional, as taught by George Mxadana; transcribed John L. Bell, 1988

Copyright © 1990 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive agent.

SHORT REFLECTION

"GOD'S TRANSFORMATIVE GRACE"

Texts: Ephesians 2:11-22 (NLT)

"¹¹Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

¹⁷He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from Him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

¹⁹So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. ²¹We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²²Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit."

Before the coming of the Messiah into the world, the Gentiles experienced such contempt from the Jews who considered them unclean and beyond the reach of God's salvation, leaving them without hope. This growing animosity have led to a significant divide between the Jews and the Gentiles, fostering a lack of harmonious relationships. However, God didn't allow it to flourish.

God's intervention was felt when Jesus Christ started His ministry and revealed to the Jews that their hearts have become proud, who thought of themselves as God's chosen people. They have become too legalistic. And one tradition that made them hard-hearted was circumcision which affected only their bodies and not their hearts. This revelation subsequently highlighted that both the Gentiles and the Jews were in need of God's grace and mercy, underscoring that there was no fundamental difference between them in terms of their spiritual condition.

In our own diversity and brokenness, we, like the Gentiles and Jews, are all in need of God's grace and mercy. None of us is righteous based on our deeds in this life. This realization leads us to several reflections:

Humility through God's Grace. Christ's revelation imparts a message of humility to the Jews and hope to the Gentiles. As the Son of God, Christ, who is powerful and noble, even stepped down to reach us and humbled Himself to unite a divided humanity. True reconciliation requires humility, and Jesus is our ultimate model of humility.

Openness to the Holy Spirit. Humility opens our hearts to the Holy Spirit. When we are humble, we can see and experience the work of the Holy Spirit more fully. This openness allows us to recognize God's goodness in our lives, prompting us to thank and worship God. Additionally, it brings awareness of our sins and motivation for us to repent.

Becoming Temples of the Lord. Through the Holy Spirit, we become temples of the Lord. In the past, worship was confined to the temple where God's presence was believed to dwell. Now, through the Holy Spirit, we are united with God, and God's presence resides within each of us. The Holy Spirit guides us to know and understand God's will, and for us to live according to God's works, equipping us for continual service.

Peace through Christ. Being temples of the Lord grants us peace, a peace that surpasses all worldly understanding and experiences. This peace stems from the security we find in Christ and cannot be taken away. However, this peace remains only if we faithfully follow God's will as His temples.

Unity and Commitment. The peace of Christ encourages us to unite and commit to continuing God's work and serving humanity. This divine peace empowers us to pursue unity and reconciliation, fostering a shared purpose and commitment. We are united in worship and service to the Lord, fervent in the ongoing expansion of God's kingdom on earth.

These reflections remind us that through Jesus Christ, our Messiah, we are called to humility, openness to the Holy Spirit, living as God's temples, experiencing God's peace, and striving for unity in our mission to serve and glorify God as Jesus did. Amen.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP

Please prepare the following symbols:

- Trinity Candles
- Bible
- Cross
- Fresh Flowers
- Offering Baskets/bags

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS FOR SILENT MEDITATION

GOD BE IN ME

God be in my head and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes and in my looking;

God be in my mouth and in my speaking;

God be in my heart and in my thinking;

God be at my end and at my departing.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL (*Symbols - Cross, Bible, Trinity Candles, Flowers, Offering Baskets/Bags; The Worship Leaders – Preacher and Liturgist, choir*)

Cross – Symbol of Christian faith and a reminder of Christ’s salvific grace.

Bible – a symbol of God’s revelation, authority, spiritual nourishment, guidance, truth, faithfulness, and the foundation of our faith and tradition.

Trinity Candles – Symbol of the Triune God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Fresh Flowers – Symbolizes the beauty and abundance of God’s creations.

Offering Baskets/Bags – Symbolize the act of giving back to God and supporting the work of the church.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP (read)

“COME, LET US WORSHIP OUR GOD NOW”

HFJ,7

Words & Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1971; Harm.(1971) & Eng. Transl.: Grace R. Tabada, 2001

Liturgist: Come, let us worship our God now, with our joyful songs of praise,

People: Strength and power ascribing, to the great and eternal God.

Liturgist: Draw near with praise to the Lord God. Let us raise our voices in song,

People: Loudly, clearly resounding, to acknowledge our loving God.

Liturgist: Let all our hearts be united, to feel the presence of God,

People: In the act of worship, drawing near to our loving God.

Liturgist: All life on earth was created, by the great and creating One,

People: In God’s love we are molded, let us glorify our God.

Liturgist: O loving God in heaven, we do worship you here and now

People: All of our lives we offer, and we plead, accept us, O God.

†HYMN OF PRAISE

“WE GREET WITH JOY THIS NEW DAY”

HFJ,58

Words & Music: Dominga R. Tabada, 2001; Eng. Transl.: Grace R. Tabada, 2001

We greet with joy this new day and raise our grateful voices

To You, great Creator, Redeemer and our Guide

Your power is eternal, Your love and mercy keep us

We praise You, O God, now and forever.

Refrain: How wonderful are Your works, all that You have created,

The trees and all the flowers, O God, You made them all

Cool is the dew in the freshness of the morning

We praise You O God, now and forever.

United are Your people in joyful adoration

Mighty God You are and Your power is seen by all;

For You are the true God of all the generations

We praise You, O God, now and forever. (Refrain)

†OPENING PRAYER *(Altogether)*

Almighty and gracious God, we gather before You today, deeply aware of Your presence and goodness in our lives. We come together as a community of faith to offer our praises and thanksgiving, acknowledging that You alone are worthy of all our worship. God, open our hearts and minds to the work of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us the wisdom and discernment to understand the message You have prepared for us today. Guide us in Your truth and fill us with Your grace. As we lift our voices in songs of praise and in the meditations of our hearts, may our worship glorify You and draw us closer to Your divine presence. Unite us in faith and love, that we may be a testament to Your everlasting glory. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI (optional)

“GLORY TO THE CREATOR”

HFJ,81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: We come to worship God today, ready to unpack the burdens that hinders us from continually doing God’s mission. In humility and repentance, let us allow the work of the Holy Spirit to guide us in recognizing our sins and confessing them to the Lord.

HYMN RESPONSE

“AS THE DEER LONGINGLY LOOKS”

HFJ,224 *First Stanza and Refrain*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1971; Eng. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2001

As the deer longingly looks
For waters flowing clear and cool
So does my soul look eagerly for the Living God.

REFRAIN

My hope is God alone
My hope is God alone
My hope is God alone
For now and eternity

(Silence may be observed for personal reflection and prayer while soft music is being played.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Altogether)*

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways,
to the glory of Your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Hear the good news from Titus 3:5: *“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.”* Brothers and sisters, by God’s mercy, we are saved and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Know that in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are made new. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

“AS THE DEER LONGINGLY LOOKS” HFJ,224 *Refrain only*

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1971; Eng. Transl. Grace R. Tabada, 2001

REFRAIN

My hope is God alone
My hope is God alone
My hope is God alone
For now and eternity

PASSING OF PEACE

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

CHURCH CONCERNS / COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER *(To be followed by reciting the Lord’s Prayer)*

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

“LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING”

CH,305

Words and Music: Ken Medema, 1973

Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord, send Your spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSE (SUNG)

“WRITE THESE WORDS IN OUR HEARTS” CH#327

Based on Jeremiah 31:33; Music: Ancient chant; adapt. John F. Wilson, 1988

Write these words in our hearts, we beseech You, O God.

SECOND READING (GOSPEL)

RESPONSE (SUNG)

“WRITE THESE WORDS IN OUR HEARTS” CH,327

Based on Jeremiah 31:33; Music: Ancient chant; adapt. John F. Wilson, 1988

Write these words in our hearts, we beseech You, O God.

ANTHEM

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: People of God, let us remember that every good and perfect gift comes from God. Our offerings are an opportunity to participate in God’s work of restoration and transformation in our world. Let us give heartily, knowing that our contributions, no matter how small, are used by God to bring about God’s kingdom on earth. May our generosity reflect the boundless grace we have received from our Sustainer God.

THE OFFERTORY *(Tithes, harvests, and talents are being offered as thanksgiving offerings)*

†RESPONSE**“WE THANK YOU, DEAR LORD”**

HFJ#37

Words and Music: Elena G. Maquiso

Engl. Transl. Grace R. Tabada 2002

We thank you, dear Lord, for blessings received
and all the goodness You've shown us,
For rain and for food, for loving kindness
Our thanks we joyfully give You,
O great, mighty God!

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Liturgist only or Altogether*)

Gracious God, we present our gifts to You with hearts full of thanksgiving for Your abundant blessings. You have poured out Your Spirit upon us, empowering us to be instruments of Your love and grace in the world. May these offerings we bring be used to spread Your light and joy to those around us. Bless them and multiply them, that they may bring about transformation and renewal in our communities. Guide us in using these resources wisely, always mindful of Your call to stewardship and generosity. May our giving reflect the love and compassion that You have shown us. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN OF COMMITMENT**“WON'T YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT?”**

HFJ,286

Words & Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.; Arr.: Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you,
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

†CLOSING PRAYER (*Altogether or Minister only*)

God, we stand in awe of Your transformative grace, revealed to us through Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the power of Your Spirit to change lives, we humbly surrender to Your guidance. Grant us the wisdom to walk in humility, acknowledging our need for Your presence in our lives. May we, as temples of Your Spirit, radiate Your love and compassion to a world in need. Help us to embrace the unity and peace that come from living in harmony with Your will. As we go forth from this time of worship, may Your peace guard our hearts and minds, empowering us to be instruments of reconciliation and partners of Your ministry. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

†BENEDICTION *Minister*

May the transformative grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you, renewing your hearts and minds day by day. May God's love empower you to live as instruments of reconciliation and peace in a divided world. And may the guidance of the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth, as you journey forth in faithfulness to God's calling. Go forth in His grace, knowing that You are His beloved, now and forevermore. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"SHALOM TO YOU NOW"

CH,436

Words: Elise S. Eslinger, 1980

Music: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1989

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends,
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends,
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

POSTLUDE

RECESSIONAL

Sources:

Chalice Hymnal

Hymnal of a Faith Journey

Life Application Study Bible New Living Translation Second Edition

Go in Peace

445

Unison mp



Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.



Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

f



Cel - e - brate and share the joy! Cel - e - brate new life!

p



Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

WORDS: Barber L. Waters, 1982
MUSIC: Kenneth E. White, 1982

OCEAN PARK
Irr.

© 1982 Barber L. Waters and Kenneth E. White

$\text{♩} = 56-60$

SHORT REFLECTION

"ABUNDANCE IN GOD'S PROVISION"

Texts: 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²One day a man from Baal-shalishah brought the man of God a sack of fresh grain and twenty loaves of barley bread made from the first grain of his harvest. Elisha said, "Give it to the people so they can eat."

⁴³"What?" his servant exclaimed. "Feed a hundred people with only this?"

But Elisha repeated, "Give it to the people so they can eat, for this is what the Lord says: Everyone will eat, and there will even be some left over!" ⁴⁴And when they gave it to the people, there was plenty for all and some left over, just as the Lord had promised.

John 6:1-13

After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following Him wherever He went, because they saw His miraculous signs as He healed the sick. Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with His disciples around Him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for Him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for He already knew what He was going to do.

Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"

Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward He did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. After everyone was full, Jesus told His disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Allow me to share with you the story of my aunt, who is a Pastor. At the time, she was serving as the Conference Minister, which meant she was not assigned to a specific congregation. One Sunday, she attended a church service. During the call to offering, she slowly reached into her wallet to prepare her offering. To her dismay, she found that she only had a single 500-peso bill. She began to worry, wondering how she would provide dinner and breakfast for her family the next day if she will give the money as an offering. She spent some time in deep reflection and prayer, wrestling with her doubt. Eventually, one of the offering ushers arrived and waited for her to collect her offering. Feeling a sense of shame at the thought of not giving, especially since she was known as a pastor and a Conference Minister, she placed the 500 pesos in the offering bag with a prayer that the Lord would provide for their needs.

Remarkably, when she returned home, she found food on the table. These provisions had been brought by members of the church who cared deeply for her and her family. The gifts included dishes, rice and even some cash. Overwhelmed with gratitude, she cried out, "THANK YOU LORD." The Lord had answered her prayers even before she had spoken them.

In our lives, we often seek to ensure the well-being of ourselves and our families. While it is prudent to secure enough resources for today and tomorrow, this concern can sometimes hinder our ministry. Our desire for security can make us hesitant to give and share, driven by the fear of scarcity. However, through the Scriptures, the Lord assures us that His blessings are abundant and sufficient for all.

The story reminds us to trust in the Lord's provision. Just as the man from Baal-shalishah and Philip doubted whether they could feed a multitude with limited food, we too sometimes doubt the impact of our small contributions. We forget that God can amplify both small and large acts of generosity to become great blessings for others.

Moreover, this reflection calls us to examine the intentions of our hearts when we share. True sharing involves not only the distribution of material goods and the use of our God-given talents and skills but also a deep respect and obedience to God's will to sustain all creation. It is crucial to remember that our efforts are in service to God, the ultimate source of all creation, rather than for our personal satisfaction.

Let us strive to enhance and share not only the physical resources God has entrusted to us but also the spiritual gifts God has given us. As stewards, may we be guided by these gifts to fulfill our divine mandate.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP

Please prepare the following symbols:

Cross – Symbol of Christian faith and a reminder of Christ's salvific grace.

Christ Candle – Symbol of Christ light and warmth in serving God's people.

Fresh Flowers – Symbolizes the beauty and abundance of God's creations.

Offering Baskets/Bags – Symbolize the act of giving back to God and supporting the work of the church.

Crops, Fruits and vegetables – symbolize God's provision.

UCCP Magna Carta and Constitution and By-Laws – Symbolizes our approach to nurturing the entire UCCP, here we can find our foundational principles, order, unity and responsibilities as a church.

UCCP Statement of Faith – represents how we strengthen our faith in God to be faithful stewards.

Fruit tree seedlings – symbolize our commitment to taking care of God's creation.

THE ACT OF GATHERING/ PREPARATION

WORDS FOR SILENT MEDITATION

*“When someone has been given much, much will be required in return;
and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”*

-Luke 12:48b

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL *(Symbols - Cross, Bible, Christ Candle, Flowers, Offering Baskets/Bags; The Worship Leaders – Preacher and Liturgist, choir)*

THE ACT OF PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Our God, the great Creator, has made all things perfectly.

People: God has made things perfectly and sustainably.

(UCM members will bring forward the Crops, Fruits, and Vegetables and raise them before the congregation)

UCM: God has made everything perfect so that through His creation, we are nourished.

(The symbols will be placed in the center accordingly)

People: Thanks be to God!

Liturgist: Not only are our physical bodies nourished by God’s creation, but also our character and faith.

People: Praise be to God for the church to which we belong, which becomes an instrument of God’s love and care in unity.

(CWA members will bring forward the UCCP Magna Carta and Constitution and By-Laws and raise them before the congregation)

CWA: Let us continue caring for God’s church by respecting our brothers and sisters and obeying our Magna Carta and the Constitution and By-Laws to maintain peace and order.

People: Praise be to God for the instrument of peace and order in God’s church.

Liturgist: As stewards of God, let us strengthen our faith so that we may serve effectively.

People: Let us be responsible stewards of the faith passed down by our foreparents and the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.

(CYAF members will bring forward the UCCP Statement of Faith and raise them before the congregation)

CYAF: Let us acknowledge our need to strengthen our faith. May this UCCP Statement of Faith be an instrument for us to deepen our understanding of the foundation of our faith.

People: Praise God for our faith in Him.

Liturgist: Above all, in the abundance provided by God, we are called to commit ourselves to a partnership in taking care of all creation.

(CYF members and Children will bring forward the fruit tree seedlings and raise them before the congregation)

CYF & Children: Let this symbolize our true commitment in serving God as His faithful stewards.

People: We are stewards of God, and we commit to being faithful in caring for His creation, encouraging sharing among one another, and being instruments of God’s provision to others, especially the least, the last, and the lost.

Liturgist: Come, let us worship our God!

†HYMN OF PRAISE

“O LET US PRAISE GOD” HFJ,6

Words: Danilo C. Sanchez; Eng. Transl.: Reuel Norman O. Marigza, 2002; Music: Eliseo M. Pajaro

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 *(Altogether)*

Almighty God, we come in worship today with hearts full of reverence for Your greatness and unfailing love. As we celebrate Stewardship Sunday, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from Your generous hand. We are thankful for the abundance You have provided us and the many ways You have blessed our lives. Lord, we pray for Your guidance in becoming faithful stewards of all that You have entrusted to us. Help us to use our time, talents, and treasures wisely, that we may serve You and further Your kingdom with joy and dedication. Continue blessing us as we carry on with our worship. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI

“GLORY TO THE CREATOR” HFJ#81

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: Even in our moments of doubt and fear, God’s love remains steadfast. Let us confess our sins, trusting in God’s mercy and grace to renew us.

HYMN OF CONFESSION *(Sung)*

“GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART ” CH,515

Words: Margaret J. Douroux

Music: Margaret J. Douroux; harm. Albert Denis Tessier

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee,
Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee,
For I’m not worthy of all these blessings,
Give me a clean heart and I’ll follow thee.

(Silence may be observed for personal reflection and prayer while soft music is being played.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Altogether*) **“ O GOD, THE ONLY SOURCE OF LIFE”** CH,650

O God, the only source of life and energy and wealth,
defend our planet earth.
Teach us to conserve and not to squander the riches of nature,
to use aright the heritage of former generations,
and to plan for the welfare of children’s children.
Renew our wonder, awaken our concern,
And make us better stewards and more careful tenants
of the world You lend us as our home.
Hear us, O Lord, our creator and redeemer,
in the name of Christ.

-Timothy Dudley-Smith, 20th-century British hymnwriter

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Brothers and sisters, God’s love and mercy is boundless and everlasting. Through Christ, we are forgiven and empowered to live as faithful stewards of grace and blessings. When we confess our shortcomings and fears, we are renewed and filled with the assurance of God’s provision.

HYMN RESPONSE

“GIVE THANKS” CH,528

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ his Son. **(Repeat)**

And now let the weak say “I am strong”
Let the poor say “I am rich”
Because of what the Lord has done for us **(Repeat)**

Give thanks.

PASSING OF PEACE

THE ACT OF INTERCESSION

CHURCH CONCERNS / COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER (*To be followed by reciting the Lord’s Prayer*)

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

"HEAR OUR PRAYER" HFJ#85

Psalm 134:1; Music: George Whelpton, 1987

Hear our prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,
Incline Your ear to us,
And grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN

"YOUR WORDS TO ME ARE LIFE AND HEALTH" CH,324 *1st & 2nd stanzas*

Words: George Currie Martin, c. 1920, alt.; Music: Thomas Este's *Whole Book of Psalms*, 1592

Your words to me are life and health; pour strength into my soul;
Enable, guide, and teach my heart to reach its perfect goal!

Your words to me are light and truth; from day to day they show
Their wisdom, passing earthly lore, as in their truth I grow.

FIRST READING

HYMN

"YOUR WORDS TO ME ARE LIFE AND HEALTH" CH#324 *3rd & 4th stanzas*

Words: George Currie Martin, c. 1920, alt.; Music: Thomas Este's *Whole Book of Psalms*, 1592

Your words to me are full of joy, of beauty, peace and grace,
From them I learn Your blessed will, through them I see Your face.

Your words You have fulfilled on earth, Yourself, the living Word;
Within my heart Your image print in clearest lines, O Lord.

SECOND READING (GOSPEL)

ANTHEM

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCCP Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE

In One God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.

That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history.

That in the Holy Spirit God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE

That persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.

That, by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they are redeemed in Jesus Christ.

That being entrusted with God's creation, they are called to participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.

WE BELIEVE

That the Church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

WE BELIEVE

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 gives assurance of life after death.

And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: As we gather today, we are reminded of God's abundant grace and faithfulness. In response to God's unwavering love and provision, we are called to be stewards of His blessings. Our offerings are a tangible expression of our gratitude and our commitment to God's work in the world. Let us give generously and joyfully, knowing that our gifts will support the mission and ministry of the church, bringing hope and love to those in need.

OFFERTORY HYMN

"TAKE MY GIFTS "

CH#381

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988

Music: Colin Gibson, 1988

Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because Your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered, from the tree Your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of Your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be,
Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me.

THE OFFERTORY *(Tithes, harvests, and talents are being offered as thanksgiving offerings)*

†DOXOLOGY

“PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”

HFJ,94 3rd stanza

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter,
One God, Triune, whom we adore.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Altogether)*

Generous God, we bring our offerings to You, acknowledging that all we have comes from Your hand. Just as You multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed the multitude, we ask that You would bless and multiply these gifts. Use them to spread Your love and grace to those in need, and to further Your kingdom here on earth. Help us to give not out of obligation, but out of a deep sense of gratitude for all You have provided. May these offerings be a symbol of our commitment to faithful stewardship. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN OF SERVICE

“FOR EACH DAY OF LIFE WE THANK YOU”

CH,605

Words: H. Glen Lanier, 1976, alt.; Music: Amos Pilsbury, 1799; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964

(While singing the hymn of service, the fruit tree seedlings will be distributed)

For each day of life we thank You, God, the giver of all days,
And with hearts filled with thanksgiving, we would serve You, now, always.

As in days of youthful vigor, may we in all later years
Know the joys of useful purpose, Free us from our anxious fears.

Give us dreams and inner vision of a new world to be gained,
Where all people live together, by each other's love sustained.

May the insights gained from living be a light upon the way,
Guiding us, and those to follow, to a brighter, better day.

Minister: These fruit tree seedlings are being offered as symbols of our commitment. Now, as we depart from this holy place, let us carry our commitment to be responsible stewards and fulfill what we have promised to God. Let us all plant these seedlings and take care of them until God's perfect time, when these trees will bear fruit, and we will all share in the harvest.

†CLOSING PRAYER (*Altogether or Minister only*)

Loving God, as we leave this place of worship, we go with the assurance that You will provide for all our needs. Help us to carry with us the lessons of faith and trust we have learned today. May our lives reflect Your abundant generosity, and may we share Your blessings with those we meet. Empower us to be faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us, and guide us to live in service to Your will. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE ACT OF COMMISSIONING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"GO IN PEACE" CH#445

Words: Barber L. Waters, 1982; Music: Kenneth E. White, 1982

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always
Celebrate and share the joy!
Celebrate new life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

POSTLUDE

RECESSIONAL

Sources:

Chalice Hymnal

Hymnal of a Faith Journey

Life Application Study Bible New Living Translation Second Edition

515

Give Me a Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

The first system of musical notation consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line in G major (one flat) and 8/8 time, with lyrics 'Give me a clean heart so I may serve'. The middle staff is the right-hand piano accompaniment, and the bottom staff is the left-hand piano accompaniment.

thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by

The second system of musical notation continues the piece with three staves. The vocal line has lyrics 'thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece with three staves. The vocal line has lyrics 'thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

WORDS: Margaret J. Douroux
MUSIC: Margaret J. Douroux; harm. Albert Denis Tessier

DOUROUX
Irr.

♩ = 56-60


NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "New Life in Christ". It consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time, with lyrics: "ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee." The middle staff is the right-hand piano accompaniment, and the bottom staff is the left-hand piano accompaniment. The music is written in a traditional hymn style with a simple, melodic vocal line and a supportive piano accompaniment.

Give Thanks

528

Unison 



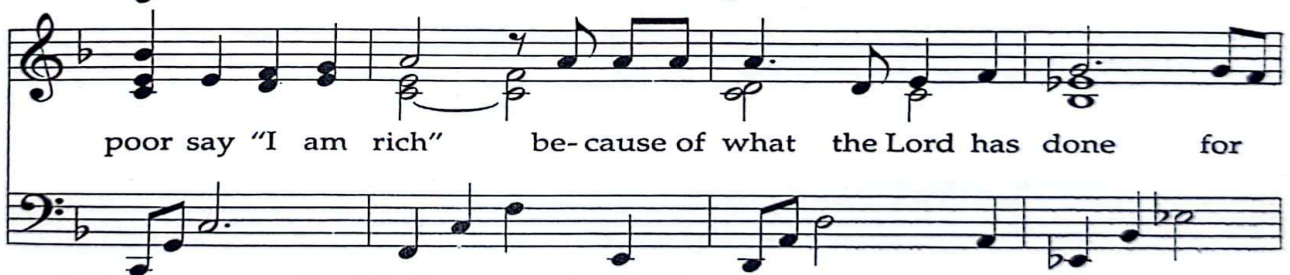
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give



thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give



Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the



poor say "I am rich" be-cause of what the Lord has done for



us And us. Give us. Give thanks!

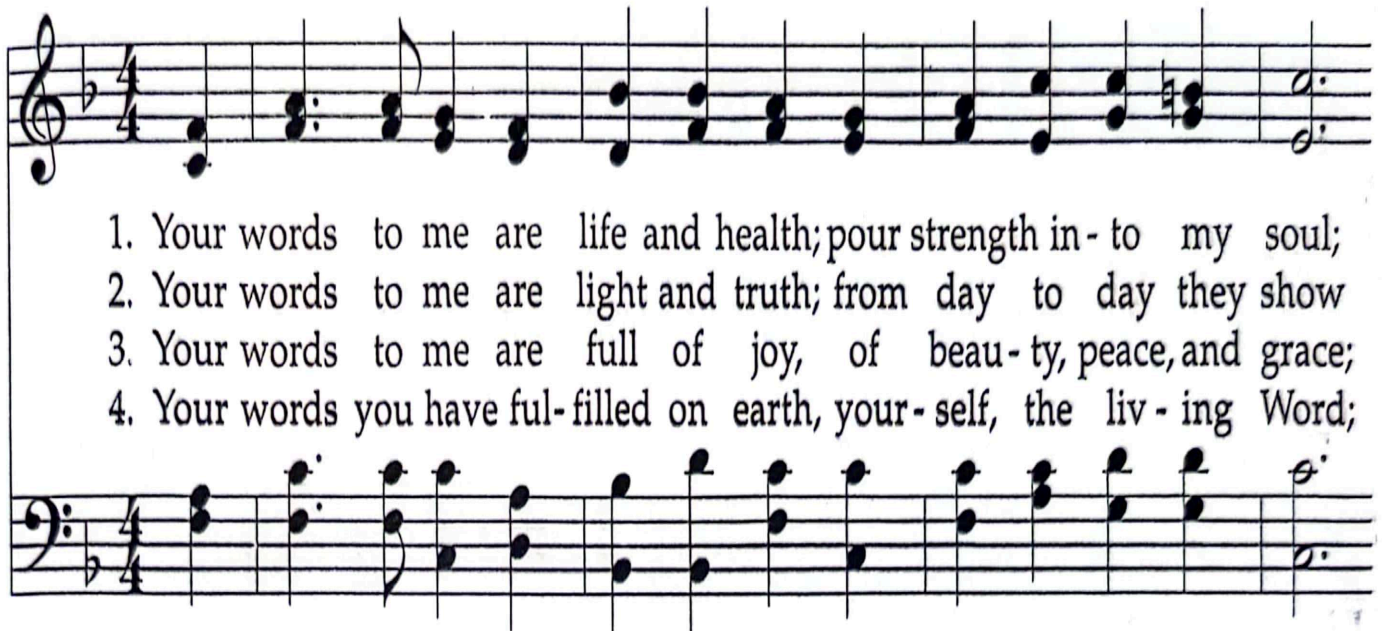
WORDS and MUSIC: Henry Smith, 1978

GIVE THANKS
Irr.

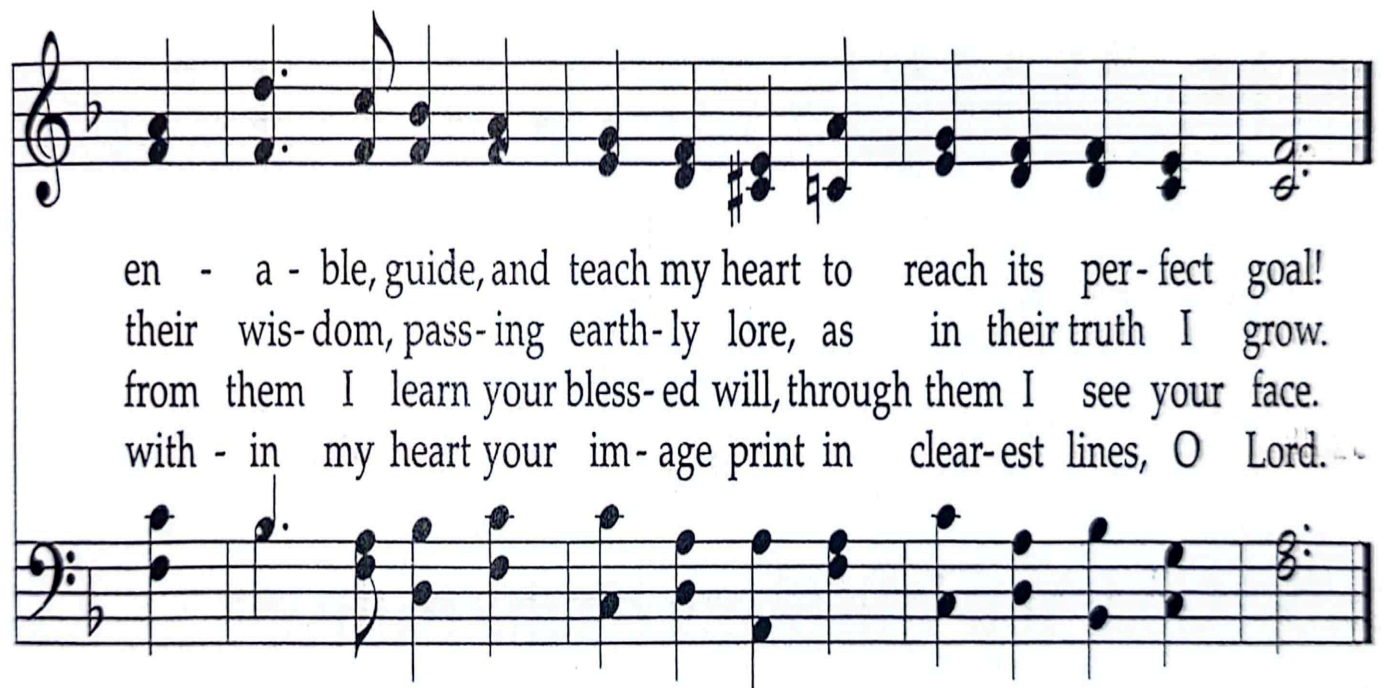
© 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; all rights reserved; used by permission

$\text{♩} = 60-68$

Your Words to Me Are Life and Health 324



1. Your words to me are life and health; pour strength in - to my soul;
2. Your words to me are light and truth; from day to day they show
3. Your words to me are full of joy, of beau - ty, peace, and grace;
4. Your words you have ful - filled on earth, your - self, the liv - ing Word;



en - a - ble, guide, and teach my heart to reach its per - fect goal!
their wis - dom, pass - ing earth - ly lore, as in their truth I grow.
from them I learn your bless - ed will, through them I see your face.
with - in my heart your im - age print in clear - est lines, O Lord.

WORDS: George Currie Martin, c. 1920, alt.
MUSIC: Thomas Este's *Whole Book of Psalms*, 1592

WINCHESTER OLD
CM

Take My Gifts

1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of
 2. Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your
 3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have

all loved me, gave me light and food and shel - ter,
 Spir - it sowed, har - vest of your own com - pas - sion,
 yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharp - en,

gave me life and set me free, now be - cause your
 juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with hu - mor,
 tal - ents of the hand and mind, things made beau - ti -

love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988
 MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1988

TALAVERA TERRACE
 87.87D

For Each Day of Life We Thank You 605

Unison

1. For each day of life we thank you, God, the
 2. As in days of youth-ful vig-or, may we
 3. Give us dreams and in-ner vi-sion of a
 4. May the in-sights gained from liv-ing be a

giv-er of all days; and with hearts filled
 in all lat-er years know the joys of
 new world to be gained, where all peo-ple
 light up-on the way, guid-ing us, and

with thanks-giv-ing, we would serve you, now, al-ways.
 use-ful pur-pose. Free us from our anx-ious fears.
 live to-geth-er, by each oth-er's love sus-tained.
 those to fol-low, to a bright-er, bet-ter day.

WORDS: H. Glen Lanier, 1976, alt.

MUSIC: Amos Pilsbury, 1799; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964

CHARLESTOWN

87.87

Words © 1976 The Hymn Society, used by permission of Hope Publishing Co.;
 harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

♩=116-126

Go in Peace

445

Unison mp



Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.



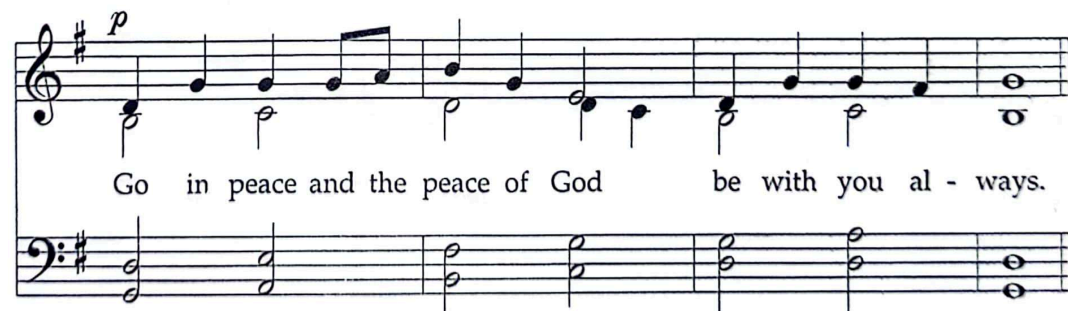
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

f



Cel - e - brate and share the joy! Cel - e - brate new life!

p



Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

WORDS: Barber L. Waters, 1982
MUSIC: Kenneth E. White, 1982

OCEAN PARK
Irr.

© 1982 Barber L. Waters and Kenneth E. White

$\text{♩} = 56-60$

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 July** for this ecclesiastical year 2024-2025 are prepared and designed by **Rev. Divillajyn Galvez Ursos**, an ordained Minister from **Bohol Conference, Inc. of West Visayas Jurisdiction**.

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