

**WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

MORNING PRAYER

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

Light font: spoken by one person

Bold font: spoken by all congregants

Opening

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.

The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who revere God,
and God's righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep the covenant
and remember to do God's commandments.

Bless the LORD, all creation,
in all places of God's dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. *(Psalm 103 excerpts)*

♪ Bless the Lord, my soul

Psalm 103:1

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Prayer of confession

Christ Jesus,
 We hear your invitation to follow you
 and we want to follow.

But, forgive us,
 when we do not go immediately,
 because we see that the road is uncertain, too rough and dangerous.

Forgive us,
 when we are reluctant to move forward,
 because of our fears and insecurities.

Forgive us,
 when we complain along the way,
 because we must give what we have
 more than what we receive,
 and to leave the comfort of our homes and friends.

Forgive us,
 when we lose our trust in your guidance,
 because we prefer the safety of the past
 and cling to what we already have,
 rather than open our arms to embrace
 new acquaintances and unfamiliar possibilities.

(Moment of silence.)

Holy One,
calm our fears,
strengthen our faith,
liberate us from selfishness and arrogance,
loosen our grip and enliven our feet. Amen.

Words of assurance

L: Sisters and brothers, listen to the good news:
 God strengthens the weak hands,
 and makes firm the feeble knees.
 God says to those who are of a fearful heart,
 "Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God.
 God will come and save you." (*Isaiah 35:3-4*)

C: **Thanks be to God.**

♪ ***Bless the Lord, my soul***

Psalm 103:1

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

[Please be seated.]

Prayer for illumination

Guide us, O God,
 by your Word and Spirit,
 that in your light we may see light,
 in your truth find freedom,
 and in your will discover your peace,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture reading Luke 6:12-26

¹² Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵ and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor,
 for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ ‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,
 for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,
 for you will laugh.

²² ‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward

is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ 'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ 'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

The Wisdom of God
God's word made new.

Meditation

♪ Sing praise to God for life

Bill (W.L.) Wallace, Aotearoa New Zealand (alt.)

Twende Sote (Kenya)

Voice

Sing praise to God, sing praise to God for life, for beau - ty, home and love, for
O - pen your eyes to see the works of God in ev - ery blade of grass, in
O - pen your heart and share the gift you have with those who are op - pressed, with

4
ten - der - ness and grace; sing praise to God sing
ev - ery hu - man face; o - pen your ears to
those who are a - lone. Reach out your hands and

6
praise to God for life. Sing praise un - to God, all the earth.
hear the cries of pain that rise from the poor and op - pressed.
gent - ly touch with Christ the world he com - mands us to love.

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Prayer of the people

Loving God,
as the rising sun chases away the night,
so you have scattered the power of death in the rising of Jesus Christ,
and you bring us all blessings in him.
Especially we thank you for
calling us to be the disciples of Christ ...
the community of faith in our church ...
those with whom we work or share common concerns ...
the diversity of your children ...

indications of your love at work in the world . . .
 those who work for peace, justice and reconciliation. . . .

God, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

Mighty God,

with the dawn of your love you reveal your victory
 over all that would destroy or harm,
 and you brighten the lives of all who need you.

Especially we pray for
 those persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ . . .

the victims of violence or warfare . . .

people hungry of righteousness . . .

the poor and the marginalized . . .

those isolated by sickness or sorrow . . .

the peoples and churches in Indian Ocean Islands:

Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles.

God, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

As you cause the sun to rise, O God,
 bring the light of Christ to dawn in our souls
 and dispel all darkness.

Give us grace to reflect Christ's glory;

and let his love show in our deeds,

his peace shine in our words,

and his healing in our touch,

that all may give him praise, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's prayer (in our various languages)

[*You may stand.*]

Enviado soy de Dios (Sent out in Jesus' name)

Cuba

En via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa - ra cons - truir con
Sent out in Je - sus' name, our hands are rea - dy now to make the earth a

él un mun - do fra - ter - nal. Los án - ge - les non son en - via - dos a cam -
place of jus - tice and sha - lom. The an gels can - not change a world of hurt and

biar el mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do de paz; me ha to - ca - do a
pain in to a world of love, of jus - tice and of peace. The task is ours to

mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad a - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
do; to set it free in - deed. O, help us to o - bey, and car ry out your will.

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Sending and blessing

Lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace. (*Ephesians 4:1-3*)

Let us go now with God's blessing:

May the God of love, who loves us freely,
strengthen our love for others;
may Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow him,
guide us to walk faithfully in the way of love;
may the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us,
sustain us with love and peace along the way;
May the blessing of the Triune God be always with us.
Amen.