

WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MORNING PRAYER

Wednesday, 15 May 2019

This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we are praying with and for the churches and people of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

[You may stand.]

Opening

From the East to the West,
from the North and the South,
all nations and peoples
bless the creator of creatures with a new blessing.
For he made the light of the sun rise today over the world.
O congregations of the righteous,
who glorify the Holy Trinity in the morning of light,
praise the Christ, the morning of peace,
together with the Father and the Spirit;
for he has made the light of his knowledge shine over us.

(Matins hymn, Armenian Sunrise Office)

♪ Sing praise to God

As taught by Dipika Simsung, Bangladesh

1. Sing praise to God, sing to the Cre - a - tor of the world, sing your
prais - es to him and wor - ship him.
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Arr., para. and tr. M.H. As taught by Dipika Simsung from the Church of Bangladesh at the 1993 CWM Council Meeting in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Psalm

Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
and gathers the outcasts of Israel.
**The Lord heals the broken-hearted,
and binds up their wounds.**

♪ *Sing praise to God (stanza 2)*

Open your eyes, see how merciful God is to you,
sing your praises to him and worship him. *(repeated)*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *(repeated)*

The Lord determines the number of the stars;
and gives to all of them their names.

**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
whose understanding is beyond measure.**

The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
but casts the wicked to the ground.

**Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.**

♪ *Sing praise to God (stanza 3)*

The sun and wind and the rain God fashioned for our good,
sing your praises to him and worship him. *(repeated)*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *(repeated)*

The Lord covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.

**The Lord gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.**

The Lord takes no delight in the strength of the horse,
nor pleasure in the speed of a runner;

**but the LORD takes pleasure in those who show God reverence,
in those who hope in God's steadfast love.** *(Psalm 147:1-11)*

♪ *Sing praise to God (stanza 4-5)*

Look at the wonder of all that God has made for us
sing your praises to him and worship him. *(repeated)*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *(repeated)*

God sent his only-begotten Son to save us all,
sing your praises to him and worship him. *(repeated)*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *(repeated)*

[Please be seated.]

Prayer for illumination

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.

Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.

Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.

Let my heart always welcome your love. Amen.

Scripture reading *Luke 6:27-42*

²⁷ ‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² ‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

³⁹ He also told them a parable: ‘Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck in your neighbour’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your neighbour, “Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye”, when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour’s eye.

The Wisdom of God
God’s word made new.

Silent reflection

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we call upon you in Jesus’ name.
 We come with empty hands.
 We have not been able to love our enemies.
 As a rule we have never even seen them.
 We have avoided them.
 When we saw them, we felt only fear and anger, not love.

So we come to you, not as the children of your love,
 but as the enemy of our enemies,
 beseeching you for ourselves and all the others.

Bless those who curse you,
 do good to those who hate you.
 Forgive us for what we have failed to do for our enemies.

Lead us out of the constriction of fear
 and out of the prison of hate,
 into the wide space of freedom.
 Let us see your sun,
 which rises upon the evil and the good,

and rejoice in its warmth, together with our enemies.

Amen.

(Jürgen Moltmann)

♪ When charity and love prevail (stanzas 1 to 3)

Ubi caritas et amor, 9th century

Paul Benoit

English: Omer Westendorf



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Where char - i - ty | and love pre - vail, | there God is ev - er found; | brought |
| 2. With grate ful joy | and ho - ly fear | God's char - it - ty we learn; | let |
| 3. For - give we now | each oth - er's faults | as we our faults con - fess; | and |
| 4. Let strife a - mong | us be un - known, | let all con - ten - tion cease; | be |
| 5. For love ex - cludes | no race or clan | that names the Sav - iour's name; | his |



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| here to - geth - er | by Christ's love, | by love are we thus bound. |
| us with heart and mind | and soul | now love God in re - turn. |
| let us love each oth - er | well | in Chris - tian ho - li - ness. |
| Christ the glo - ry that we | seek, | be ours Christ's ho - ly peace. |
| fam - i - ly em - brac - es | all | whose Fa - ther is the same. |

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Prayer of the people

God of all mercies, we praise you that you have brought us to this new day, brightening our lives with the dawn of promise and hope in Jesus Christ.

Especially we thank you for:

the warmth of sunlight, the wetness of rain and snow, and all that nourishes the earth . . .

the presence and power of your Spirit . . .

the support and encouragement we receive from others . . .

those who provide for public safety and well-being . . .

the mission of the church around the world. . . .

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, strengthen us in prayer that we may lift up the brokenness of this world for your healing, and share in the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Especially we pray for:

those in positions of authority over others . . .

the lonely and forgotten . . .

children without families or homes . . .

victims of oppression and marginalization . . .

agents of caring and relief . . .

the church and people in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our creator,
 yours is the morning and yours is the evening.
 Let Christ the sun of righteousness
 shine forever in our hearts
 and draw us to that light
 where you live in radiant glory.
 We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

The Lord's prayer (in our various languages)

[You may stand.]

♪ When charity and love prevail (stanzas 4 and 5)

Ubi caritas et amor, 9th century
 English: Omer Westendorf

Paul Benoit



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,	there God is ev - er found; brought
2. With grate ful joy and ho - ly fear	God's char - it - ty we learn; let
3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults	as we our faults con - fess; and
4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known,	let all con - ten - tion cease; be
5. For love ex - cludes no race or clan	that names the Sav - iour's name; his



here to - geth - er by Christ's love,	by love are we thus bound.
us with heart and mind and soul	now love God in re - turn.
let us love each oth - er well	in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
Christ the glo - ry that we seek,	be ours Christ's ho - ly peace.
fam - i - ly em - brac - es all	whose Fa - ther is the same.

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Sending and blessing

Christ has given us a commandment:
 that we love one another, as Christ has loved us
 and that we love our enemies.
 By this, everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples,
 if we share that love with the world.
 And through this love, all things will be made new.
 Let us do as Christ commands.

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
 Amen.**