

WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

OPENING WORSHIP

Thursday, 09 May 2019

Light font: spoken by one person

Bold font: spoken by all congregants

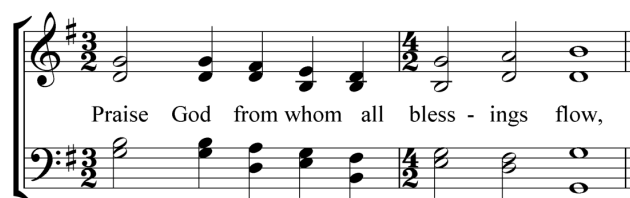
[You may stand.]

Call to worship

We lit this candle

as our thanksgiving ascends to God, Maker of heaven and earth,
who has gathered and united us in this place.

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**



We lit this candle

as a reminder of Jesus' affirmation
that we are the light of the world.

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

We lit this candle

as our commitment to seek shalom
is renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation!

Let us sing to the Lord with cheerful voice!

♪ ***Vous qui sur la terre habitez (All people that on earth do dwell)***

Roger Chapal d'après Théodore de Bèze

Octante-trois Pseaumes: Geneva 1551

1. Vous qui sur la terre ha - bi - tez,
1. All peo - ple that on earth dwell,
1. Nun jauchzt dem Her - ren al - le Welt,
1. Oh pue - blos to - dos a - la - bad,

chan - tez à plei - ne voix, chan - tez,
sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
kommt her, zu sei - nem Dienst euch stellt,
en al - ta voz a Dios can - tad,

Ré - jou - is - sez - vous au Sei - gneur,
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
kommt mit Froh - lok - ken, säu - met nicht,
re - go - ci - já - os en su ho - nor,

é - gay - ez - vous à son hon - neur.
come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
kommt vor sein hei - lig An - sicht.
ser - vid a - le - gres al Se - ñor.

2. Lui seul est notre souverain,
c'est lui qui nous fit de sa main:
nous le peuple qu'il mènera,
le troupeau qu'il rassemblera.

2. Erkennt, daß Gott ist unser Herr,
der uns erschaffen ihm zur Ehr,
Als guter Hirt ist er bereit
zu führen uns auf seine Weid.

3. Dans sa maison dès aujourd'hui,
tous présentez-vous devant lui:
célébrez son nom glorieux,
exaltez-le jusques aux cieux.

3. Die ihr nun wollet bei ihm sein,
kommt, geht zu seinen Toren ein
mit Loben durch der Psalmen Klang,
zu seinem Hause mit Gesang.

4. Pour toi, Seigneur, que notre amour
se renouvelle chaque jour:
ta bonté, ta fidélité
demeurent pour l'éternité.

4. Er ist voll Güt und Freundlichkeit,
voll Lieb und Treu zu jeder Zeit;
sein Gnade währet immer dort und hier
und seine Wahrheit für und für.

2. The Lord ye know is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us free,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

2. El soberano Creador
de nuestra vida es el autor;
el pueblo suyo somos ya,
rebaño que El pastoreará.

3. O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

3. A su santuario pues entrad,
y vuestras vidas ofrendad;
al nombre augusto dad loor,
que al mundo llena de esplendor.

4. For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood
and shall from age to age endure.

4. Incomparable es su bondad,
y para siempre su verdad;
de bienes colma nuestro ser
su gracia no ha de fenecer.

Français, Roger Chapal © 1970, Fédération Protestante de France, 47, Rue de Clichy, 75009 Paris.
English, William Kethe, 1560. Deutsch, Cornelius Becker, 1561-1604 und David Denicke (1603-1680). Español, Federico J. Pagura 1960.

Greeting

Peace, peace to you,
and peace from the one who helps you!

God is the one who helps you!

Peace, peace to you!

Let us share peace with one another!

[You may exchange a sign of peace by words and gestures from your countries.]

♪ Behold how good it is

Psalm 133

Stephen Pearson, USA

♩ = 120

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Be - hold how good it is when we live to- geth- er in u- ni -ty! Be- hold how good it is when we live to-geth- er in u- ni -ty! Like the pre- cious oil poured up on the head run -ning down the beard. Like the morn- ning dew, bles- sings flow to us through our un- ni - ty. (Be -) un- i - ty." The score includes various chords (Dm, F, C, Gm, Bb) and a repeat sign with first and second endings.

Be - hold how good it is when we live to- geth- er in u- ni -ty! Be-
hold how good it is when we live to-geth- er in u- ni -ty! Like the pre- cious oil
poured up on the head run -ning down the beard. Like the morn- ning dew,
bles- sings flow to us through our un- ni - ty. (Be -) un- i - ty.

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<http://www.psalmistry.com>

Prayer of thanksgiving

Gracious God,
we thank you for safely guiding us to this place.
Today we come to worship you

from a variety of backgrounds,
 from all walks of life, yet one in the Spirit.
 We humbly give thanks
 that you guided representatives of churches
 to gather as a communion of Reformed churches,
 to answer your call for unity as one body of Christ
 and to declare their commitment to walk and work together.
 Here we are now,
 with the same commitment and zeal,
 celebrating your steadfast love and never-ending mercy.
 Grace us with your presence,
 so that our fellowship with each other and our discussions
 may strengthen our endeavours to manifest the visible unity of your church
 and consolidate our bond of love for the goodness of your creation.
 Lead us with your light, so that we may become the light of the world.
 All glory and honour are yours, almighty God,
 forever and ever unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

Reamo leboga

♩. = 162

Trad. Botswana, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongue

Re - a - mo le - bo - ga, re - a - mo
 We give our thanks to God. We give our
 Mer - ci à toi Sei - gneur. Mer - ci à
 Wir dan - ken un - serm Gott. Wir dan - ken

Mo - le - bo - ga Mo -
 Our thanks to God. Our
 A toi Sei - gneur. A
 Wir dan - ken Gott. Wir

le - bo ga, re - a - mo le - bo - ga, mo - di - mo wa - ro - na.
 thanks to God. We give our thanks to God. We give our thanks to God.
 toi Sei - gneur. Mer - ci à toi Sei - gneur, nous te ren - dons grâ - ce.
 un - sem Gott. Wir dan - ken un - serm Gott. Der Dank gilt un - serm Gott.

le - bo - ga Mo - le - bo - ga, re - a - mo le - bo - ga.
 thanks to God. Our thanks to God. We give our thanks to God.
 toi Sei - gneur. A toi Sei - gneur, nous te ren - dons grâ - ce.
 dan - ken Gott. Wir dan - ken Gott. Der Dank gilt un - serm Gott.

As taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe, Botswana.

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[Please be seated.]

Prayer of confession

God of mercy,
 you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
 to reveal your love for all people.
 We confess that we often hide the brightness of your light
 when we forget how much you love us and our neighbours,
 when we ignore those in distress,
 when we treat others as inferior to us
 or as slaves without access to human rights,
 when we considers those who are different from us unworthy.
 Turn us to your light,
 so that each person might know they are loved by you.

♪ Ch'iu Chu lienmin women (Lord, have mercy on us)

1 *Slowly* ♩=72 I-to Loh: Taiwan

Ch'iu Chu lien - min wo-men. Ch'iu Chi-tu lien - min wo-men. Ch'iu Chu lien - min wo-men.
 Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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Jesus calls us to be the light of the world.
 to spread rays of life.
 We confess that we often hide the brightness of your light
 when we feel helpless facing the dark energy of the powerful ones in the world,
 when we are reluctant to seek peace and to strive for justice,
 when we are careless about the society and environment where we live in,
 when we love more those who are strong, respected, or popular,
 when we focus more on the differences that separate us
 than on our commonalities that unite us.
 Turn us to your light,
 so that we may be the beacon leading to you.

♪ Ch'iu Chu lienmin women (Lord, have mercy on us)

Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
 and baptize us once again with your Spirit,
 so that, as forgiven and renewed people,
 we may radiate the love and life of Jesus Christ
 into our world.

♪ Ch'iu Chu lienmin women (Lord, have mercy on us)***Words of assurance***

Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love;
 know that our sins have been forgiven.
 May we be strengthened in all goodness.
 Since we have been raised with Christ,
 let us seek the things that are above,

where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Thanks be to God; amen.

[You may stand.]

Gloria

Red Createe

Baião

C Gm7 C Gm7 C Gm7 C Gm7

Gló-ria, gló-ria a Deus nas al - tu - ras. Paz e jus - ti - ça en - tre nós.
Glo - ry, glo - ry to God in the high - est. peace and jus - tice a - mong us.

C Gm7 C Gm7 C Gm7 C

Gló-ria, gló-ria a Deus nas al - tu - ras. Paz e jus - ti - ça en - tre nós.
Glo - ry, glo - ry to God in the high - est. Peace and jus - tice a - mong us.

Cleide Olsson Schneider, Mauricio Klug de Oliveira, Soraya Heinrich Eberle, Horacio Vivares: 2016 Red Createe, São Leopoldo, Brazil.
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Prayer for illumination

Living God,
help us now to hear your holy Word with open hearts,
so that we may truly understand;
and, understanding,
that we may believe;
and, believing,
that we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honour and glory in all that we do.
Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen. *(Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531))*

Gospel reading **Matthew 5:1-16**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Wisdom of God
God's word made new.

[Please be seated.]

Sermon

Rev. Najla Kassab, President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches

♪ Christ be our light

Bernadette Farrell
Bm⁷

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for truth, we turn to
 2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for hope, man - y des -
 3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still

you. Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 pair. Your word a - lone has power to save us: make us your liv - ing voice.
 thirst. Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.

Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the dark - ness.

Christ be our light, shine in your church, gath - ered to - day.

4. Longing for shelter, people are homeless.
 Longing for warmth, many are cold.
 Make us your building, sheltering others,
 Walls made of living stone.
 Chorus

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
 Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 Making your kingdom come.
 Chorus

Prayer of the people

God, bless those who are in poor spirit,
 who feel empty inside and who dread the day.
Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless those who mourn and grieve,
 who ache with loss for someone so much loved.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless the people who are meek,
 who do not grasp or shout or demand to be first in the queue.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless the people who are hungry for justice
 and who cannot wait for everyone to have their rights.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless all who are merciful,
 who have learned to forgive even those who hurt them hard.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless all who are pure in heart,
 in whom there is no vengefulness, but only love.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless the peacemakers,
 the ones who, by their words and deeds, can change the world.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, bless the persecuted ones,
 and keep them safe from those who would hurt them.

Let your light shine in their hearts.

God, so rich in blessings for your children,
 we rejoice in your promises and in your boundless and transforming grace.

Let your light shine in our hearts.

(Susan Durber, with adaptation)

The Lord's prayer *(in the language of your choice)*

[You may stand.]

♪ ***This little light of mine***

African American Spiritual

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine,
 I'm gon - na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine,
 I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Every where I go ...

3. All through the night ...

Sending

You are the light of the world.

We are the light of the world.

Seek shalom for the city where you are placed!

**By the power of the Holy Spirit,
 we will manifest the reign of God among us.**

Blessing

The Lord who conquered darkness with light,
give peace to us.

The Lord who conquered death with life,
give peace to us.

The Lord who conquered hatred with love,
give peace to us.

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with kindness and give us peace.

Amen.

♪ Siyamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (We are marching in the light of God)

Zulu

South Africa



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwe - nkhos', si - ya -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are
 Kommt, wir wan - deln jetzt in Got - tes Licht, kommt wir
 Nous mar - chons dans la lum - ière de Dieu, nous mar -
 Ca - mi - ne - mos a la luz de Dios, ca - mi -



hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwe - nkhos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 march - ing in the light of God. We are march - ing in the
 wan - deln jetzt in Got - tes Licht. Kommt, wir wan - deln jetzt in
 chons dans la lum - ière de Dieu. Nous mar - chons dans la lum -
 ne - mos a la luz de Dios. Ca - mi - ne - mos a la



nyen' kwe - nkhos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwe - nkhos'. Si - ya
 light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God. We are
 Got - tes Licht, kommt wir wan - deln jetzt in Got - tes Licht. Kommt, wir
 ière de Dieu, nous mar chons dans la lum - ière de Dieu. Nous mar
 luz de Dios, ca - mi - ne - mos a la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -



ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, si - ya -
 march - ing, we are march - ing, we are
 wan - deln, kommt, wir wan - deln, kommt, wir
 chons, nous mar - chons, nous mar -
 ne - mos, ca - mi - ne - mos, ca - mi -



hamb' e - ku - kha nyen' kwe - nkhos'. Si - ya
 march - ing in the light of God. We are
 wan - deln jetzt in Got - tes Licht. Kommt, wir
 chons dans la lum - ière de Dieu. Nous mar -
 ne - mos a la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -



ham - ba, si - ya ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha nyen' kwe - nkhos'.
 march - ing, we are march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.
 wan - deln, kommt, wir wan - deln, kommt, wir wan - deln jetzt in Got - tes Licht.
 chons, nous mar - chons, nous mar - chons dans la lum - ière de Dieu.
 ne - mos, ca - mi - ne - mos, ca - mi - ne - mos a la luz de Dos.