# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Celebrating 60 years of the journeying together of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) is another significant milestone in the history of the ecumenical movement. Founded in 1957 at the Asian Church leaders' conference held in Parapat, Indonesia, CCA completes 60 years of its journey. The Parapat Conference in 1957 addressed the theme, "Our Common Evangelistic Tasks in Asia". For the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of CCA in 2017, we are together here in Yangon, in the midst of another major Asian ecumenical event, the Asia Mission Conference (AMC) and reflecting on the theme, "Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light, in Asia". As the AMC-2017 coincides with the Diamond Jubilee of CCA, it is a befitting time for Thanksgiving and celebration of the Diamond Jubilee.

It is gratifying that representatives of Asian and global churches and ecumenical mission organisations together with a large number of faithful members from Myanmar Churches are taking part in the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service and commemorative celebration. The gathering of a large number of friends and well-wishers, reminds us to be mindful that, "as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds". In other words, this is an occasion for revitalising the Asian ecumenical movement as CCA enters into another cycle of its ecumenical journey.

Every occasion for expressing our gratitude is also our chance to recollect and become more aware of what we possess, than what we don't. On this occasion, it is with profound thanks to God almighty that we praise God for showering His abundant blessings upon CCA during the past 60 years. The divine guidance enabled CCA to partake in God's mission on behalf of its member churches, councils and the wider ecumenical movement. The commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of CCA and the special occasion of the thanksgiving is also an opportunity for us to remember and recognise the contributions of all those who have initiated the planting of the seeds of CCA, which became the first Regional Ecumenical Organisation in the world, and all those who have subsequently laboured for watering it at every stage of its growth during the past 60 years.

As we commemorate, celebrate and rejoice now, "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms". (Psalm 95:2)

15 October 2017

Mathews George Chunakara General Secretary, CCA

# 60 Years of the Journeying Together: Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 15th October 2017

#### WELCOMING DANCE

#### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN **IEYE HO** (STB#39) ( = 100 ) Je-ye ho Je - ve \*Je-ye ho Je-ve ho ho -h0 Je - ve ho a -ho Je - ye ho a - ho ho ho ho Je-ye ho Fine

Je - ye Je - ye

ho.

Je- ve

Je - ve

ho

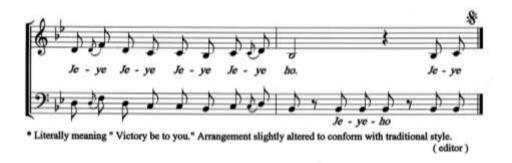
Je

- ye Je - ye

3

12199 Thee - ree - saam nee ham heiff aa - the. 1.We bow be - fore you, O great and ho - ly, 2.LORD let us see you, grant us vi - sion, а an - the ham hein 1.0 great and ho - ly 2.Grant us a vi - sion. 1 12 Ø PLTT Char - no heiñ me shi - ish na - va - the. We bow our heads to you great and ho - ly. Sins and de - ni - als, dear LORD, for-give us, Shi - ish na-va - the. O great and ho - ly, Dear LORD, for-give us, Je - ye Je - ye the - ri ham heiñ ga - the Je - ye Je - ye the - ri Hum-bly at your feet we bow in qui - et rev-erence; then we sing your prais-es, Gath-er us and keep us un-derstrong pro-tec - tion; safe - ly in your pres-ence ham heiñ ga - the. Je - ye Je - ye Je - ye Je - ye ho al ways re-peat - ing. we sing your prais - es.

4



Words: Anonymous; tr. Katherine R. Rohrbough Music: JEYE HO, Traditional Hindhi melody, India, (probably arr. by Victor Sherring)

Psalm 18:1-6

## **REMEMBERING THE SOURCE OF LIFE**

#### Moderator:

In the beginning, when no life existed, God caused the mist to rise from the earth to water the whole face of the ground;

General Secretary:

and there was life...

Creator of all Life, you brought life into being, and pronounced it good, all life that you brought into the world are good. Enable us to grow in you as the plant grows. Enable Christian Conference of Asia to grow in your guidance and mercy as the journey continues for your glory, and help the CCA and its member constituencies to be prophetic witnesses to the truth and light in Asia.

#### Vice Moderator:

Creator God, you inspired the Asian church leaders 60 years ago to be your witnesses to the truth and life in Asia's diverse ethnic, religious and cultural contexts.

All: God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace, we beseech your divine grace for CCA's ongoing ministry as a Regional Ecumenical Organisation of churches and ecumenical councils spread around Iran in West Asia to Japan

# in East Asia; from Nepal in the North to New Zealand in the South.

Programme Committee Moderator:

Jesus brought hope through his death on the cross and there was life.

All: Almighty God, we are thankful, for Your ineffable love towards us to these ungrateful and unworthy servants, and for the sacrifice on the Cross of Your only begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, and for the gifts of Your all Holy Good and Life-giving Spirit.

Treasurer:

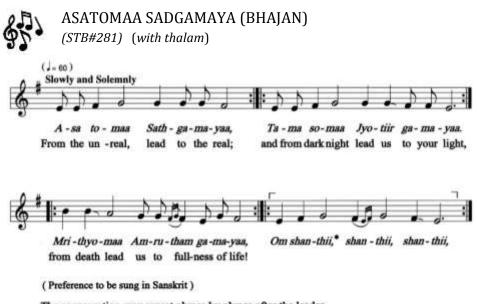
When humans rely on their own might, and injustice ruins the whole creation, despair and darkness pervade in lives and communities.

All: No one can put together what has crumbled into dust, but You can restore a conscience turned to ashes. You can restore to its former beauty a soul lost and without hope.
With You, there is nothing that cannot be redeemed. Thou art love; Thou art Creator and Redeemer. We praise Thee.

(Akathist of Thanksgiving, Antiochian Orthodox prayer)

Youth Representative:

We beseech your blessings for the Spirit of God to lead us to the path of righteousness, and to be witnesses of the truth and light in Asia as we are journeying together.



The congregation may repeat phrase by phrase after the leader.

meaning "peace".

# WITNESSING OUR CALL

- Leader : "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling..."
- All : "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."
- Leader : Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. (Mk. 16:15)
- All : How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' (Is. 52:7)
- Leader : 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. (Lk.2:10)
- All : For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith... (Rom.1:16)

Leader : "It is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem..." (Luke 24:46-47)

All : "Lord, make us to be witnesses to the truth and light, in Asia".

- Leader : O God, at Pentecost you have poured out upon all people the gift of the Holy Spirit and instituted the Language of Pentecost called Love.
- All : Today as we gather as one people from every part of Asia, and from several other parts of the world, we pray to you, in the language of our hearts, and we trust that you will hear and answer us.
- Leader : O God! Let all people praise you. (Ps. 67:3)
- All : Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- Leader : Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
- All : As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

# HYMN



Nvanvikanlah Psalm 148; Tilly Lubis, Indonesia traditional Batak melody, Toba, Indonesia Para, Rolando S. Tinio 1-44 1.Nya-nyi-kan-lah nya nyi an ba ru ba gi Al-lah, Pen-cip ta ca- krawa - la. Se -1.Sing the Lord a new song and praise his whole cre-a-tion, the earth and heavens a - bove; all - la se - ra - fim ke - ru- bim, pu- ji- lah Di- a be- sar- kan- lah Na- ma- Nya. 12.0 a - phim will praise him with all the hosts of cher-u - bim join - ning voi-ces in praise. ser-Ber-so-rak so -rai ba-gi Ra - ja-mu! Ber-so- rak so- rai ba-gi Ra - ja-mu! Great is his name, sing his praise and re - joice; great is his name, sing his praise and re - joice.

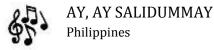
- Praise the LORD in heaven, O sun and moon and planets, adore unceasingly now;
   O stars that glimmer with silver light, illuminate your Creator with beaming praise.
   Great is your Maker, rejoice in his name; great is your Maker, rejoice in his name.
- 3. Kings and princes, rulers in all the world and judges and sages and magistrates; young men and maidens, old men and women and the children who make the people of God, offer him thanks, you are blessed of all, offer him thanks, you are blessed of all.
- 4. All creation, join in the praise of your Creator, resound the joy of the world, sing glory in the highest and let the clouds forever announce a thundering praise. Sing alleluia, rejoice in our King! Sing alleluia, rejoice in our King!

## GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S MARVELOUS WORKS IN CCA

Prayer 1: God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed the Christian Conference of Asia .

As the Christian Conference of Asia completes its 60 years of journey and celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, grant your gifts of love and joy as CCA continues its journey in faithful obedience to you.

We remember your goodness and faithfulness during the past 60 years of the life of CCA, enabling CCA as a regional ecumenical organisation to be your witness in Asia through your servants, all those who have laboured in your vineyard in the past years through CCA's ministry, and we remember all those who have gone before us and joined the clouds of many witnesses.

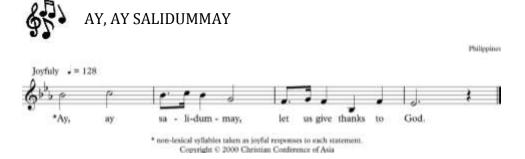




Prayer 2: Eternal God, We thank you for bringing us today from far and near to celebrate and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Christian Conference of Asia. We thank you for this day of thanksgiving;

> We thank you for the life and for opportunity to remember the journey of the Christian Conference of Asia over the past 60 years; We thank you for your grace and mercies, the rich experiences, promises and guidance you have given all these years;

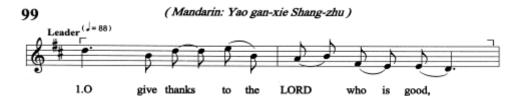
We thank you for the mission and ministry of CCA, for our links and rich relationships within this fellowship and outside, and the witness of the member Churches, and Councils, all the Units and Agencies.



Leader: We give you thanks for the legacy of Christian Conference of Asia. For the members of the Presidium of CCA in the past years, General Secretaries, staff of various programme units and areas, member churches and councils, and ecumenical partners who accompanied CCA in its ministry during these sixty years of its life, and all those who have labored for the cause of the Gospel, unity, and wider service to witness to your name.



# O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WHO IS GOOD Psalm 136:1, Taiwan





Words: Psalm 136:1; Music: Amis melody, Taiwan

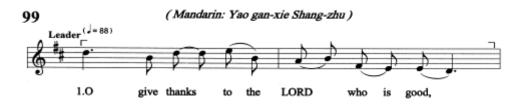
Leader: We remember our former leaders of CCA and former staff of CCA who provided leadership for CCA during the past six decades and who have gone before us :Former General Secretaries : Rev. D. T. Niles, Dr. U Kyaw Tan, Dr. Feliciano Carino,

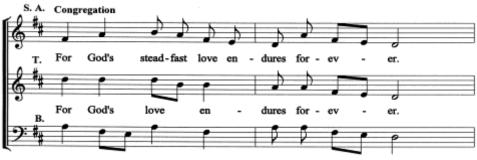
> Former Associate General Secretaries: Mathew S Ogawa, Rev. Harry F. Daniel, Rev. Ron O Grady, Bishop A George Ninan, Rev. Toshitsugu Arai,

> Former members of the Presidium and other officers: Rt. Rev. Enrique C. Sobrepena, Dr. D. G. Mosess, Dr. I. Omura, Rev. S. Marantika, Mr. U Tin Tin, Dr. Kang Won Yong, Dr. T.B. Sumatupang, Ms. Jurgetta Honculada, Bishop Keith Rayner, Dr. S. M Chowdhury, Rev. Prakai Notawase, Ms. Margaret Rodgers.

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# O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WHO IS GOOD





Words: Psalm 136:1; Music: Amis melody, Taiwan

We remember our former staff members: Rev. Alan Brash, Rev. Harvey L Perkins, Samuel M. Isaac, Oh Jae Shik, Frans Tumiwa, T.K Thomas, Dorotehey Harvey, Fred Karat, Clement John, Dr. Lourdino A Yuzon, Dr. V. Benjamin, Rev. Kenichi Otsu, Peter Yawata,

Ecumenical partners who have supported and accompanied CCA during the past six decades ; Rev. Dr. Vissert Hooft, Rev. Dr. Charles Ransom, Rev. Dr. Philip Potter, Rev. Dr. Emilio Castro, Rev. Larry Tankersley, Rhea Whitehead, Mr. Ad Mook;

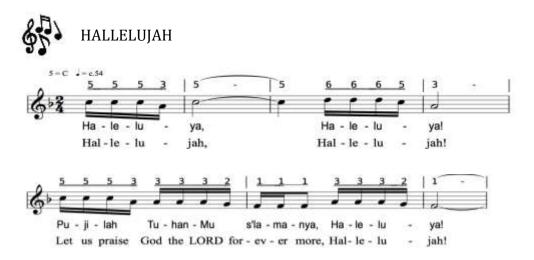




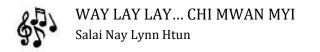


Leader: We give you thanks for the continuing work under the current leadership and through partners from before as well as those with recent ties.

For the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and General Secretary, members of the Executive Committee and advisory committees, staff;



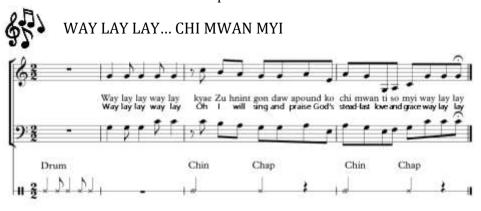
Leader: We remember with thankfulness to all our partners in mission in Asia and several other parts of the world who have been supporting and accompanying CCA, especially we remember the World Council of Churches.





\*Way lay lay way lay , I will sing and praise all His attributes and Grace, way lay lay.

Leader : We give you thanks for all places of learning. For our schools, our colleges, and our universities. For all theological seminaries, Bible schools, mission training centres; For all who teach and inspire all to learn.



\*Way lay lay way lay , I will sing and praise all His attributes and Grace, way lay lay.

- Leader : We give you thanks and praises for our partnership with for all that has been productive and generous in our life together. For the faithful witnesses of all your people and for the joy that awaits us.
- All : Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Great and glorious God, with joy, we offer you thanksgiving for all your love, today and down the ages:

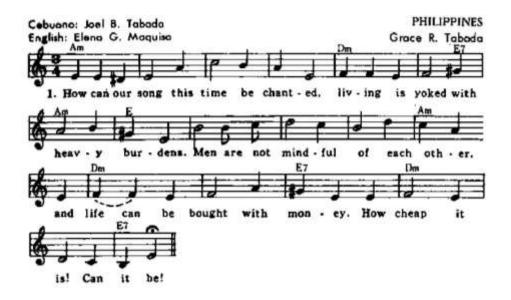
By your grace implant within us a reverence for every gift that comes from you and serve you with joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **REMEMBERING OUR FAILURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Leader : Eternal God, in 1957 at the Parapat Conference of Asian Church Leaders, the leaders of our church reaffirmed their commitments and stated, "we cannot rationalise our failure to witness.
  The Church's economic poverty is no excuse, nor can we invoke the existence of a national political situation to avoid Church's responsibility. We who plant the seeds cannot question the state of the soil's preparation. Only God do this. He sends us, all of us who are members of His Church, to witness and to mission".
- All : Merciful God, we the successive generations failed at many times to respond to your call to witness and mission. How can we come before you with our worship and praises when we failed ?
- Leader : Loving God, in Parapat our ancestors affirmed, "the witness to which we are called is God's tremendous dream for us. Yet, His plans for us will fail in our doxology, if we limit our witness within the walls of the Church. Merciful God, How can we come before you with our worship and praises when we often failed to witness beyond the walls? When many millions of people in Asia are yoked with heavy burdens, as they have been denied of their human dignity; crying for help, the poor are bought with money. Forgive our insensitivity, silence oppression and tyranny amidst us.



HOW CAN OUR SONG THIS TIME BE CHANTED [Stanza 1]

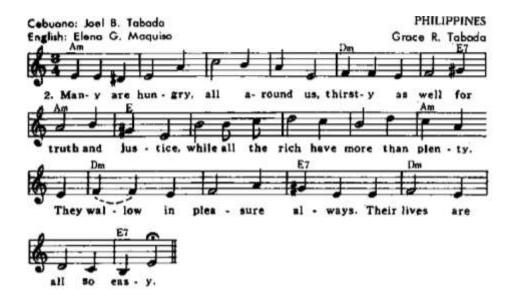


Leader : Many around us are hungry and thirsty; more than physical hunger and thirst;

They are hungry and thirsty for truth, and peace with justice.



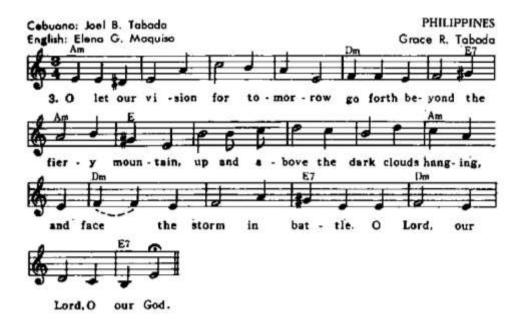
HOW CAN OUR SONG THIS TIME BE CHANTED [Stanza 2]



Leader : Mighty God, you have shown us such love, and stretched out your arms to draw us into your embrace. Yet we so often fail to show that love within our lives. or recognise its source. Forgive our short-sightedness, often, we've failed to see the plight of our neighbours, their longing for a shoulder to cry on, we were reluctant to extend love to strangers in our midst. Forgive us for failing to remember how much you cared for us in our vulnerability.



HOW CAN OUR SONG THIS TIME BE CHANTED [Stanza 3]



#### ABSOLUTION

Lead: (Takes the water kept on the altar and says)

Water is a symbol of God's life-giving, purifying and sanctifying activity. Jesus said: If anyone is thirsty let him/her come to me; whoever believes in me, let him/her drink, and become a fountain of living water. Upon your confession repenting for your sins, may the Lord cleanse you and sanctify you through this water and grant you peace. Amen.

(The leader assisted by a few will take the water to the people and sprinkle on the people while the choir sings the Refrain)

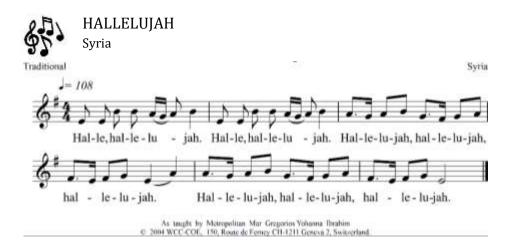


HOW CAN OUR SONG THIS TIME BE CHANTED [Refrain]



#### **SONG BY CHOIR 1: EINDAW**

#### SCRIPTURE READING



#### SCRIPTURE READING

## Acts 1. 1-8

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

#### Mathew 28.20b

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

# MESSAGE OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Soritua Nababan

#### SONG BY CHOIR 2: YUDATAN

## **CONFESSING OUR FAITH**

Leader : As members of the Christian Church,

All : We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God, who is the Creator of the whole world and proclaim him Lord and Saviour of the world, who is journeying together with us in this world in the Holy Spirit.

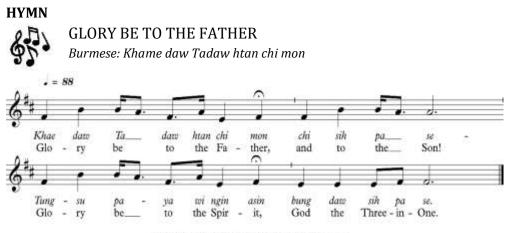
> We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and one another and with God's creations.

We acclaim, Christ is the Son of God, born of a woman,

lived, and suffered on earth to set us free. Through Baptism into Christ, we enter into newness of life and we are made one with the whole people of God. In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service, journeying together with all people irrespective of colour, creed, caste, language, or nation, with Pentecostal experience. In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ. At the table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ, in his coming to make us all his children.

Within the universal church, we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture. in the bonds of Christian faith, we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose Kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory, and honour be to God forever. A-men



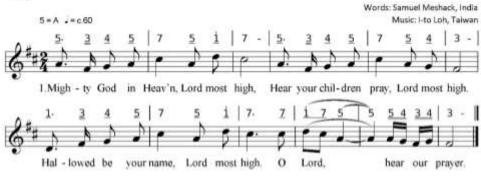
Words: Traditional, Burmese, tr. Sang Maung; Myanmar Music: Karen tune, Myanmar Copyright © 2000 Christian Conference of Asia

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# PRAYING FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE

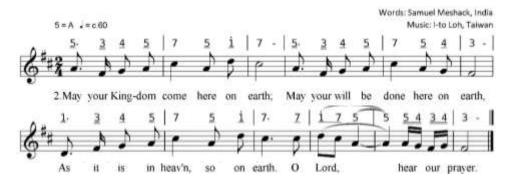


MIGHTY GOD IN HEAVEN Stanza 1



- Leader : Almighty God in Heaven, in the quietness of our lives we come before you to praise you and honour you for your faithfulness in leading the Christian Conference of Asia in its commitment for a wider ecumenism to journey together with the people of Asia. Hallowed be your name in all that we are and all that we do; hallowed be your name for your goodness and faithfulness in the life and witness of CCA.
- All : Hear your children as we pray that the Churches in Asia may journey together for prophetic witness to bring positive transformations in social, political, economic, religious and ecological arenas in Asia towards a collective search for strengthening our common goal of mission and witness in Asia.", that it may give us a sure vision of your coming Kingdom here on earth. O Lord, hear our prayer.





- Leader : Our Heavenly Parent God, We thank you for the unity and witness you have given us through Christian Conference of Asia to call you Abba remembering your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ's High Priestly prayers, "That they all may be one." Hold your Church in your embracing arms to stand firm in Unity for the sake of your Gospel to be manifested in the lives and witness of our Churches in Asia.
- All : O Lord, Giver of all good gifts to your children, we ask for your forgiveness for our insensitivity to the cries of the people. We have not been mindful of their sufferings due to poverty, loneliness, sickness, oppression. Open our ears to hear the cries of the people and open our eyes to see the sufferings and oppressions of people and enable us to journey together with a prophetic accompaniment to help them released from their clutches of oppression and deprivation. Enable us to make the world know that you are the provider of every good gift from above, O Lord, hear our prayer.



MIGHTY GOD IN HEAVEN

Stanza 3



Leader : Lord, while thanking you for your manifold blessings and gifts of our churches, councils, and ecumenical and mission organisations and those partnering with us in your Mission through the ministry of CCA. We do seek your forgiveness for our insensitivity in witnessing to your Word. We turn our thoughts to the world beyond these walls of our Churches, Councils and Mission agencies. In the face of injustice, catastrophe, corruption, sickness and death, we too easily forget the fairness, stability; honesty, health and life enjoyed by peoples the world over. Grant us the eye to see the good in everyone, to see God in everyone. For we hold to the goodness of your creation, and the desire for good in every human heart; and the promise of reign of God, and the power that is love, offered to us freely in Jesus of Nazareth, lead us in your way, make us strong.





Leader : Dear Lord Jesus, we know that your call never comes to us in a vacuum but in the circumstances of our daily encounters. As CCA is looking into the need for increased ecumenical cooperation and journeying together by ecclesial, ecumenical and mission partners in a spirit of mutual solidarity, our responses cannot be given in the privacy of our own minds, but it must overflow into our daily lives. Teach us to serve others with greater coherence and coordination in the knowledge that those actions of ours that advance the true progress of the Church and the world are our way of saying 'Yes' to your call."

We commit all the participants representing various international and regional ecumenical and mission organisations, ecclesiastical and confessional bodies. We remember and praying for all those ecumenical bodies closely associating with, including World Council of Churches (WCC), Federation of the Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA), National Christian Councils in Asia, Council for World Mission (CWM), World Methodist Council (WMC), Young Men's/Women's Christian Associations YMCA/YWCA, World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), International Fellowship of the Least Coin (IFLC), Asian Women's Conference Christian (ACWC), Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia (FTESEA), Association of Christian Institutes for Social Concern in Asia (ACISCA), Asian Migrant Centre (AMC). Make us strong in our Ecumenical conviction to journey together to witness to you to stand firm with our commitment and dedication to serve you.

All: You are the originator of every gift, O Lord. Take our lives and gift and let them be used to honour your name. Yes Lord, we are yours. And hear our prayers...





# **DEDICATION AND SENDING FORTH**

Leader : God honours faith – stubborn faith.

God is the architect, we are construction labourers.

As the carrier of God's ark of covenant

let us journey together, with the faith to march with faith and courage.

Faith in God will move ahead, trusting God to fulfil his promises Like wise sailors living a life of faith, let us launch our ships into the deep;

We will find that all things are 'possible with God.' (Lk.18:27) And "everything is possible for him who believes." (Mk.9:23) As Ambassadors of Christ in serving Him through CCA, journeying together,

we dedicate ourselves to attempt great things for God, taking His faith to believe

and expect great things from God in our Journey together with Christ in our vessel.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**



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Words: Shirley Erena Murray, New Zealand, 2009 Music: Lim Swee Hong (林瑞峰), Singapore, 2009 All rights reserved, Used by permission.

#### **BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL:**

Leader : Let us go with Jesus, the light who guides us on our Journey May our hope be that the Sun of Justice will rise one morning on all humankind.

May the God of Peace, our constant companion,

lead us along paths of solidarity and hope;

and give us the joy of being united in God's love. Amen.



Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636, trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, all. Music: Johann Cräger, 1647; harm. Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelsohn-Bartholdy, 1840

#### **RECESSIONAL MUSIC**



BA NI NYETI BA YAWE Let Us Praise the Lord Our God

Cameroon melody

