

Asia Sunday 2010

Called to Prophesy, Reconcile and Heal



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Table of Contents

Invitation to Celebrate

Dr. Prawate Khid-Arn

Introduction to the Theme of Asia Sunday 2010

Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park

Sermon & Bible Studies

Worship in Unity

Suggested Liturgy for Asia Sunday 2010

General Assembly Songs and Hymns

Invitation to Celebrate Asia Sunday 2010

Welcome to Asia Sunday 2010!

Every year, a Sunday is designated where churches and ecumenical organizations are invited to be more aware of the great diversity of local situations and challenges, and to realize that they are co-workers in God's mission. That day marks the commemoration of the birth of the Christian Conference of Asia, the then East Asia Christian Conference, on 24th May 1959. In 1974, the **Asia Sunday** was created to celebrate this special event.

The **Asia Sunday** is a yearly call to all churches in Asia where pulpits are exchanged and worship services are arranged ahead of time. The celebration usually falls on the Sunday before Pentecost. In 2010 we celebrate Asia Sunday on the 16th of May. This is a time for member churches to pray for each other; to realize that they are neighbors; and to strive for the unity of the Church.

The theme for 2010 focuses on "Called to Prophesy, Reconcile and Heal." It is the same theme of the 13th CCA General Assembly which will be held this year. We realize that it is an appropriate theme and has to be reflected upon and wrestled with in light of complex and conflicting Asian realities. God's call to people to prophesy, reconcile and to be a healing community is a tremendous challenge and a call to a costly discipleship. The theme is a reminder as well as a call to the churches in Asia to respond to God's call and engage in prophetic, reconciling and healing ministries without counting the cost. CCA therefore encourage member churches, councils, ecumenical organizations and friends to observe this day and pray especially for the people, to share their burden and to join them in their call to prophesy, reconcile and heal.

We humbly request you to set aside one Sunday in your church calendar to express solidarity with the people and churches in Asia. If the 16th of May 2010 is not possible for your church, please consider choosing another Sunday on your calendar.

We encourage and request CCA member churches and national councils to translate this material into your local languages or dialects and to disseminate this widely to your local churches. After your celebration, please share with us a short summary and some photos so we can also share these with the rest of the CCA constituencies.

We have prepared the liturgical resources, reflections, stories and prayers. It is available at the CCA website (www.cca.org.hk) in PDF format. It can be downloaded and adapted according to different contexts and needs of the churches.

CCA prays and looks forward to a fruitful and meaningful Asia Sunday celebration with you all.

Dr. Prawate Khid-arn General Secretary

Introduction to the Theme of Asia Sunday 2010

This year's Asia Sunday is planned to celebrate according to the 13th General Assembly theme of Christian Conference of Asia, "CALLED TO PROPHESY, RECONCILE AND HEAL".

Asia Sunday is a call to celebration of the years of life together that CCA member churches and councils have committed themselves to. While celebrating the founding of CCA, which dates back to May 1959 - to that time as EACC (East Asia Christian Conference) and later in June 1973 renamed to CCA (Christian Conference of Asia) -, Asia Sunday is also a call for honest reflection on our committed life towards the call to live and work as instruments of God in God's Mission (*Missio Dei*).

The theme, "Called to Prophesy, Reconcile and Heal" reflects the constant need to recognize and celebrate our human nature as being created in the Image of God (*Imago Dei*). That is, to recall and re-emphasize the way of living together as we are being created to. It also reflects the reality of our brokenness. We are not living the conditions, we ought to live. The theme itself is calling for engagement towards prophesying and working for reconciliation and healing. All these endeavors can be regarded as the mission, as a whole. However, if we recognize mission as an existential calling and vocation, we cannot disregard the spirituality through which all these things gains its power and endurance. Celebration of worship means in the same time the celebration of our given human nature, which is to live in communion with one another, to share and to love one another. Through common worship liturgies according to the church year or special occasions, we can celebrate the Christian unity. This will give us the guidance and the

strength to work for the wider unity and communion of the whole creation. As for the understanding of unity in one; in Christ's body, there cannot be any self satisfaction that we have done enough for Shalom in the world. Still there are many communities in the world suffering from unjust conditions and destructive circumstances. We can observe a huge spectrum of different conditions and circumstances in the Asian context. From 'firstworld-countries', to countries, that do not even seem to be fit enough to be put to the category of the 'third-world-countries', where the conditions do not even allow imaginations, unless you have witnessed the sorrow and grief and the miserable conditions the people 'over there' are forced to bear. Unrests, political instability and poverty seem to be the long-term agenda and ever-lasting emerging issues in the Asian context. Having suffered from a colonial past of exploitation, annihilation and domination, we still observe severe traces and still open wounds of that burdened past. Many conflicts lay many years behind - even up to centuries. But the tension and agony are still visible and/or become even more, when certain issues arise and awakes the consciousness and memory of the people. In the Asian context, situation of violent conflicts, even war situations are still vivid

While in some developed countries people call for diet and well-being food to control their consumption of nutrition and calories, many Asian countries still suffer from starvation. While many developed countries worry about exploding global population, in many Asian countries parents lose their children, even before they can consciously recognize their parents. These and many more other issues are calling for serious attention and prophetic

Introduction to the Theme of Asia Sunday 2010

ministries of the churches.

In the worship, where we celebrate Asia Sunday 2010, within a liturgical frame, we are gifted with a time of repentance that we have not done enough towards the well-being of all human beings and creation. We did not raise strong and loud enough our prophetic voices.

While naming, addressing and unmasking of unjust conditions and powers and principalities, we have to take the further step, as well. We are called to embrace and accommodate all human beings and the whole creation. The "new creation" through reconciliation, given by God's grace (2 Cor. 5: 17-19) embraces *all* human beings. Both victims and wrongdoers have been called to be "new beings" and to stand in a qualitatively new relationship to God, as well as to one another.

Being mindful that Reconciliation is a God given grace towards the human being, in order to reconcile us with God, we cannot go without the concept of the ethical dimensions of reconciliation, since we also have to deal with human relationships. Therefore we need to bring up the courage to face the painful memories of the past and everything related to it. In order to reveal the truth and let justice prevail on these. There are many situations, where revealing the truth can be a very hard and painful task. It is in the heart of our mission to accompany those who suffer from, or neglect the truth. It is our mission to bring up the courage and follow the call to raise our voices to tell the truth and proclaim that reconciliation goes beyond judgment and punishment. Reconciliation, however, does not overrun justice. But it is the first step to re-establish relationships through patient healing. Being invited and inviting others to a totally new relationship with God, where God calls every human being righteous through God's grace, we do not judge according to the flesh, but dare to take the long and hard way of building new relationships.

This is what we want to celebrate in an eschatological sense through celebrating worship on "Asia Sunday".

The celebration of Asia Sunday 2010, shall lead us all in reviving the commitment of Asian Churches towards God's Mission. Being aware of the demands and needs of our neighbors, we cannot claim to be only the recipients, nor the donor. We are all in the One Body of Jesus Christ, where all limitations and concepts of reciprocities are transcended by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Grace and Guidance and Protection of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, now and evermore! Amen.

For the CCA Asia Sunday Team:

Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park Joint Executive Secretary Faith, Mission and Unity

Sermon & Bible Studies Asia Sunday 2010

Isaiah 43:18-21¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 4:16-21 ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the

oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Revelation 21:1-6 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Worship in Unity Asia Sunday 2010

Call to Worship

I look to the mountains; where will my help come from? My help will come from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let you fall; your protector is always awake. The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps. The LORD will guard you; he is by your side to protect you. The sun will not hurt you during the day, nor the moon during the night. The LORD will protect you from all danger; he will keep you safe. He will protect you as you come and go now and forever. (Psalm 121)

Opening Song: As the deer

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you. You along are my heart desire and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength my shield To you alone my spirit yield You alone are my hearts desire and I long to worship you

Your're my friend and You are my brother, Even though You are a king I love you more than any other So much more than anything

I want you more than gold and silver Only You can satisfy You alone are the real joy giver And apple of my eye

Prayer in Intersession:

Leader: Longing for your Words, longing for your kindness, longing for life of eternity, we gathered here together to worship you, LORD.

Community: We praise you LORD, with our heart.

Kyrie Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Kyrie Eleison (You can use another short hymn or keep a moment of silence)

Leader: *Come* to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. (Mt. 11:28)

Community: Praise the LORD, you heavenly beings; praise his glory and power.

Kyrie Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Kyrie Eleison (You can use another short hymn or keep a moment of silence)

Leader: Listen to my prayer, O LORD, and hear my cry for help!

Community: To you, O Lord, I offer my prayer; in you, my God, I trust.

Kyrie Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Kyrie Eleison (You can use another short hymn or keep a moment of silence)

Scripture Reading: suggestion of scripts

Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Or:

Worship in Unity

Asia Sunday 2010

Isaiah 61:1-4

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Or:

Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Sharing / Reflection

Song: "My Peace I Give Unto You"

My peace I give unto you It's a peace that the world cannot give It's a peace that the world cannot understand Peace to give, peace to love My peace I give unto you

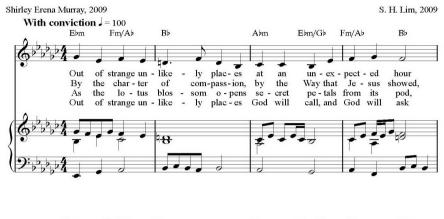
My love I give unto you It's a love that the world cannot give It's a live that the world cannot understand Love to give, love to love My love I give unto you

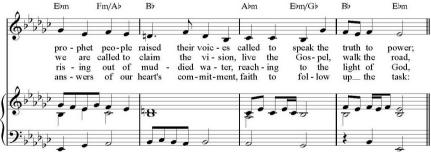
My joy I give unto you It's a joy that the world cannot give It's joy that the world cannot understand Joy to give, joy to love My joy I give unto you

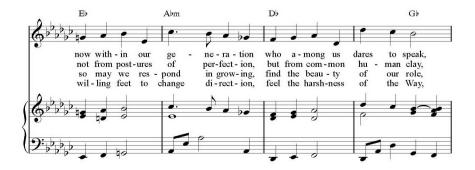
LORD's Prayer / Benediction

Asia Sunday 2010

Out of Strange Unlikely Places









© 2009, Shirley Erena Murray (lyrics) and Lim Swee Hong (music).

Asia Sunday 2010

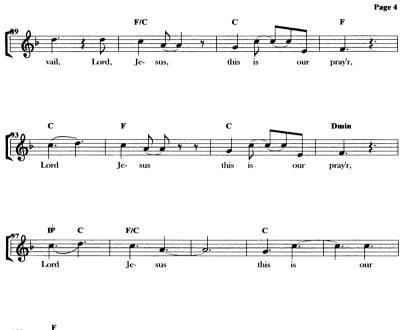




Asia Sunday 2010



Songs & Hymns



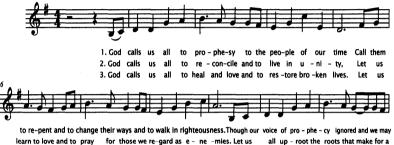


Asia Sunday 2010

God Calls Us All

Luna L Dingavan

Pearl Dingayan



learn to love and to pray for those we re-gard as e - ne -mies. Let us all up - root the roots that make for a break the walls of hosti - li - ties that di -vide communi - ties. Let us build commu-ni-ties of peace where God's



live in pain or die. God our hope of ge - nuine peace and life un-to us al - ways a - bide. con - flict to e - xist. Let our lives be changed and be re-newed by the grace of God of peace. love and jus - tice reign. Let us come and ce -le - brate our life and God's love that makes us whole.

> ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY **Baguio City, PHILIPPINES** Luna & Pearl, October 31, 2009

Asia Sunday 2010 Committee of Christian Conference of Asia:

Dr. Prawate Khid-arn General Secretary

Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park Joint Executive Secretary, FMU

Rev. Freddy de Alwis Joint Executive Secretary, JID

Ms. Moumita Biswas Joint Executive Secretary, EGY

May we all have a meaningful Asia Sunday!

Rev. Dr. Sungkook Park Joint Executive Secretary Faith, Mission & Unity



Logo: The orange figure with outstretched and embracing arms symbolizes the act of reaching out to heal and to reconcile. The grey wave at the bottom is the breath of God symbolizing God's call to prophesy. Taken together, the logo presents the assembly's theme: *Called to Prophesy, Reconcile and Heal.*