



Christian Conference of Asia

Asia Sunday

12 May 2024

**Myanmar: God of Hope,
Fill Us with Joy and Peace**





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God of Hope, Fill Us with
Joy and Peace'**

CCA General Secretary's Introduction

Asia Sunday–2024

'Myanmar: God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and Peace'

(Romans 15:13, Psalm 29:11)

The Asia Sunday–2024 will be observed with a focus on the theme, 'Myanmar: God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and Peace'. The ongoing conflict in Myanmar has crossed three tumultuous years, since the military there staged a coup on 1 February 2021. The Myanmar military has been carrying out brutal crackdowns across the country on millions of people opposed to its rule. The military forces are responsible for mass killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, sexual violence, and other abuses that amount to crimes against humanity. The atrocities perpetrated by the military have resulted in numerous war crimes against ethnic minority populations in Kachin, Karen, Karenni, and Shan States.

The Myanmar military has long defied international calls for accountability, including answering for atrocities against the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities. The military junta's mismanagement of the economy since the coup has heightened the sufferings of millions of people in the country. Since the military coup, Myanmar has experienced a decline in several areas including living standards of people, health care, education, law and order, and the economy. People are undergoing various forms of oppression by the military including the unjust killing and arrest of innocent individuals in rural areas. The aggressive aerial bombardment targeting areas with ethnic armed groups engaged in resistance against the military, as well as refugee camps and worship places, have increased in recent times. However, the vulnerable situation experienced by those who live inside Myanmar and those who have fled the country has neither been covered by the media nor received adequate global attention.

The plight of the people of Myanmar has reached alarming levels, with nearly 2.6 million people forced to flee their homes due to violence and persecution. Recent actions by the military regime, including plans to conscript thousands of young people into military service, further exacerbate the crisis and threaten the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Myanmar. The military order introduced last month, purportedly activating the 2010 People's Military Service Law, which aims to conscript 5,000 individuals per month starting from April 2024, is a matter of serious concern. The situation has become dire for millions of people in the country.

Myanmar faces a humanitarian crisis due to food shortages, malnutrition, unemployment, lack of basic necessities for life, and ever-increasing inflation. As the people of Myanmar endure hardships beyond measure, we urge the international community to extend all forms of assistance to Myanmar and pray fervently for a swift resolution to this severe conflict.

The Bible reminds us of our call to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and to seek justice for the marginalised. In Isaiah 58:6–7, we are called to “loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke...to share your food with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter”. As followers of Christ, we are called to embody God's love and compassion in our actions, standing alongside those who suffer and advocating for their rights and dignity. The suffering of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar cries out to heaven for justice, and we cannot any more remain indifferent to their plight. As international aid agencies struggle to reach affected populations, it is local volunteers and community-based charity groups that take life-threatening risks to deliver aid. We must mobilise our resources, our prayers, and our voices to advocate for an end to violence and oppression and support efforts towards a peaceful, swift, and just resolution to the conflict.

As we pray to the Lord Almighty in line with our theme for this year's Asia Sunday: “Myanmar’: God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and

Peace” (Romans 15:13), we are reminded that God is the source of our hope. In a world filled with hopelessness and despair, Paul reminds us that God is both the source and the sustainer of our hope. Paul walked through many difficult situations in his life, but in whatever condition he was in, he never lost hope. Even during the challenges he faced in prison or during his missionary journey, he never lost hope in an unfailing God. Paul’s description of God as the “God of Hope” signifies that even when the future seems uncertain and unpredictable, God’s steadfast love and faithfulness will keep our minds in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3). Hope inspires confidence in the goodness and sovereignty of God. This is what the Psalmist also reminds us when he declares that our God who governs the thunder and the storm, is capable of supporting and preserving his people during dreadful storms and tumults, at times of crises and in all other dangers posed by their enemies. God assures his people that he will strengthen and fortify them against every evil force, and they shall be made strong in their weakness, and vulnerabilities. In other words, the Lord’s assurance prompts his amazing power to protect His people and to save them from danger. We trust in this Lord who will bless His people with peace. Here is what God proclaims through the Prophet Ezekiel: “I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods”. (Ezekiel 34:25–27).

Myanmar has been under brutal military rule for more than six decades. People from all walks of life now want to see an end to the horror of military rule, and they pray for the end of the dictatorship. As the people of Myanmar live in the most vulnerable situations where their human rights and human dignity are totally negated, they look for solace and solidarity from everywhere. Let us heed the call to solidarity and compassion for the people of Myanmar. Let us lift our voices in prayer, seeking God’s guidance and intervention in this time of great need: ‘God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and Peace’ (Romans 15:13).

May the observance of Asia Sunday–2024 be a moment for us to refocus international attention and resources towards preventing atrocities, and ending the conflict in Myanmar. As churches in Asia, let us extend all forms of assistance and support to our brothers and sisters in Myanmar, and let our collective prayers be a source of strength and hope amidst the darkness. Let us raise our voices to advocate with governments for the ending of the Myanmar military’s access to arms, jet fuel, and foreign currency that perpetuates the oppression of the people. Let our solidarity with the people of Myanmar be a tangible expression of God’s love and compassion amid darkness and despair.



Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA

Asia Sunday 2024

'Myanmar: God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and Peace'

(Romans 15:13, Psalm 29:11)

Order of Worship

Gathering

Silent Meditation

The Grain is Ripe: The Harvest Comes

(Shirley E. Murray, New Zealand)

"The work of peace is all for all,
Face turned to face in open trust,
All famine gone and thirst and bleeding,
The harvest comes from love's good seeding."

Sounding of the Bells

Preparation

Call to Worship

Leader: Gathered as people of Asia, we are all invited to pray
For an end to violence and conflicts, for dialogue to
commence

**People: We unite our hearts in prayer and supplication
To intercede for the people and country of
Myanmar**

Leader: As we utter prayers and sing hymns in this service,
Let us remember those who endured the pains of
war and suffering

**People: With hearts humble and pure, we will pray
unceasingly
And journey in solidarity with the people of
Myanmar
Towards peace, reconciliation, and conflict
transformation**

Leader: Come, let us follow Jesus Christ—the Way, Truth,
and Life
The Prince of Peace, and exemplar in our efforts for
reconciliation

**People: Come, let us follow Jesus Christ—the Resurrection
and Life
Who brings us from darkness to light, from death
to life eternal!**

The Procession of Symbols

*(The symbols—Bible, flowers, a lighted candle, a bowl of rice,
etc.—are brought to the worship space. A further explanation
of the relevance of these symbols is provided in the Preparatory
Notes.)*

♪ Hymn Happy Are Those Following Jesus Christ

(Burmese: Kridaw nauh laih thu mya tha)

Happy Are Those Following Jesus Christ

(Burmese: Kridaw nauh laih thu mya tha)

Congregation repeats after the leader. (♩ = 76)



1. Kri - daw nauh laih thu mya tha piaw de seh laih ciah zoh,
 2. Ye - shu saka mya hman pa ih youñ ci lañ piah leih me,
 1. Hap - py are those fol - low - ing Je - sus, the Son of God,
 2. Let us fol - low Je - sus Christ, he will show us the Truth.
 3. Joy - ful are those fol - low - ing Je - sus, the Son of God,



Ye - shu lañ hmañ hpa hpa - ya htañ toa jah zoh le,
 pengiat daw hpa hpa ya sa ka mya tu jah hlah thi,
 let us fol - low, let us fol - low our Sav - ior Christ;
 Truth is his Word, Truth is his Word, be - lieve his Word;
 life a - bun - dant, life a - bun - dant his prom - ise is;



Htaora Hp'ya hsi yauh hpoh yañ Ye - shu Kri - daw htañ,
 laih me le a hmañ Hp'ya doh ke tñ Pahn ashñ,
 for Je - sus is the Way, on - ly Way to God,
 for Je - sus is the Truth, God's own Truth di - vine,
 for Je - sus is the Life, giv - er of all life,



doh aa louñ laih ciah zoh la Kri - daw a chi moañ youñ ci,
 apyit mya hkoeñ hñt nañ pa ih do mya ih a - shñ hp'ya tha,
 if we know the Christ, the Son, we will know the Fa - ther God;
 when we know the Truth of God, we will not be slaves to sin,
 he's our Mas - ter and our King, he's our Sav - ior and our friend,



myet ta pe ciah lyeh doh t'twe Kri - daw nauh ko laih ciah zoh le.
 a mahn hmoañ lñ se ih dohka taya we da na piah kin leih me.
 let us all fol - low Christ, love him, trust him, praise him through our lives.
 his Truth will set us free from all bond - age, dark - ness and all sins.
 los - ing our life for him, we will sure - ly find e - ter - nal life.

U Lin Sein, trans. Sang Maung; para. Maria Lim
 NAUH LAIH THU MYA; U Lin Sein (Myanmar)

Lighting of the Candles

(The small candles placed near the map of Myanmar are lit.)

Litany of Invocation

- L: God, you are hope and wellspring of peace
Amid the long days of pain and suffering
- P: Your healing presence, we invite in our midst
Lead us to the way of reconciliation and peace**
- L: God, you urge us to build peace
Among the rubble of violence and hatred
- P: Your healing presence, we invite in our midst
Lead us to the way of reconciliation and peace**
- L: God, you ignite the fire of compassion and solidarity
Amid the chaos and hunger for power, status, and privilege
- P: Your healing presence, we invite in our midst
Lead us to the way of reconciliation and peace**

Psalm 34

- L: "I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
- P: I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**
- L: Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- P: I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.**
- L: Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame,
- P: This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.**
- L: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who
fear him, and he delivers them.
- P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.**

L: The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

P: **The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.**

L: He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

P: **The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned."**

♪ Hymn **God of the Bible, God in the Gospel**
(Theme Song, CCA General Assembly, 1996)

1. God of the Bi - ble, God in the Gos - pel, hope seen in Je - sus,
2. God in our strug - gles, God in our hun - ger, suf - fer - ing with us,
3. Those without sta - tus, those who are noth - ing, you have made roy - al,
4. Not by your fing - er, not by your ang - er, will our world ord - er
5. Hope we must car - ry, shin - ing and cer - tain through all our tur - moil,

hope yet to come, you are our cen - ter, day - light or dark - ness,
tak - ing our part, still you em - power us, moth - er - ing Spir - it,
gift - ed with rights, cho - sen as part - ners, mid - wives of jus - tice,
change in a day, but by your peo - ple, fear - less and faith - ful,
ter - ror and loss, bond - ing us glad - ly, one to the oth - er,

rit. free - dom or pri - son, you are our home. Fresh as the morn - ing,
feed - ing, sus - tain - ing, from your own heart.
birth - ing new sys - tems, light - ing new lights.
small pa - per lan - terns, light - ing the way.
till our world chang - es, fac - ing the Cross.

Drum *Simile*

Simile

rit. **Refrain**



sure as the sun - rise, God, al-ways faith - ful, you do not change.

Words by Shirley E Murray, New Zealand
 Music by CLOMBO; I-to Loh, Taiwan

Prayer

L: Faithful God of the Bible and our present times,
 You are our stronghold, refuge, and help.
 We give you praise and glorify your holy name,
 For You have journeyed with the people through ages.
 From their struggles, challenges, and sufferings
 You have led them to freedom and life abundant,
 Grant, we pray, to abide with us continually.
 We seek your guidance and help in our need,
 For Myanmar, the country and its citizens.
 We lift to you our united prayers and praises,
 As one people of Asia, we express our hopes,
 For the end of wars, dispute, hatred, and violence,
 That all may live in peace and harmony. Amen.

**♪ P: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
 God, always faithful, you do not change.**



Refrain
 Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise, God, al-ways faith - ful, you do not change.

Act of Confession (with Witnesses)


Voice 1: Human rights are violated and people's lives are in danger every single day. Airstrikes and ground attacks are done against villages, schools, medical clinics, and public offices. As villagers flee to make-shift camps in the jungle or mountains, the number of internally displaced people in Myanmar has risen to millions since the coup began.

God, show your mercy upon us, we have been indifferent to the needs of the people in Myanmar who are facing struggles daily. We chose to be apathetic to the situations of the people in Myanmar whose rights are trampled upon by those who bear authority and power. We have closed our eyes, covered our ears and have chosen not to speak on their behalf.

Forgive us, O God.

♪ Response: O Lord, Your mercy show

(♩ = 48)
(For the first two lines, the congregation repeats after the leader.)



Xin Chu - a thuong xot chung con.
O Lord, Your mer - cy show,


Voice 2: In the midst of the socio-political turmoil, educated professionals and activists took to the streets in a non-violent civil disobedience movement. Thousands of civilians have been arrested and detained.

God, show your mercy upon us, we opted not to express concern and solidarity with those who stood for the right to genuine democracy, peace and human security. We have closed our eyes, covered our ears and have chosen not to speak on their behalf.

Forgive us, O God.

♪ Response: O Lord, Your mercy show

(♩ = 48)
(For the first two lines, the congregation repeats after the leader.)



Xin Chu - a thuong xot chung con.
O Lord, Your mer - cy show,

Voice 3: As part of the civil disobedience movement, teachers, university professors, doctors, nurses, lawyers, and government workers went on strike and chose to leave their jobs. Because of this, most children have not attended school. What would be the future of Myanmar if a generation of kids cannot attend school for years? Children are deprived of a safe and liveable community and their right to education is violated.

God, show your mercy upon us, we have been unconcerned with the plight of the people in Myanmar and the welfare of the youth and children, and the future of the nation, as a whole. We have closed our eyes, covered our ears and have chosen not to speak on their behalf.

Forgive us, O God.

♪ **Response: O Lord, Your mercy show**

(♩ = 48)
(For the first two lines, the congregation repeats after the leader.)

Xin Chu - a thuong xot chung con.
O Lord, Your mer - cy show,


Voice 4: Food shortages are imminent throughout Myanmar. Rice fields are burned and rice storage facilities are destroyed, thus worsening the food security situation.

God, show your mercy upon us, we have looked away from the pains and sufferings of the people of Myanmar who are in need of basic commodities to survive their daily living. We have closed our eyes, covered our ears and have chosen not to speak on their behalf.

Forgive us, O God.

♪ **Response: O Lord, Your mercy show**

(For the first two lines, the congregation repeats after the leader.)



Xin Chu - a thuong xot chung con.
O Lord, Your mer - cy show,

Voice 5: Christians have encountered greater violence and tighter restrictions. Many have been killed and churches have been indiscriminately attacked, even well-established churches in predominantly Christian states. More Christians than ever have been driven out of their homes and have found refuge in churches or camps for internally displaced people. Some are even forced to flee to the jungle where they are often deprived of access to food and healthcare.

God, show your mercy upon us, we are filled with apathy and disinterest for our fellow Christians in Myanmar. We failed to pay attention to their struggles in the midst of wars and violence. We have closed our eyes, covered our ears and have chosen not to speak on their behalf.

Forgive us, O God.

♪ **Response: O Lord, Your mercy show,
O Jesus Christ, Your mercy show,
O Lord, Your mercy show,
O Lord, Your mercy show.**

(♩ = 48)
 (For the first two lines, the congregation repeats after the leader.)



Xin Chu - a thuong xot chung con.
 O Lord, Your mer - cy show,



Xin Chu - a Ki - to thuong xot chung con,
 O Je - sus Christ, Your mer - cy show,



Xin Chu - a thuong xot chung con, Xin
 O Lord, Your mer - cy show, O



Chu - a thuong xot chung con.
 Lord, Your mer - cy show.

Assurance of God's Love and Mercy

- L: May God open our eyes to see the realities and grant us fresh eyes to find ways to assist in their situations.
 May God uncover our ears to hear the cries and pleas, and grant us new ears to listen to the suffering amid war and chaos.
 May God enable us to speak without fear and hesitation, and grant us new voices to amplify those muted by trauma and anxiety.
 May God's love and healing mercies liberate us from apathy and indifference to the plight of the people of Myanmar,
 To those who endure daily suffering, persecution, and violence.

P: Amen.
God's love renews us. God's love enables us.
God's love encourages us to bring forth peace
in Myanmar, and in those places experiencing
conflicts in the world.

Prayer*

L: Lord Jesus Christ, our God, you are the Source of life and peace in heaven and on earth,
pour out the grace of your peace on a world
troubled by war and hatred.

Extinguish the differences and enmity between humans
and pour into the hearts of all humility,
peace, and goodness. Calm those who are fighting
and give them wisdom.

Give help to the suffering, protection to the refugees or
homeless, comfort to the alienated
and sorrowful, and give us all the will and strength to
help, with all our hearts, our brothers
and sisters who suffer from war.

You said: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be
called children of God. Teach us to seek
to acquire peace of heart and peace among peoples,
for, in the heart in which peace is found,
there is no longer enmity, love of dominion or fear,
but the consolation of the Holy Spirit,
love of God and love of our neighbours.

For this we humbly pray to You, O Christ our God, for
peace in Myanmar, for peace among
peoples, and for the welfare of the whole world,
that we may live in harmony and may work without
hindrance in ways that are pleasing to You, glorifying the
philanthropic love of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit, now and for all time to come. Amen.

* Adapted from prayers for peace for inclusion in the Great Litany, by Patriarch Daniel of the Romanian Orthodox Church (2022) <https://shorturl.at/MTWY5>

‘Myanmar: God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and Peace’

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29:7

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Psalms 34:17–18

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:1, 27

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God,
believe also in me.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not
give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them
be afraid.

Homily: ‘God of Hope, Fill Us with Joy and Peace’ (Romans 15:13)

♪ Hymn

From the Bible

(♩ = 88)

Phra - kham - phui sawn hai rao ruu jak
 From the Bi - ble we learn God's will.

1.rak seung kan lae kan, rak seung kan lae kan, rak seung kan lae kan.
2.baeng hai kan lae kan, baeng hai kan lae kan, baeng hai kan lae kan.
 1.Give each oth - er love, give each oth - er love, give each oth - er love.
 2.Share the gifts of God, share the gifts of God, share the gifts of God.
 3.Of - fer help to all, of - fer help to all, of - fer help to all.

Affirmation of Faith

L: We believe in God who struggles and journeys with the people and creation.
 The God whose infinite power and majesty rules over the heavens and the earth.

We believe in God who liberates all from bondage, suffering, and oppression.
 The God whose compassion and solidarity transcend the boundaries and limits imposed by this world.


We believe in God who edifies and sustains all who aspire and dream of abundant life.
 The God who has prepared for all to share and enjoy the abundance of the whole universe.

We believe in the Triune God whose revelation and presence are manifest from ages to ages.
 The God who accompanies us on the paths toward peace, justice, and abundant life for all.

Intercession

♪ R: **God of region and of world, for our land now we pray,
humbly seek your blessing, Our God.**

(♩ = 72)



Lei cung kan Boi le kham tu toi dor in kan in nawl toi dor in thla kan cam Bawi Pa.
God of region and of world, for our land now we pray, humbly seek your blessing, Our God.

Voice 1: O God,

We pray for the violence to end and for peace
to prevail in Myanmar.

Remember your people struggling in the land
torn by conflict.

We pray that essential aid will reach people in need.

Voice 2: We pray you would help and guide children in
Myanmar to learn well and flourish.

We pray in solidarity with the minority Christian
population in Myanmar.

We pray for all churches as they support their
communities.

Voice 1: We pray for restoration of democracy and for
God's peace, justice and righteousness to be
established in Myanmar.

We pray, O God, guide the leaders in Myanmar
to open paths of dialogue
that will reconcile, heal, unite, and build anew
the nation of Myanmar.

L: God,


We give you thanks and praise for your never-
ending love offered to us.

We ask you grant your mercy to the nation and people
of Myanmar, that sadness may turn into joy, aggression
into amity, despair into hope, and anxiety into calm,
that the people may be reconciled.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

♪ R: **God of region and of world, for our land now we pray,
humbly seek your blessing, Our God.**

(♩ = 72)



Lei cung kan Boi le kham tu toi dor in kan in nawi toi dor in thla kan cam Bawi Pa.
God of region and of world, for our land now we pray, humbly seek your blessing, Our God.

L: "But you, Lord, are a shield around us,
our glory, the One who lifts our head high.
We call out to the Lord, and the Lord answers us from
the holy mountain.

We lie down and sleep;
We'll wake again, because the Lord sustains us.
We will not fear though tens of thousands assail us on
every side."

(Adapted from Psalm 3:3–6)

- Voice 1: God of just and lasting peace,
We implore your help for Myanmar and its
people, and for the worsening human rights
situation.
- Voice 2: We pray for justice for those who are killed
during the conflict.
We pray for the release of political prisoners
who endure the pains of torture and violence.
- Voice 1: We pray for comfort of the families of the
civilians killed due to indiscriminate attacks.
- Voice 2: We remember in our prayers the poor who are
most harshly affected by the political turmoil.
- Voice 1: We pray for strength for those who are forcedly
displaced, for the needy who lack the
basic services due to the blockade against
humanitarian aid organisations.

Voice 2: We pray for people who are subjected to sexual violence.

We pray for the children who are denied the right to quality education.

Voice 1: God of all peoples and nations,
we pray for just peace to prevail in Myanmar
so that the people will experience a safe,
healthy and a development-gearred society for
the coming generations.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

♪ R: **God of region and of world, for our land now we pray,
humbly seek your blessing, Our God.**



- Voice 1: We pray that young people may be involved in the dialogue for conflict resolution and peace. May they find the courage to speak up for the future of their country.
- Voice 2: We pray for the internally displaced people in Myanmar that they may be provided with ample rights, basic commodities, social services and work opportunities.
- Voice 1: We pray for peace to prevail in Myanmar. We pray for the people, the state authorities, and all the sectors of society to advance the agenda of unity and reconciliation.
- L: God of life, hear our sincere prayers
For the country and people of Myanmar.
We pray for the country to experience peace based on justice.
A peace that is felt by those in the margins as abundant food for the tables, resumption of classes for children and youth, provision of basic commodities, and the availability of sustainable jobs and a more stable economy that benefits all.
All these we ask through Jesus Christ, our exemplar of peacebuilding. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(in our own language)*

Thanksgiving

Call

- L: Gather all you people from villages, towns, rice fields and mountain ranges.
Bring all your harvests to God's altar of love, justice, and solidarity.
Bring forth your prayers, hopes, and dreams for peace in Myanmar.
Present them as sincere offerings to God who desires peace for all.

Offertory

(The Asia Sunday special offering may be collected at this part of the service.)

♪ Hymn **In the Beginning, God**

(♩ = 100)



* Oh le le oh le le oh le le goi, Oh le le oh le le oh le le goi.



Shing gyim ma-sha ning nam nga pra ten kaw na. Lu na sha na
When time be-gan God fa-shioned all of this world: food and wat-er,



bu hpun na, ra n rawng hkra, Ka rai Wa gaw hpan da ya sai
air to breathe, life full of joy, for these bless-ings, LORD, we give you



le Ka rai Wa gaw hpan da ya sai le.
thanks; now we serve your peo-ple with our love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Rice, water, and herbs for healing)

- L: God of life and source of bounty,
We give you thanks for the beauty of Myanmar
and its people.
Our hearts are filled with gratefulness for the blessings
Of *water*, that refreshes and cleanses us for daily living,
Of *rice*, that satisfies our hunger,
fills us with energy to carry on with life,
And the *herbs*, that bring healing to our weary
and tired beings and souls.
May these offerings be our symbols of hope,
healing, and reconciliation

So that all your people may live in harmony and peace.
Accept these gifts, O God, make them holy for the work
of service.

P: Amen.

Expression of Hope for Peace in Myanmar

Hymn **Hope for the Children**
(by Douglas Clark)

**All: Hope for the children in our midst,
Facing a world that's conflict-torn,
All that they ask is time to grow,
And live the years for which they're born.
Hope for the children everywhere,
We'll build with them a world of peace.**

Child's Voice: I hope the world can hear my little voice.
I only dream of playing outside the home with
my colourful kite.
Like the kite I made,
I wish my dreams can fly to the sky freely.
I dream of playing with my friends and
neighbours under the sun's warmth.
I dream of music playing,
not gunshots and sounds of fear.

I have a little voice carrying a little dream.
Help me, help me,
enjoy a safer and peaceful country to live in.
Help me, help me,
fly my kite and my dreams for a better life.
Help me, help me, listen to my voice.
Help me, help me fly my kite.

**All: Hope for the children yet to be.
Pray they may find years free from war.
Let us make plough-shares of all swords.
Harvesting life healed evermore.
Hope for the children everywhere,
We'll build with them a world of peace.**

Act of Commitment

L: We express hope for peace, and our commitment to be in solidarity with the plight of the people of Myanmar.

The presence of children in this worship represents our hopes and dreams for peace in Myanmar and the rest of the world. They are emblems of hopes and dreams for a safe and better future for all.

Prayer

L: God of peace and harmony,
these children are our hope in You,
that you will guide and strengthen us in pursuing the
path of peace for Myanmar.

We bring you these symbols of our hopes and as well as the children and youth's hope for the future.
Be the wind, O God, assisting us to fly across the skies of challenges and tribulations.

May we be bound to each other firmly with strings of love as we pursue unity and reconciliation among the people of Myanmar.
May our prayers be raised to you. Hear the sincere pleas of our hearts, O God. All these we ask in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

P: Amen.

Sending Forth

Benediction

L: May God Creator heal and reconcile all peoples,
Christ bring peace and justice,
Holy Spirit strengthen and renew the nation of
Myanmar and all nations now and always.

P: Amen.

Sharing of God's Peace

L: Every home in Myanmar offers a generous tea drink to people who may come under their roofs.

For the people of Myanmar, the offering of tea also serves as a gesture of reconciliation among friends, family, and community members when misunderstandings and disputes arise.

As we share God's peace, let us also pour tea to our friends here present as a symbol of hope for the restoration of peace and justice, and good relationships among people in the community.

We offer this gesture for God's peace to reign in Myanmar and for the well-being, development and safety of its people.

As we share God's peace, we utter the word "Nyein Chan Yae" which means Peace in the local language of Myanmar.

Postlude

Preparatory Notes

1. Suggestions for the Worship Space

The printed map of Myanmar may be placed at the worship space set for the Asia Sunday Worship. Smaller candles can be lit beside the said map at the start of the service.

2. Symbols Used during the Worship

- The **Bible**: a symbol of God's revelation of unconditional love. The narratives from the books of the Bible provide both inspiration and challenge as the people of faith face the struggles of our present time.
- A lighted **Candle**: this symbolises Christ, the Light of the World. Christ illuminates and breaks the darkness and divisions among people. As we light the candle in the worship space, we also light hopes for peace and reconciliation in Myanmar.
- Colourful **Flowers**: these remind us of the unending hope that blossoms from God and the beauty of God's work manifested in the whole of creation.

As the people of Myanmar endure hardships beyond measure, we urge the international community to extend all forms of assistance to Myanmar and pray fervently for a swift resolution to this dire conflict. Your contributions to support the persecuted people in Myanmar may be sent through CCA.

*You are encouraged to make
a special Asia Sunday Offering and
contribute to*
CCA's Asia Solidarity Relief Fund

CCA Bank Account Details

Account Name: Christian Conference of Asia

Account No: 239-875156-883

Bank Name: Hang Seng Bank Limited

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