

WORLD FOOD DAY–2020 – VIRTUAL PRAYER SERVICE

16 October 2020 | co-hosted by Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and World Council of Churches (WCC)

(Churches' Week of Action on Food)

*This service of common prayer has been prepared by the World Council of Churches (WCC) for the Churches' Week of Action on Food which is part of the 'Food for Life Campaign'.
The theme for World Food Day 2020 is "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together."*

Words of welcome – *Dr Mathews George Chunakara – General Secretary, CCA
Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca – Interim General Secretary, WCC*

Opening Responses –

Rt. Rev. Dhilloraj Canagasabey: Glory to you, our God! Glory to you.

Psalm 24

Rt. Rev. Dhilloraj Canagasabey: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
For God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat Lebang: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in God's holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.

Rt. Rev. Dhilloraj Canagasabey: They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek the Lord,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang: Lift up your heads, O gates!
Be lifted up, O ancient doors!
That the Glorious Lord may come in.



Refrain
 Ye - su raa - je - nin thi - ru - ve - di - ku, sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam,
 Je - sus, Sav - ior Lord, lo to you I fly; Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam.



Fine
 aath - me naa - dhe - rin ma - le - re - di - ku, sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam.
 You the Rock, my Re - fuge that's higher than I: Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam.



1. Paar pot - trum thuuye thuuye dhee - ve - nee - mei raa - jaa - vee yeng - gell - naa - dhe - nee
 2. I - llai paa - ru - dhel the - rum veen - dhe nee - yinnel thunbem niikum a - rull naa - dhe - ree
 1. In the midst of foes I cry to you, from the ends of earth wherever I may be,
 2. In your tent give me a dwell - ing place, and be - neath your wings may I find shelt'ring grace,
 3. O that I my vow to you may pay, and that by your faithfulness to me each day;



Ba - yem nii - kum thunnei yaavum aa - ni - ree, sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam.
 ye - zlei yen - nei aatri thettri kaa pi - ree, sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam sa - re - nnam.
 my strength in helplessness, O an - swer me: Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam.
 O lift on me the sunshine of your face: Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam.
 may live, and on your love my bur - dens lay: Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam, Sa - re - nnam.

* Sarenam means "Refuge"; also "I take refuge."

Confession and renewal

The Most Revd. Humphrey Peters: O Lord, in our quest to grow more food, we are sacrificing the health and abundance of nature, people and the very life on earth. We are poisoning the soil and water. We are neglecting small - scale farmers and fisherfolk, who provide 75 per cent of world's food, undermining their livelihoods, their knowledge, and their contributions, often in favour of industrial farming and fishing and big business interests. We have transformed seeds, plants, animals, land, and water - from being a blessing to be shared and sustained; into commodities that are traded and hoarded.

All: Lord have mercy

Swee Hong Lim, Singapore



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Rev. Irma Balaba: O Lord, in our quest to nourish humanity, we have produced an abundance of food. Yet a quarter of the world's people are experiencing moderate or severe levels of food insecurity. Ten months into the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 35 million people have suffered from the disease, and more than a million lives have been lost, access to food and livelihoods for people around the world has become increasingly difficult. We have not done enough to reduce the increasing inequity and hunger.

All: Lord have mercy

Swee Hong Lim, Singapore

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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The Most Revd Humphrey Peters: O Lord, we are living in an unsustainable manner. The wealthier amongst us, consuming, even more, increasing inequity and injustice. We have contributed to the mass extinction of all mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles over the last 40 years. We have been part of the massive expansion of industrial agriculture which has drastically eliminated 3/4th of all biodiversity over the previous hundred years and currently contributing to a fourth of all the Greenhouse Gas emissions.

All: Lord have mercy

Swee Hong Lim, Singapore

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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Rev. Irma Balaba: O Lord, we are polluting our seas and water sources, with chemicals, excessive fertilisers, heavy metals and plastic. Our activities are leading to the warming of oceans, destroying aquatic life and precipitating stronger storms and more unpredictable weather. We are allowing the unrelenting exploitation of the oceans with industrial fishing and deep-sea mining and are sacrificing artisanal fisherfolk and coastal communities, who have lived in a sustainable and ecologically sound manner.

All: Lord have mercy

Swee Hong Lim, Singapore

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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The Most Revd Humphrey Peters: Receive us, O Lord! We seek your forgiveness! Join us in this hour of pain and failure. We pray that by your grace and Holy Spirit, you will affirm in us the conviction that these situations do not have the last word, because our trust is entirely placed in you. Come, O God! Bless your people, pour out the grace of your Holy Spirit so that we may take courage and be able to continue to walk trusting and hoping in you.

All: Lord have mercy



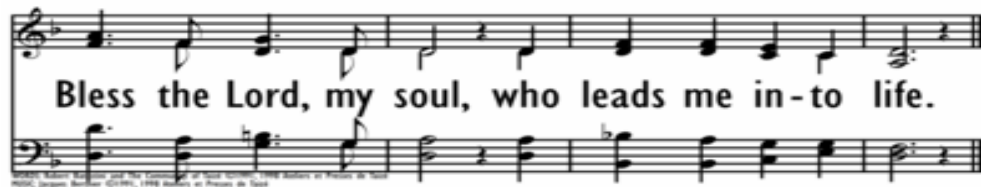
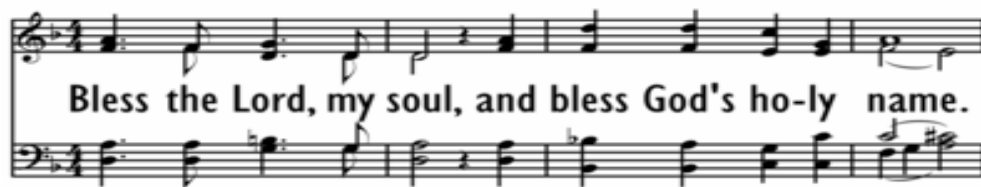
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Silence

Rev. Dr Kim Sung Jae:

Blessed, are You now and forever!

Lord, grant us grace to be renewed by the Holy Spirit.
Lord, grant us to hunger and thirst for righteousness and justice.
Lord, grant us the humility to acknowledge the mistakes we make.
Lord, grant us the courage to make amends.
Lord, grant us the love to care for each other.
Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for creation.
Lord, grant us unity to act together and to bring about sustainable change.



Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:8–21

Ms Nirmala Gurung:

Prompted by her mother (Herodias), she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." The king (Herod) was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother. His disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they went and told Jesus. Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was leftover of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Reflection

Sofía Monsalve Suárez, Secretary-General, FIAN International (a leading global body, who through research, advocacy and campaigning, are working to eradicate the root causes of hunger and malnutrition).

Intercession

Ms Dymeas Sovy: O Lord! Today we come before you with complete trust, to intercede for the situations that affect us and rob us of the joy of life. The COVID-19 pandemic has been prolonged, and devastating; causing pain, mourning, sadness, hunger, despair, violence and depression. These physical, spiritual and emotional scars are affecting us in every way. We pray that you will give us your power to become facilitating agents to bring words of comfort and healing to every person in need.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Rev. Kingphet Thammavong: We pray for the livelihoods, the nourishment and daily sustenance for all, especially for those going hungry, during these difficult times. We pray for solidarity amongst the world's nations so that succour and assistance are extended to the most marginalised communities, within each society and those out of sight.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Ms Kaythi Min Din: O Lord, we pray for those who grow crops and produce food; for farmers, fisherfolk, workers, scientists, traders, and all involved with making food available, especially those who are marginalised and exploited. We pray for justice for the least, and the courage for all to act in solidarity with them.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Ms Dymeas Sovy: We pray for wisdom to care for the earth. Help us to live and cultivate, respecting and caring for all creation, in a sustainable manner. Let us nourish the soil, keeping the land and water clean, leaving it at the end our time, fit for future generations and all your creatures.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Rev. Kingphet Thammavong: We pray for discernment as consumers of food, to be mindful of what we eat, what we drink, where we source it from, and how we cultivate or rear it. Please help us to be aware, and vigilant regarding the profound impact of the choices we make, that will influence the environment, the society and our health.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Ms Kaythi Min Din: On this occasion, we unite our voices and join the cry of intercession for the people and churches of Asia. Eternal God of life, we pray for your love and your grace to be bestowed on their service to people and their accompaniment of communities to live full and resilient lives.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!

Ms Roma Ann Nisha Prodhan: Let us say the **Lord's prayer**, each in our own language.

Prayer of commitment

Ms Roma Ann Nisha Prodhan: May we always be hungry for righteousness;
All: **Overcoming injustices that bring about hunger!**

Ms Roma Ann Nisha Prodhan: May we always be hungry for peace;
All: **Overcoming insecurity, suffering, and displacement!**

Ms Roma Ann Nisha Prodhan: May we always yearn to care for each other and the environment;
All: **So that the earth will remain abundant for all creation!**

Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light

Verses 1st time sung by cantor (soprano)
2nd time sung with 2 voices (alto)
Last time sung with choir unison (or 2 voices)

Bernadette Farrell

♩ = 132

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second system is marked 'S.' and also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for truth we turn to you.
2 Long - ing for peace our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for hope, ma - ny des - pair.
3 Long - ing for food, ma - ny are hun - gry. Long - ing for wa - ter, ma - ny still thirst.
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, ma - ny are home - less. Long - ing for warmth, ma - ny are cold.
5 Ma - ny the gifts, ma - ny the peo - ple, ma - ny the hearts that yearn to be - long

9 Make us your own your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see
Your Word a - lone has pow'r to save us. Make us your li - ving voice
Make us your bread bro - ken for o - thers, shared un - til all are fed
Make us your bual - ding shel - ter for o - thers, walls made of li - ving stone
Let us be ser - vants to one a - no - ther, ma - king your king - dom come

Refrain 1st time sung in choir unison
2nd time in 4 voices harmony
Last time sung with descant

RE FRAIN

*Refrain 1st time sung in choir unison
2nd time in 4 voices harmony
Last time sung with descant*

REFRAIN

17 *Descant*

S. Christ, be our light! Shine out through the dark shine! —

A. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness

B. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness

25

S. Chri - st be our light! Shine in your church ga - thered to - day —

A. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church ga - thered to - day —

B. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church ga - thered to - day —

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Sharing the sign of Peace – Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang

Prayer prepared with contributions from:

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