

CCN Sunday International Service

September 25th 2022

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

SONG

Give a thought to Africa
'Neath the burning sun
They are hosts of weary hearts
Waiting to be won

Many lives have passed away
And in many homes
There are voices crying out
To the living God

Tell the love of Jesus
By the hills and waters
God bless Africa
And her sons and daughters

Breathe a prayer for Africa
God the father's love
Can reach down and bless all hearts
From his heav'n above

And when lips are moved by Grace
They so sweetly sing
Pray for peace in Africa
From the loving God

Tell the love of Jesus
By the hills and waters
God bless Africa
And her sons and daughters

PRAISE

Said together, pausing after each stanza

Glory to God our creator and peace to all God has made.
God of our time and all times, God of our world and all worlds,
God all powerful, God of vulnerable love, we thank you, we worship you,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, our brother and friend:
You took on our human nature, you loved us to the full,
You suffered death on the cross, to free us from sin and reconcile all creation,
You give us life to the full, we praise you for your glory.

Holy Spirit of God, you are in us and between us, you show us ourselves,
Fill us with love and empower us day by day, we praise you for your glory.

God, beyond our knowing, yet closer to us than breathing,
You are our God, Creator, Saviour, Lover.
Glory and honour and power are yours, now and forever. Amen.
(adapted from Volmoed weekly eucharist liturgy)

CELEBRATING ARCHBISHOP TUTU: The Message of Reconciliation – Wilma Jakobsen

PRAYER

God of eternal love, look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Rev Tiyo Soga's famous hymn: Lizalis' idinga lakho

“Lizalis' idinga lakho, (Fulfill/realise your promise)
Thixo Nkosi yenyano! (Faithful/Truthful God)
Zonk' iintlanga, zonk' izizwe, (All races, all nations,)
Ma zizuze usindiso. (must be saved)

Amadolo kweli lizwe, (All knees in this world)
Ma kagobe phambi kwakho; (Must bow before you)
Zide zithi zonk' iilwimi, (So that all tongues)
Ziluxel' udumo lwakho. (Proclaim your glory)

Law'la, law'la, Nkosi, Yesu! (Govern/Prevail our God)
Koza ngawe ukonwaba; (Happiness can only come through you)
Ngeziphithi-phithi zethu, (Because of our struggles/challenges)
Yonakele imihlaba. (The world is damaged)

Bona izwe lakowethu, (Look at our world)
uxolel' izoono zalo; (Forgive our sins)
Ungathob' ingqumbo yakho, (Do not send your wrath)
Luze luf' usapho lwalo. (To kill the children)

Yaala, Nkosi, singadeli (Prohibit us God from disobeying)
limfundiso zezwi lakho; (The teachings of your Word)
Uze usivuselele, (Revive us)
Sive inyaniso yakho. (We can hear your Truth")

READING

In God's family, there are no outsiders. All are insiders. Black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight, Jew and Arab, Palestinian and Israeli, Roman Catholic and Protestant,...Hutu and Tutsi, Muslim and Christian, Buddhist and Hindu, all belong. Jesus said, 'I, if I be lifted up, will draw all to me.' Not some, but all. And it is a radical thing that Jesus says that we are members of one family. We belong. God says, All, all are My children. It is shocking. It is radical.

Members of a family have a gentle caring and compassion for one another. How I pray that we will open our eyes and see the real, true identity of each one of us, that this one is not a white or black, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, or Jew, but a brother, a sister, and treat each other as such. If we could but recognize our common humanity, that we do belong together, that our destinies are bound up in one another's, that we can be free only together, that we can survive only together, that we can be human only together, then a glorious world would come into being where all of us lived harmoniously together as members of one family, the human family, God's family. In truth a transfiguration would take place. God's dream would become a reality. (*God Has a Dream, 20 and 23-24*)

Silence

READING

How do we embrace our enemies? How do we get rid of the hatchet forever instead of just burying it for a time and digging it up later? True enduring peace—between countries, within a country, within a community, within a family—requires real reconciliation between former enemies and even between loved ones who have struggled with one another.

True reconciliation is based on forgiveness, and forgiveness is based on true confession, and confession is based on penitence, on contrition, on sorrow for what you have done. We know that when a husband and wife have quarreled, one of them must be ready to say the most difficult words in any language, 'I'm sorry,' and the other must be ready to forgive for there to be a future for their relationship. This is true between parents and children, between siblings, between neighbors, and between friends.

We have had a jurisprudence . . . in Africa that was not retributive but restorative. [W]hen people quarreled the main intention was not to punish the miscreant but to restore good relations. For Africa is concerned, or has traditionally been concerned, about the wholeness of relationship. That is something we need in our world, a world that is polarized, a world that is fragmented, a world that destroys people. It is also something we need in our families and friendships, for restoration heals and makes whole while retribution only wounds and divides us from one another.

Only together, hand in hand, as God's family and not as one another's enemy, can we ever hope to end the vicious cycle of revenge and retribution. This is the only hope for us and for making God's dream a

reality. Because God truly only has us. There is no future without forgiveness. (*God Has a Dream, 44-58; Tutu: The Authorised Portrait, 47*)

Silence

HYMN:

Ukuthula (*traditional Zulu song*)

Ukuthula kuloumhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukuthula
(Translation: Peace in this world of sin (alleluja) the blood of Jesus brings peace)

Ukukholwa kulumhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' usindiso
(Faith...)

Ukuthemba kulumhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukubonga
(Hope...)

Ukuthanda kulumhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' ukukholwa
(Love...)

Induduzo kulumhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' induduzo
(Comfort...)

Aleluya (Aleluya) kulumhlaba wezono (Aleluya) igazi likaJesu linyenyez' Aleluya

LITANY OF RECONCILIATION (*response: Loving God, forgive*)

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Loving God, forgive

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Loving God, forgive

Die inhaliqe begeertes van volke en nasies om te besit wat nie aan hulle behoort nie,

Loving God, forgive

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Loving God, forgive

Umona xa sibona intlalo-ntle nolonwabo lwabanye,

Loving God, forgive

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Loving God, forgive

Die wellus wat die liggame van mans, vrouens en kinders onteer,

Loving God, forgive

Ikratshi elisenza sizithembe ngokwethu endaweni yokuthemba uThixo,

Loving God, forgive

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Silence

PRAYERS

In peace we pray to our loving God:

God of Creation, we pray for peoples and nations of our fragile and beautiful planet.
Where your nations are at war, guide our hearts to peace.
Where your people are in distress, use our hands to bring comfort.
Where your creation is in peril, enlighten our minds with new solutions.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace

People: Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

God of Forgiveness, we pray for all we injure and for all who injure us.
When we are heartless, give us compassion
When we hurt others, call us to repent
When we are hurt, heal us and make us whole
Lord, make us instruments of your peace

People: Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.

God of the Prophets, you raise up wise and courageous people to lead the way of Christ's Love
Strengthen those who seek and serve Christ in all persons
Encourage those who strive for justice and reconciliation among all people and in all creation
Lord, make us instruments of your peace

People: Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

God of Abundance, your bounty is for everyone and yet many suffer.
For those who struggle to feed their families, provide enough and more.
For those oppressed because of their gender or sexual identity, give grace and strength.
For those who cannot imagine a way forward, grant hope and new possibilities.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace

People: Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

PRAYER

God of justice and love, you call your people to witness that you are in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: Break down the barriers that divide us and disperse our suspicions and hatred, that we may practice justice with mercy and live together in your peace. Help us to boldly proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled to you and work together for peace and justice, in the name of the Holy One. Amen.

MUSIC: Goodness is stronger than evil
Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate
Light is stronger than darkness |
Life is stronger than death
Vic'try is ours through God who loves us

BLESSING

**May God the Creator bless us and keep us
May Christ our beloved companion face us and have mercy on us
May the eternal Spirit's countenance be turned to us and give us peace
May the Three in One bless us.**

Liturgy created by the partners of the CCN South Africa Board, 2022

