



21 JULY 2024

SUNDAY

2024

Rise to Life:
Together in
Transformation



CWM Report

LITURGICAL RESOURCES



INTRODUCTION

On Council for World Mission (CWM) Sunday, we gather to celebrate and reflect on the great work of God's mission around the world. This year, our worship is enriched by the theme and elements of the CWM Assembly, as we join together to recommit ourselves to God's mission and the CWM's vision of building life-flourishing communities.

As part of today's worship, we will intentionally reflect on the three sub-themes our churches have been exploring together over the last few months:

1. Transforming Power
2. Revisioning Mission
3. Building Life-flourishing Communities

We also acknowledge the importance of solidarity, particularly with the victims of recent landslides in Papua New Guinea and other crises faced by our Member Churches. We recognise the forthcoming CWM Jubilee in 2027 and are reminded of our shared commitment to justice, peace, and the flourishing of all communities.

This liturgy incorporates readings from the Revised Common Lectionary used by many of our member churches for Sunday, 21 July 2024. After each reading, we invite you to reflect on either a CWM mission project or an appropriate local mission project. Let us come together in worship, inspired by the Spirit, to renew our commitment to God's transformative mission in the world.

CWM has collected worship resources to enable CWM Member Churches to share in worship which reflects on CWM mission themes. The resource should be adapted to need and context, but we hope the words and images provide a stir to consider how God comes to us in woe and wonder to show the new worlds God creates amongst us.

PART ONE – TRANSFORMING POWER

The Call to Share Together in Worship as an Act of Humble Approach

Call to Worship:

One We approach God in humility,
 Awed by the power of the Divine One,
 conscious of the powers in the world,
 and asking for mercy and fresh signs of hope.

Many Maker God, You are here in our midst.

One We come together,
 in our human frailties and wondering at the possibilities of the sacred,
 longing for justice and peace to heal communities.

Many Jesus Christ, Saviour and Healer, You are here in our midst.

One We come together, from our different households
 and the extended communities we connect with,
 united by your Spirit and our love for you.

Many Holy Spirit, You are here in our midst.



Red and Yellow, Black and White | Art Collection at PCC (from the collection of Portland Community College)

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation (*New Words written for CWM Assembly 2024*)

1. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our God;
Become God's new creation by water and the Word.
God, give to us your vision of healing from all strife
God, send us on your mission to witness transformed life.
2. Now called from every nation, as one throughout all the earth,
Our task is shared salvation, One God, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name in blessing, share in one holy food,
And to one hope we're pressing, the mission of God's good.
3. 'Mid scenes of war and dying and climate's groaning loud,
We pray to Spirit, crying for life beyond the shroud;
As Church we rise to nourish, communities to bless.
We long for heav'n to flourish. We long for peace and rest.
4. Here, in this place, find union with God, the Three-in-One,
Come, enter this communion with those whose rest is won.
We seek the coming Kin-dom, for justice to increase,
so all will live in freedom, and all will know God's peace.

A Greeting from the CWM General Secretary

- Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum

*Please find the video greetings following the below YouTube link.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CR0iGwZMNZA>*



Opening Prayer

- From the Power of God to Powers in the World

Holy God, you have called us by name, to know deeply your love and salvation.
You call us, not simply to be awed by your power,
but that we would bring all glory and praise to you among the nations.
Just as Jesus commanded the disciples to go and tell of your great deeds,
so we are called to do the same.

Holy God, help us to understand what it means to be
the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

To be open to new and fresh ways of bringing
the good news of your gospel to those yet to hear it.

**May we be attentive to the needs of those we seek to serve,
that we would demonstrate your love to others through our actions and deeds.**

We pray for those who sit in positions of decision-making and authority.

We recognise that you call community and national leaders
to a life of service and responsibility.

In our Christian communities, may we model the leadership of service and humility, ever seeking
to discern your will, and upholding believers in various ways.

We pray that you would give all of them, community leaders and church leaders,
the tools to lead well.

We pray too, for fresh vision Lord, for bold dreams, and big ideas.

To have courage when we hear you say

‘Behold! I am doing a new thing!’

and trust that you will make rivers in the desert.

**May we know a fresh anointing and a re-energised spirit
as we seek to do your will in this world, we pray.**

Reading:**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

23:1 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!
says the LORD.

23:2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

23:3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

23:4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

23:5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

23:6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Stories for Reflection**Climate Justice**

In many parts of the world, the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly evident. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and shifting agricultural patterns are just a few of the challenges communities face. CWM, in partnership with its Member Churches, has taken a proactive role in addressing climate justice.

One inspiring example comes from a small coastal village where the local church, supported by CWM, has initiated a series of environmental projects. These projects include planting mangrove trees to combat erosion, organizing community cleanups, and advocating for sustainable practices in local governance. With CWM's assistance, the congregation has access to resources, training, and global networks that amplify their efforts.

This movement has not only helped in mitigating the immediate impacts of climate change but has also empowered the community to take ownership of their environment. The church, with CWM's backing, has become a beacon of hope and a center for climate education, inspiring both young and old to engage in preserving God's creation. The collaboration between CWM and the local church underscores the power of united action in the face of global challenges.

Youth Engagement

Engaging youth in meaningful ways is critical for the vitality of the church. CWM recognizes this and actively collaborates with its Member Churches to develop innovative youth programs. One inspiring story comes from a congregation that, with CWM's support, addressed the disconnection many young people felt from traditional church activities.

CWM helped establish a youth systems within the church that directly influences programmes

and outreach initiatives. This council, supported by CWM’s resources and expertise, organized events such as music and art festivals, sports tournaments, and social justice campaigns that resonated with their peers. They also set up mentorship programs connecting younger members with older, experienced congregants.

This initiative, bolstered by CWM’s engagement, not only revitalized the youth’s involvement in church life but also brought fresh perspectives and energy to the entire congregation. The church, through its partnership with CWM, demonstrates how global support can enhance local efforts to empower and engage young people.

Women’s Recognition in the Church

Women’s roles in the church have often been undervalued and overlooked. However, there are inspiring stories of congregations, supported by CWM, making significant strides towards gender equality. In a conservative region, one church, with CWM’s encouragement and resources, made a bold decision to fully recognize and integrate women into all levels of leadership and ministry.

This shift was spearheaded by a group of dedicated women who, with CWM’s backing, demonstrated their capabilities through tireless service and profound spiritual insight. They led Bible studies, managed community outreach programs, and even took on pastoral roles. The positive impact on the congregation was palpable—there was a newfound sense of unity and respect that transcended gender lines.

CWM’s role in this transformation was crucial, providing training, advocacy, and a platform for these women to share their stories and inspire others. The recognition of women’s contributions not only enriched the church’s ministry but also set a powerful example for the broader community. This collaboration highlights the significant impact of CWM’s commitment to promoting gender equality within its Member Churches.

Contextual Considerations

1. Expectations of Shepherding Roles
 - What are some of the expectations of shepherding roles in our local communities (and this worshipping congregation)?
2. Supporting Caring Professions and Pastoral Leadership
 - How can we better support the caring professions and those who offer pastoral leadership?

Reflect on these stories and consider how they resonate with your local context. What lessons can be learned, and how can they be applied to foster a more inclusive, engaged, and environmentally conscious church community?

PART TWO – REVISIONING MISSION

The Call to Re-imagine the Kin-dom of Heaven

Song:

We turn our faces

We turn our faces to You Most Holy
As we turn like prophets,
please remove the veil
Let us feel you face-to-face
Lord transform us by Your grace
Till our faces shine with Your glory.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! Holy, Holy!
Hallelujah to the Humble One!
Thank you Jesus for Resurrection Life!
Hallelujah! Father, Spirit, Son.

Unite Your people - we'll move together
In pilgrim footsteps,
by Your Spirit we will dance

Not by might, not by power
But by Your Love shared beyond us
That Your peace and hope can now overcome.

Bridge 1

Let justice rise from pain's confession
For life will bloom from seeds that die
For gifts of healing, born of suff'ring
We claim new life, O Holy One!

Revise in us the quest of wonder
collusion dies as truth reveals
lowest rising into glory,
margins centred in the heart of God

Reading:

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

6:30 The apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.
6:31 He said to them, "Come away to a de-
serted place all by yourselves and rest a



"The Calling" by Nicholas Mynheer (Used by gracious permission of the artist)

while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

6:32 And they went away in the boat to a de-
serted place by themselves.

6:33 Now many saw them going and recog-
nized them, and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

6:34 As he went ashore, he saw a great
crowd; and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a
shepherd; and he began to teach them many
things.

6:53 When they had crossed over, they came
to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

6:54 When they got out of the boat, people at
once recognized him,

6:55 and rushed about that whole region and
began to bring the sick on mats to wherever
they heard he was.

6:56 And wherever he went, into villages or

cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Stories for Reflection

As contexts change, churches are called to adapt to the local mission needs. Priorities change. When earthquakes and mudslides, flood-inducing storms or famine-threatening droughts happen, churches respond. When sudden political unrest or conflicts disrupt lives and threaten survival, we are moved to act. We adapt. We respond.

CWM Member Churches regularly contribute to Solidarity Grants. These are special gifts for churches needing to respond urgently to a crisis, where the missional need is great. On our own, our gift of love may seem small, but with others, it can become more substantial.

In 2024, we have seen ongoing civil strife and crises in Member Church countries. Most recently, the landslide in Kaokalam Village in Enga Province (600 kms north of Port Moresby) in Papua New Guinea was a deadly and terrifying event that took place 24 May. One of the greatest concerns has been how to get supplies into the area safely, as further landslides have been feared and roads have been cut off.

[A local story may be shared]

Contextual Consideration

[The following may form a conversation-starter OR an individual may reflect on these questions.]

- How has the experience of crisis impacted your community?
- Who has needed help?
- Who have been helpers?
- How have people worked together to respond to crises?

Special Offering

For the Recovery in Crisis work being undertaken by UCPNG

Offering Prayer

We pray for our sister church, the United Church in Papua New Guinea.

We pray for first responders in times of emergency.

We pray for those who are engaged with long-term recovery and healing.

We pray for those who, in times of distress, long for life-flourishing with hope.

May these gifts bring comfort to those in need of encouragement.

SERMON

Assembly 2024 Theme Song:

Rise to Life (Kevin Nana Moses and Lester Lewis)

Chorus

Rise to life, more abundantly

Rise to life, life eternally

Rise to life, life everlasting

Let all God's children rise to life

1. Come on my brothers and sisters
Let us put faith in action
Let us break out of Babylon
Arise and bring transformation
2. Together we'll build safe spaces
and life-giving communities
Free from all human atrocities
and death-dealing systems
3. Christ Jesus calls the holy church
Go and make radical disciples
Who will preach and teach fearlessly
Right in the middle of Babylon

PART THREE – BUILDING LIFE-FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Nourishment for the Church Sent into the World with the Gospel Promise of Life



“The Feeding of the 5000” by Laura James 15-james-5000.jpg
(3418x3402) (wordpress.com)

CWM Affirmation and Commitment to Mission

We believe in God,
 he creator of the universe.
 We believe that equality, freedom and justice
 are part of God’s divine plan.
 We believe that when injustice becomes a
 living reality,
 it is contrary to God’s plan.
 God raises up courageous leaders
 to proclaim the Good News of justice for all.
 We believe God has been expressing
 solidarity with the oppressed and the weak
 because God sees the affliction of the poor
 and suffering.
 We believe that God hears the cries and
 groanings of creation.
 We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
 in whom God came down on this earth.
 Messiahship was seen through his solidarity
 with the weak and the weary.
 We believe Jesus has set an example for us
 to follow today and,
 by taking sides with the oppressed,
 Jesus becomes the Christ for us.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, encouraging us
 as the collective people of God
 to challenge the repressive forces of Empires

and move beyond boundaries
 to carry forwards God’s empowering work.
 We believe God calls us to proclaim the gos-
 pel to the whole created order
 and to uphold dignity and justice for all of
 God’s creation. AMEN.

Song:

Rising to Life with Jesus Christ

*lyrics: Amelia Koh Butler © 2024 music: David
 MacGregor © 2024*

The River of Life, flowing from God’s heart
 The River of Life, bringing wellness to each
 part...

Chorus

Currents of Joy, Waves of Praise,
 Rising to Life, with Jesus Christ
 Transform the powers of the earth
 Proclaim the good news of rebirth
 Rising to Life, with Jesus Christ
 Hallelujah...

The Spirit of Christ, lighting up our lives
 The Spirit of Christ, driving us to love...

Peoples of earth, together here today
 Peoples of peace, where Justice is the
 way...?

Bridge

Will living bloom, when there’s no room,
 for those in pain, who suffer shame?
 Come and rise into Life (x3)
 With Jesus Christ

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of light and life, help us in our quest to be the people of faith that you desire us to be.

May our mouths be filled with words of praise to you, and words of encouragement to those around us.

May we be bold, that we would seek to shake hands with those who are so very different to us.

May we be courageous, that we would see this world through your eyes— that we would notice the weary and downtrodden; that we would be outraged by injustice and corruption; and that we would be encouraged to fight for change in our own communities.

Lord, through you, we have the power to change this world, starting in our own neighbourhoods.

We pray for your guidance to have an impact where we can, for even small actions can have mighty consequences.

God of the earth, of heaven, and of all that we see around us. Allow us to learn to live with one another, together with creation, And may the peace that is the fruit of justice be a reality for every corner of the earth.

Give us strength, faith and hope because until justice and peace meet with a kiss, we will continue ploughing our fields awaiting new fruits of the earth and new dawns. May we know your peace, we pray.
(From the prayer book 'From the Ends of the World')

Prayer for the Victims of Landslides in PNG

A rock is placed before the people.

Over eons the earth has settled and formed. Minerals merged and the stories with tribes entwined and emerged in tension with one another.

Your beloved people have suffered - so we ask for your mercy...

May those who live above the ground and those who are reclaimed into God's earth be honoured.

Water is placed before the people.

The flow of water has brought both life and death, finding cracks and crevices. It also glistens and sparkles with promise of a healing yet to come.

May those who grieve be comforted.

May those who long for one another be companioned.

May those who quench a spiritual thirst be blessed.

A candle or fire is lit.

The storm-clouds are banished with the sharing of warmth and light.

As the cleaning up continues, may caked brown mud give way to colours of new life.

May expectations of uncovered death give way to promise of resurrection.

May the Light of the World be carried in the hearts of the People of God.

The people stretch out their hands, palms upward.

We reach out to God and to one another.

May God remake us as a People in solidarity, bound together by the Spirit of this shared earth.

Hear our prayers, O God of Mercy and Healing.

Prayer for Peace in Places of Conflict

God of Compassion,
we are mindful of Palestine, Myanmar,
Ukraine, Israel, Sudan, New Caledonia,
Mizoram, and Russia,
and the many other places of constant threat
of violence.

We hold before you the hopes and dreams,
tears and terrors,
of the boys and girls conscripted to killing
fields.
Kyrie eleison.

We hold before you those who face gendered
violence and feel threatened in their own
homes.
We hold before you the abuse of young and
old.
Christe eleison.

We hold before you those who are grieving
the incarceration of loved ones
and those who are held in places of confine-
ment.
We pray for liberation of captives and freedom
to live.
Kyrie eleison.

Jesus, our Christ,
you lived under oppression and experienced
the reality of violence.
Intercede for those who live in fear.
Grant your peace in this world.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Let God's love transform us
to become good news for the whole created
order.
Let us go into the world to love, to serve, to
affirm, to empower,
to enhance justice and liberation.
May Jesus Christ our Saviour and the Holy

Spirit our guide
be with us all now and forever more. **Amen**

Blessing Song:

May God's Blessing Come

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Go with fullness - Go with comfort
Live with richness in God's land.
Go with justice - Go with mercy
See your God, so close at hand.

Child, with Christ, go work for peace.
In the struggle, do not cease.
Be blessed, made holy,
Sent by One – Creator, Spirit and the Son.

In you, may God's blessing come.
With you, may God's blessing come.
Through you, may God's blessing come.
Amen! Amen! Amen!

APPENDIX ONE

Optional Communion Liturgy (adapted from the 2024 Assembly)

One: Holy God you are the source of everything,
and we offer you from what you have provided us.
Please accept our offerings and gifts of bread and wine.
We remember that there are communities who struggle
to access resources for themselves.
Let our offerings be an expression of solidarity with all those who suffer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The empowering presence of the Lord is amidst us

Many: God's life affirming Spirit is amidst us.

One: Let us look up to the God of Justice

Many: We look up to Jesus who was an advocate for the oppressed.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord who resisted
oppressive powers through the Son Jesus Christ.

Many: Let us thank and praise God.

One: Holy God, we praise you through your son Jesus Christ,
who calls us to stand against injustices.
While you made us in your own image,
we limited your image to humans and neglected your image in creation.
Help us to affirm the divinity of your created order.
Despite our failings, through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus,
you remind us that we can trust our resistance against oppressive forces.
The forces of death were overcome through resurrection.
By the gift of the Holy Spirit you give your church ever inspiring source
for challenging life negating realities in our midst.

**All: Therefore, we reject the powers and principalities of Empire,
turning instead to proclaim God's Glory.
Blessed is our liberator Jesus Christ,
whose holiness was shown in solidarity with the oppressed.
Blessed be Jesus, who walks with us
in our acts of defiance against injustice.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, Bless these gifts of bread and wine
so that they may be to us the body and blood of Jesus
who was executed by Empire.
He rose again and attests that it is God's love
that has the last say and not the oppressive regime of the Empire.
Let God's love spread all over the earth.

On the night that he was betrayed, he washed the feet of his disciples.
Through such an act he expressed solidarity with the weak
as feet washing was the work of slaves.

The disciples of Jesus were scared and uncertain of their future
despite walking with Jesus.
Jesus' act of thanking God and breaking bread
gave disciples assurance that he will always be with them through the words

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Therefore, in the breaking of the bread
let us be assured of God's presence amongst us in our works of transformation.

The same assurance was given when Jesus took the cup,
and having given thanks to God, he gave it to disciples by saying:

"Drink this all of you, for this is my blood of the new Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me."

Recognizing the Jesus is ever present to us in the breaking of the bread and wine,
let us celebrate God's transformative power,
let us proclaim his resurrection and affirm life in its fullness.
Let us prepare ourselves for Christ's coming again
by establishing God's reign here on this earth.

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ shall come again.

One: Come Holy Spirit, sanctify us and these gifts of Bread and wine,
inspire us with your love and bind us together
so the we rise together in transformation.

Breaking of Bread and Pouring of Wine

We break the bread but what does it signify?

**All: Christ's life is in us, we live in Christ,
We are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

We bless this cup but what does this signify?

**All: Christ's life is in us and we live in Christ.
We are one body for we all share in of the blood of Christ.**

**God of love, we come to your table
trusting that you are amongst us and extend to us your mercy.
We can question our own worthiness to come**

**as we have neglected your mission of serving
and have become centers of power ourselves.
Protect you church from turning into an Empire.
Let the body and blood of Jesus Christ always remind us
about the sanctity of expressing solidarity
with the weak, powerless and the oppressed.
When we eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and drink his blood,
may we renew our mission strategies
and focus on life affirming power of God. Amen.**

Sharing

Draw near in faith, receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Remember that he was killed by the Empire,
remember that he expressed solidarity with the weak,
remember that he promised his presence with us in our works of righteousness through
resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, feed on him by faith with thanksgiving.

The elements are shared according to local custom.

APPENDIX TWO

Additional Music Resources

This hymn, to a choice of well-known tunes, may be substituted for one of the songs if needed.

CWM Hymn

Undivided

*Tune: Cwm Rhondda OR Regent's Square ©
CWM, 2023*

Down they fall - no walls divide us.
Love must now replace all hate.
Teach us wisdom to revive us.
Give us hands to re-create.
God of all, our hearts adore you.
Open wide your heaven's gate.

Break the chains of past oppression.
Let us claim our liberty.
Cast out greed and self-obsession,
Sharing life o'er land and sea.

God of all, our voices praise you,
Worship now the One-in-Three.

Take the hand of friend and neighbour.
Share a meal and pass the plate.*
[Alt: Call to account affairs of state)
Do the work to share God's favour.
Learn God's ways and stimulate.
Flourish then in life abundant.
Heaven's foretaste will not wait.

APPENDIX THREE

Music Learning Links



CWM Theme Song

Rise to Life

<https://youtu.be/jqM94MdMxhI>



Song

Rising to Life with Jesus Christ

https://youtu.be/2Wt5Ivon_V0



Song

We turn our faces to you most holy [We rise – hallelujah]

<https://youtu.be/BqYuCDAJ0eM>



Blessing Song

Beatitude Blessing / Blessing of the Children of God

<https://youtu.be/X93zjY0eiT8>



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