

Indian Disability Ecumenical Accompaniment-IDEA

Accompanied by: Commission on Justice Peace and Creation

Disability Advocacy Sunday - 27 November 2016 (or) Any other Convenient Sunday)

Theme: "Under the Roof... Step Beyond the Stairs"

Welcome:

Leader: God our Creator has gathered us here to celebrate the gifts and graces that are bestowed upon the persons with disabilities who are with us and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. So let's welcome each one by shaking hands, or hugs or wishing them with folding hands by saying 'Praise the Lord'.

Call to Worship:

LEADER: Lord, how awe-inspiring it is that we gather here together to Worship in Spirit and Truth as people of different abilities whose handiworks are we, loudly singing praises standing in your presence!

Congregation: God our Creator, you have created us in your own image to show your immeasurable love to all. Guide us as we flock together to worship in as one body in Spirit, Truth and Freedom as people with different skill, different abilities and different disabilities.

Leader: Lord we welcome all into your Holy sanctuary where there are no walls of discrimination and barricade, so that we are able to hear you speak to us through the proclamation of your inclusive words.

Congregation: Our Lord, guide us to embrace all, be with us and help us to worship your freedom, we beseech you in your Grace to stand up in the journey as one Body of Christ to help us to be united Under the Roof with your impartial love.

Leader: So let us love and cherish all, regardless of one's' physical strength or ability, difference of mind or Spirit, attributing Justice, Love, Peace and inclusiveness in our commitments towards the Journey into a purposeful growth of Just and an Inclusive Church under the Roof. As one Body of Christ we seek your help to share God's precious gift of Salvation to go a step beyond the stair in being an Inclusive Church 'Of' all and Church 'For' all... **All: Amen...**

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, we are gathered in your sanctuary to praise Your Holy Name. We rejoice at the community of believers gathered here. God our life and way, may we who are made in Your image, mirror Your compassion, creativity and imagination as we work to reshape our understanding about You and the mission that You have entrusted upon us. Enable us to discern the unique talents that You have given to us and accept one another without any discrimination. In You we are no longer alone or disabled, though differently-abled yet united in one body for which You are the head. Trusting in Your wisdom and grace, we pray gratefully in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

God our accompanier and compassion as we welcome and include all Under the Roof, be our constant help and guide to show your compassionate love Justice and Fullness of life for all including People with disabilities. As we pursue our call we pray that we develop the potential to accompany one another. Guide us to understand our fears prejudices and inability to reach beyond ourselves and to discover the joy of sharing the Good news to all under the Roof. Help us to understand that the Body of Christ is incomplete if any of its flock is left behind and to perceive that all have the gifts and ability to share with one another. We ask hope and pray all this in the name of our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ...Amen

Collect:

Recognizing our dependence on the Lord to care for all God's people, we bring these petitions before God: that our churches may be welcoming inclusive communities to all people, especially those who may be overlooked by the rest of society; that we and our brothers and sisters with challenging conditions may realize our dignity as sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ; that the people of God will openly receive the gifts brought by people who have disabilities; that we recognize the beauty of God's creating hand in each person regardless of any human limitations we may have; that the God of Reconciliation will unite all of us in praise for making each of us the special person we are.

Responsive Reading: Psalms 24 (Please sue PWDs for Readings with Sign Interpretation)

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Exodus 4:10-12

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Matthew 7:1-5

Ministering with Word of God / Homily: (With Sign Interpretation) Theme: **“Under the roof...Step beyond the stairs”**
(Prepared by Mrs. Avita Daniel of Jesus Enable Ministries, Chennai.)

- A. Equal in God's eyes (*Acceptance*)
 - 1. Created by God for a purpose
 - 2. Life by God's Grace
 - 3. Co-heirs in God's Kin(g)dom

- B. Everyone is Unique and Important (*Understanding*)
 - 1. Different parts of the body
 - 2. Every part is important, respectable
 - 3. We care for one another suffer together, rejoice together

- C. Everybody can contribute for God's Kin(g)dom (*giving Opportunity*)
 - 1. Biblical examples
 - a. Moses stutterer
 - b. Paul had an infirmity (eye)
 - c. Zacchaeus too short
 - 2. Are the disabled persons in our Church actively contributing?
 - a. Encourage
 - b. Utilize their capability and talents
 - c. Give opportunity

Affirmation of Faith: (ALL)

We believe that, as God's creation, we are fashioned uniquely, each endowed with individuality of body, mind, and spirit; To worship freely the One who has given us life. Each of us has abilities; each seeks fulfillment and wholeness. Each of us has disabilities; each knows isolation and incompleteness. Seeking shelter from the vulnerability we all share, claiming our promised place in God's Household of Faith, we are transformed by invitation, affirmation, and love of God.

Following the model of Jesus, we believe and affirm to treat all people as people as I wish to be treated, speak directly to the person living with disability not only to the nearby family member, companion, interpreter, or the canine companion, shake hands when introduced, offer assistance and wait until the offer is accepted, be patient and wait for person living with disability speaking, rather than speaking for the person. And we will treat adult with developmental disability as adults, not as children.

We believe that the church's true and meaningful fellowship is to be found only in its openness to all people regardless of physical and mental condition, its acceptance in the ministry of the church as Bishops, priest, pastors, evangelist and in its governance and its availability with varied aids and facilities to cater person with Disabilities. Amen

Announcements and Notices:

Hymn / Lyric (Offertory)

Confession

Leader: Jesus said when you give a reception, Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be Blessed

Congregation: God of All, we confess that we in our celebration and Festivals have shunned the space and Dignity to the persons with disabilities. We have been selective in inviting whom we want rather than what you want.

All: Forgive our unjust celebrations.

Leader: When Jesus saw him lying there and he knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, he said to him, “Do you wish to get well?”

Congregation: Dear God we see many people living within their confined limitations around us, but we seldom been initiators of the healing process in them. We neither ask nor talk but objectify their presence in our midst.

ALL: Forgive our Insensitivities.

Leader: Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; they accompanied him by hand and brought him to Damascus.

Congregation: You have called your Church to be an accompanying Church, but many a times, Dear God, we are moving ahead and leaving behind those who are weak and disabled. We aren't lending a helping hand or a shoulder to rest but have remained mere spectators.

ALL: Forgive us for forgetting your Mission

Leader: Peter and John at the beautiful gate looked into the eyes of the lame man, outstretched their hand and said “Silver and Gold have I none, but in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, we command you to raise up and walk”

Congregation: Today still there are many who are sitting at the beautiful gate longing to be noticed and their lives empowered but we have been a stumbling block creating beautiful structures and more attitudinal barriers.

ALL: Forgive us for our false spirituality God

Leader: When they could not bring the paralyzed man to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him and let him down through the rope.

Congregation: Today our visions are constricted and one sided. We are unable to think of new possibilities and opportunities going out of our way, risking ourselves to help the persons with disabilities.

ALL: Forgive our shortsightedness through which even we are disabled

(Adopted from Worship Order Prepared for Workshop on Disability by CSI – Synod Youth Department)

Absolution:

God has forgiven all those who have truly repented of their sins and has cleansed us from all our iniquities, and God admonishes us to sin no more. **Amen.**

Intercession: Please use the regular intercessions adding the PWD concerns.

Closing Prayer:

Creator God we thank you for reminding us that we all are one in Christ irrespective of our abilities and disabilities. We are created in Your image in order that we would identify your image in our beloved friends who are differently abled. Enable us to see each other through Your eyes of love and compassion. We thank you for opening our eyes through this service, let this conversion in us be a stepping stone to unite everyone in You irrespective of their abilities and disabilities. Help us to see that our differences bring pleasure to You and make us channels of bringing dignity to the differently abled people in our Church and Society. In Christ name we ask. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: May we recognize the perfection of God in all who are created in the image of God and accept the abilities of the disabled and create a new order without any discrimination:

The blessings of the Triune God: God Almighty the Father whose image is seen in the differently-abled; Christ Jesus who was crucified and made disabled in order that we all would be abled and the Holy Spirit who creates a new heart to see the image of God in all of us be with us now and for evermore. **Amen.**

(Compiled and Developed by NCCI - IDEA)

For More Details:

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