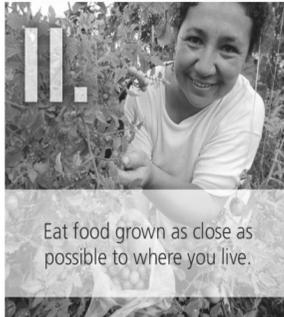


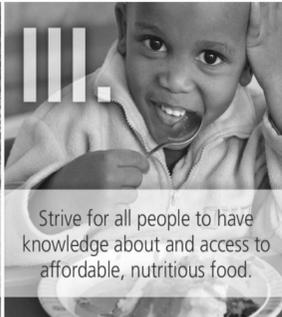
TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FOOD



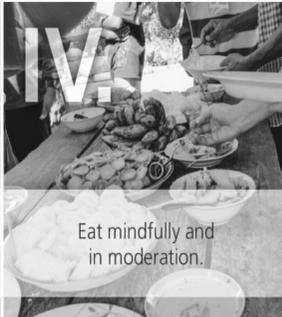
I.
Give thanks for
the food you eat.



II.
Eat food grown as close
as possible to where you live.



III.
Strive for all people to have
knowledge about and access to
affordable, nutritious food.



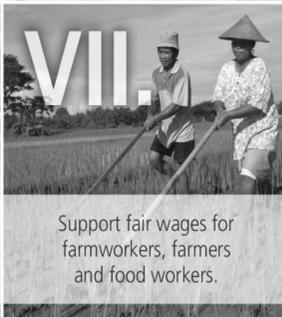
IV.
Eat mindfully and
in moderation.



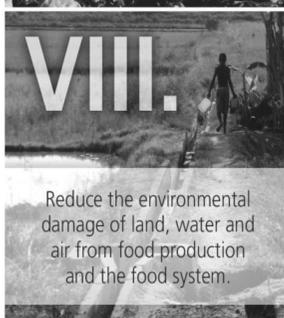
V.
Do not waste food.



VI.
Be grateful to those who
grow and prepare food
for your table.



VII.
Support fair wages for
farmworkers, farmers
and food workers.



VIII.
Reduce the environmental
damage of land, water and
air from food production
and the food system.



IX.
Protect the biodiversity of
seeds, soils, ecosystems and the
cultures of food producers.



X.
Rejoice and share the
sacred gift of food with all.



www.oikoumene.org/foodweek

Photos: Paul Jeffrey, Mike Garcia, Nicole Benz, Sean Hawkey, Armin Passch, Celestine Nguibe, WCC-EAA | Design: Nicole Benz

Food for Life



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World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
Student Christian Movement of India
National Council of Churches in India - Unity and Mission

CHURCHES' WEEK OF ACTION ON FOOD

11 -17 OCTOBER 2017

UN's World Food Day Theme (2017):

"Change the Future of Migration: Invest in
Food Security and Rural Development".



WEEK OF ACTION EVERY DAY THEMES

- Day-1 O Lord, Give Us 'Green Pastures' (Psalm 23:2a)
- Day-2 O Lord, Lead Us to 'Just Waters' (Psalm 23:2b)
- Day-3 O Lord, Accompany Us Through the Valleys of
Hunger and Starvation (Psl 23:4)
- Day-4 O Lord, Inspire Us Expand Table For All
(Psalm 23: 5a)
- Day-5 O Lord, Let Your Rod and Staff Accompany Us
(Psalm 23: 5b)
- Day-6 O Lord, Your 'Goodness & Mercy' Shall Follow Us
(Psalm 23: 6a)
- Day-7 October 2017 - O Lord, May We 'Dwell in Your Oikos'
(Psalm 23: 6b)



Churches' Week of Action on Food - 2017 (11 -17 October 2017)

The Churches Week of Action on Food is a Global Campaign for Food Justice initiated by the World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and the National Council of Churches in India is part of this campaign for years. This week (11 -17 October), highlights the UN days of Gild Child (11), Disaster Reduction (13), Rural Women (15) World Food day (16) and Eradication of Poverty (17).

The theme for World Food Day, this year (2017) is *"Change the Future of Migration: Invest in Food Security and Rural Development"*. It has been chosen to highlight the role of civil societies and faith communities in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger by addressing climate change with the Gospel Values of Justice, Love and Peace.

Despite the economic growth achieved during the last 20 years, India continues to suffer from 'alarming hunger' and acute malnutrition among children below age five. The recently introduced National Food Security Bill tries to address some of these concerns seriously. The Government of India also has to improve the design and supervision of the welfare programmes like the Public Distribution System (PDS) which distributes basic commodities at subsidized cost to the people who live under the poverty line. However, food alone does not solve the problem of underweight children; it needs a multidimensional thrust through the right to health, right to hygiene, right to water and right to life.

Therefore, considering the seriousness of the issue the then Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation, of the National Council of Churches in India joined the World Council of Churches – Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance in launching a National Campaign on "FOOD-JUSTICE for LIFE" in 2012 and initiated missional interventions in promoting 'Life Giving Agriculture' as a commitment to facilitate their constituent members and communities of people to join the campaign to give expression in the entire world to the Gospel of Food-Justice for Life.

The National Council of Churches in India has been part of the World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance's Churches Week of Action on Food. This year the NCCI joined the WCC - EAA along with the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) and facilitated a National Consultation and Workshop on Food and Migration (14 -15 Aug 2017, SCM House Bangalore) and developed these Orders of Worship for the week. Such 'Prayer' campaign is an urgent necessity to inform the world that food insecurity is sin caused by unjust systems and practices of the society. It is a call to the entire society to campaign for just-production, just-consumption, and just-distribution on the basis of needs, necessity and equality along with practicing and promoting socially and environmentally sustainable agriculture. The Gospel imperative is that we all work together, irrespective of caste, creed, faith, ideology and philosophies to change the unjust practices, structures and systems of our society.

This year the entire focus would be on 'Food and Migration'. Migration is one of the Programme focal areas of NCCI in this Quadrannum.

The NCCI appreciates the SCMI - WCC - ECC and NCCI -Unity and Mission for facilitating this timely and important prayer campaign to encourage all the members and their churches/institutions to observe the Food Action Week actively as a call of God to serve the society.

We request you to kindly disseminate and publish the same among your congregations and net-works and encourage them to join the campaign by observing the Week of Action for Food.

The Campaign envisions "Hunger-free Society of all and Society for All!"

Yours in God's Mission

Rt. Rev. Dr. P C Singh
President

Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad
General Secretary

I

Introduction

The Churches week of Action on Food is a global campaign initiated by the World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (WCC - EAA). Through this campaign WCC - EAA invites, the global Ecumenical Movements and Organisations, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) to collectively involve and participate in this week-long campaign for Food-justice.

The week between, 11 - 17 October is considered as an important week! this week includes the 'International Day of Girl Child' (11 October), 'International Day for Disaster Reduction' (13 October), 'International Day for Rural Women' (15 October), 'World Food Day' (16 October) and 'International Day for Eradication of Poverty' (17 October). Hence, the WCC - EAA has declared this week as "Churches' Week of Action on Food". 'This Churches' Week of Action on Food', is a to advocate Food-justice 'OF' all - Food Justice 'FOR all. This is part of the WCC -EAA's global Campaign on 'Food for Life' programme campaign area. The Members of EAA observe this week globally with the their networks and constituencies.

In India, National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) as a member of the WCC - EAA joining the other Participating Organisations of EAA in India, is part of this global campaign and facilitating the Indian Churches, Faith Based and Interfaith Organisations and Community Based Organisations to observe this week. In the recent past there are several congregations and communities meaningfully observe the same.

The United Nation's theme for 2017 World Food Day is "Change the Future of Migration: Invest in Food Security and Rural Development". Therefore the EAA has chosen "Food and Migration' a theme to observe the Churches Week of Action on Food - 2017'.

This year's worship orders are having Psalms 23 as a backdrop and tried to interpret the Psalm from Ecological, Food-justice and Migration perspectives. The seven payers of the Psalmist are chosen as themes for each day and relevantly dealt as a process of appropriating Bible for our faith journeys today.

These worship orders are outcome of a Consultation and Workshop jointly organised by the Student Christian Movement of India, National Council of Churches in India and the World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, held from 14 - 15 August 2017 at, SCM House Bangalore India. There were 50 participants from the 30 constituencies of the organisers including the Churches, Diaconal Ministries, Ecumenical Organisations, Community Based Organisations and Movements and Theological Seminaries. In fact, the themes were identified by the participants themselves on the basis of the input sessions at the Consultation and developed these worship orders.

II

These worship resources shall be employed by using as strong advocacy tools for food-justice campaigns. Prayers, liturgies, songs powerful expressions for our faith and spiritual journeys indeed! Since spirituality is the heart of a person's expression of Christian faith, worship becomes a pivotal peak of expression.

We would like to record our sincere thanks to Mr. Vinod Shemron for his creative and theological inputs to the worship orders and also to Rev. Dr. Daniel Premkumar, Rev. Fr. Nithiya Sahayam, Rev. Viji Varghese Eapen, Miss. Manjulie Vaiphen, Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei. Dr. William Stanley, Miss. Vedakani, and Dr. George Zachariah for their theological and linguistical suggestions.

Since it is a life and death issue for our country, let us all commit ourselves to engage in this campaign thereby encouraging the constituent members, net-networks and congregations to mainstream 'Food Justice for Life' in their respective Mission and Ministerial Agendas.

Your patronage, partnership and participation is solicited to promote the Food-justice 'OF' all - Food-justice 'FOR' all.

Come.. join... participate... promote...

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Day 1 Focus Area: Life Giving Agriculture

Theme: O Lord, Give Us 'Life-Giving' Green Pastures (Psalm 23:2(a))

WORDS OF WELCOME

Leader: Dearly beloved, from this day (Oct. 11) to Tuesday (Oct. 17), we observe as the 'Churches Week of Action on Food', for which we have chosen 7 themes based on Psalm 23. The 7 themes deal with 7 pertinent areas related to food: they are 'Agriculture', 'Water', 'Gender', 'Food Justice', 'Food & Migration', 'Climate Refugees' and 'Just-development'. Through these worships we hope that our lives would be transformed to become living witnesses to the 'God of Life' and that our renewed commitment would be expressed in our efforts to alleviate poverty and hunger, thus ensuring 'Food Security'. Let us spend a few moments in silence and prepare for this Worship, praying, '*O Lord, Give Us 'Life-Giving' Green Pastures'.*

Silence

CALL TO WORSHIP (All Standing)

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Response: For He has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?

Response: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts.

Leader: Let us lift our hearts and minds to worship the God of Life.

Response: Let us put our hearts and hands to 'work-ship' with the God of Life.

HYMN '*We plough the fields and scatter'*

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us praise and thank God using the 'Canticle of Creation' – The Song of Three Young Men (also known as 'Benedicite')

Leader: All things the Lord has made, bless the Lord: give glory and eternal praise to Him.

Response: Angels of the Lord, all bless the Lord: give glory and eternal praise to Him.

Leader: Heavens, bless the Lord: Waters above the heavens, bless the Lord.

Response: Powers of the Lord, bless the Lord: sun and moon, bless the Lord.

Leader: Stars of heaven, bless the Lord: Showers and dew, bless the Lord.

Response: Winds of God, bless the Lord: ice and snow, bless the Lord.

Leader: Winter and summer, bless the Lord: cold and heat, bless the Lord.

Response: Nights and days, bless the Lord: light and darkness, bless the Lord.

Leader: Lightning and clouds, bless the Lord: give glory and eternal praise to Him.

Response: Let the earth bless the Lord: give glory and eternal praise to Him.

Leader: Mountains and hills, bless the Lord: all green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord.

Response: Springs of Water, bless the Lord: seas and rivers, bless the Lord.

Leader: Fish and everything that moves in water, bless the Lord; Birds of heaven, all bless the Lord

Response: Animals, wild and tame, all bless the Lord: all men and women, bless the Lord.

Leader: O let people of God, bless the Lord: give glory and eternal praise to Him.

Response: Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord: servants of the lord, bless the Lord.

Leader: All that are upright in spirit, bless the Lord: all that are holy and humble in heart, bless the Lord

Response: Bless the Father, bless the Son, bless the Holy Spirit: give Glory and eternal praise to Him

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

Response: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING (*Kindly be seated*) **Micah 4:1-5**

INSPIRATIONAL TALK

CONFESSION

Leader: Based on what we have read and heard now, let us confess our sins that promoted 'Life-Killing Agribusiness' instead of 'Life-giving Agriculture'.

Silence

Leader: In those days, when the God of Life asked us, to go to His fields and farms,

Response: We streamed to them, but without Him.

Leader: In those days, when the God of Life called us, to instruct and teach us life-giving agriculture

Response: We ignored His call and listened to the corporate.

Silence

Leader: Today, when the God of Life urges us, to use 'plough shares' and 'pruning hooks'

Response: We close our ears and use 'swords' and 'spears'

Leader: Today, when the God of Life urges us, to engage in organic farming

Response: We close our ears and use Genetically Modified Crops and Chemical Fertilizers

Silence

Leader: In days to come, God of Life wants us to tend the land, let them 'live'

Response: Yet we love to dumb our wastes, and let these lands 'die'

Leader: In days to come, God of Life wants us to cultivate crops

Response: Yet we love to fill our lands, so as to construct malls and factories.

Silence

All: Forgive us O Lord, for walking in the ways of life-killing agriculture. Transform us O Lord, to walk in the ways of life-giving agriculture.

ABSOLUTION

Leader: If you have truly repented that you no longer walk in the ways of the corporate, rather in the ways of the life-giving God, you shall sit under your own vines and under your own fig trees, with no fear or debt and death.

All: The mouth of the Lord has spoken. We heard. We rejoice.

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Leader: As an act of commitment, we shall share our narratives of how we would engage in life-giving agriculture and cultivate in our own lands, small or big, with dignity.

SHARING THE SIGN OF PEACE

Leader: As a sign of sharing peace, let us stand facing each other, lift our right hand upward (sign of receiving peace) and stretch our left hand toward each other (sign of sharing peace).

Once we stand in this posture, looking at each other's eyes, kindly repeat after me

I am the land, you are the farmer

I am the land, you are seed

I am the land, you are the rain

I am the land, you are the light

I am the land, you are the air

I am the land, you are the tool

I am the land, you are the manure

I am the land, you are the machine

I am the Land, you are the crop

I am the land, you are the harvest

This is Lord's green pasture.

This is our green pasture...Let us rejoice.

INTERCESSION (kindly be seated)

Leader: God of Life, whose fathering and mothering love cares all Your creation, that reveals Your glory

Response: Holy be your name. Lead us to Your 'Life-Giving' green pastures.

Leader: God of Life, whose kingdom is to foster justice and peace and whose will is to promote life and love

Response: Your kingdom come, Your will be done. Lead us to Your 'Life-Giving' green pastures.

Leader: God of Life, who wants our lands to be blessed so that we live not in poverty and hunger

Response: Give us today our daily bread. Lead us to Your 'Life-Giving' green pastures.

Leader: God of Life, who wants us to live upright, never exploiting others and ever fighting exploitation

Response: Forgive us our sins. Lead us to Your 'Life-Giving' green pastures.

Leader: God of Life, who wants us to live just, so as to satisfy the need of all and not the greed of a few,

Response: Lead us not into temptations and deliver us from evil. Lead us to Your 'Life-Giving' green pastures.

Closing Hymn *'The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not Want'*

Benediction *(An Old Irish Blessing)*

Leader: May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
AMEN.

Day 2 Focus Area: Water is Right - Water is Life

Theme: O Lord, Lead Us to Just-waters (Psalm 23: 2(b))

CALL TO WORSHIP *(All Standing)*

Leader: Dear beloved, as many rivers merge together into the sea, we have come together to worship our God, the giver of living water. As we remember the lives that depend on water and its resources, let us be reminded that Justice should flow down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

Response: We join in worshiping God in truth and in spirit. Our hearts overflow with songs of praise, God's waters of grace and forgiveness cleanse and renew us.

Silence

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: God the Spirit, giver of Life, who moved over the waters in the creation, who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea to liberation, and who comforted your people in exile by the waters of Babylon, draw us together as we gather in your name.

Response: Creator God, we thank you for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh, and cleanse all life. We ask your blessing on this gathering. As we come together from many places and mingle the waters of our experience and faith, may we find sustenance, insight, and refreshment for the task of repairing our world. Amen.

Silence

HYMN: 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, For he has refreshed the parched earth.

Response: We praise you, O God.

Leader: Rejoice for the rain that falls by night, and soaks at once into the dry ground, causing half-dried-up roots to swell, and the deep cracks in the earth to close.

Response: We praise you, O God.

Leader: Rejoice for the great drops that fall at midday; rejoice in the small streams, on their way from the hills down into the valleys, to make the rivers swell and fill the reservoirs and supply the cities and irrigation channels with water.

Response: We praise you, O God.

Leader: Rejoice for the ground, for rain, for seeds and tools, for strength in limbs and spine, for the will to work and for creative minds.

Response: We praise you, O God.

SCRIPTURE READING *(Kindly be seated)* Isaiah 41:17-20

INSPIRATIONAL TALK

CONFESSION

Leader: God, the source of life, whose spirit hovered over waters at the time of creation; God in Jesus Christ, who came as living waters to quench the thirsty; God the Holy Spirit, who waters and brings forth the fruit; we come to your presence confessing our attitudes of greed, dominance and insensitivity towards your wonderful creation, and particularly towards water.

Response: Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

Leader: We confess that we have been irresponsible in our use of water, wasting it to satisfy our comfortable lives. In many places we have commoditized and privatized water, a natural resource, denying people access to it. In the name of development projects, water sources have been drained or polluted with industrial waste, causing risk to flora and fauna.

Response: Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

Leader: We acknowledge the lack of cooperation between different authorities and organizations to manage water resources fairly. We confess our failure, as faith communities, to address water justice and seek forgiveness for not speaking out for the thirsty and the dying in situations of drought.

Response: Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

Leader: We confess of being silent spectators as many vulnerable communities walk miles every day in search of water for their families. We regret our involvement in the privatization of rivers and other natural water beds, resulting in contamination and reduction of water supplies. We come to your presence ashamed of our apathy and insincerity towards the abuse of water and other natural resources, asking you to inspire us to be challenged to conserve, preserve and use water prudently.

Response: Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

Leader: We confess O God the encroaching of water beds that were naturally created. We built our shops and offices on them and diverted water elsewhere. We have also contributed to the sand mafia in this regard. We plead guilty O lord, for such atrocities and the injustices meted to the water beds.

Response: Let justice roll down like rivers, and let rivers roll out in justice.

Silence

ABSOLUTION

All: **God who brought water out of the rock, God who quenched the thirst of those dying in the wilderness, God who in Jesus gave the living waters so that those who taste them would never thirst, God who in**

Jesus died on the Cross thirsty, for there was none to quench his thirst, listen to all those who truly confess and grant us forgiveness so that we act responsibly in our use of water, become sensitive to the desperate needs of those without water, and gain wisdom in conserving and preserving water so that rivers roll out in justice among all nations and all peoples. Amen.

Silence

ACT OF COMMITMENT *(Water to be placed near the pews with paper cups)*

Leader: As an act of commitment, let us draw water in the cup, lay our right hand on the full cup of water, and pledge before God in a silent prayer to advocate water justice in the knowledge of the various lives that depend on water. To partake in the holy fellowship of solidarity let us drink the water

INTERCESSION *: *(kindly be seated)*

Let us display on the altar table: a glass of clean water, a glass of unclean water, a bottle of cola and an empty glass. You might like to play soft music in the background.

Leader: Let us pray for the whole universe. (Hold up the glass of clean water.) Lord let this glass of clean water remind us of the available sources of fresh drinking water. Help us to protect the gift of water and utilize it with the spirit of sanctity and responsibility. May our lives be so balanced that greed makes way for need and the tendency to waste makes way for a commitment to save.

Response: Fountain of life, wash us clean from greed and sin.

Leader: (Hold up the glass of unclean water) Let this glass of unclean water remind us of the tears of those whose lives have been threatened by the excessive salinization of their water resources. Let those who contribute to contamination of water shed tears of repentance. They have only contributed to the wastage of water and promoted marketization of their beverages. May they learn to lead a simple life so that others can 'simply live.'

Response: Creator of new life, transform us so that we may be channels of life.

Leader: (Hold up a bottle of cola.) God of justice, we pray for all those who are resisting multinational corporations and developmental processes which plunder our natural resources and threaten the livelihood of millions. We pray for all organizations involved in the preservation of water, and with it, your gift of life. Help, guide and sustain them in their endeavors.

Response: God of justice strengthen those who seek to preserve your creation.

*Modified from http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/61034/ctbi_water_justice__a5_service.pdf

Leader: (Hold up the empty glass.) Lord, we pray for all communities involved in the issues of water justice. Give us compassion to walk with those who lack the water for life sustenance. Help us to empty ourselves of prejudice and fill us with a vision of solidarity and fellowship so that we can work together in conserving the Gift of water.

Response: God of justice give us your vision.

Leader: Lord, we pray for the universal church and its mission and vision. Inspire us to work towards water justice. Transform our lives so that we may be channels of justice - not just in what we preach, but in our daily practice. Let your churches be role models within our communities in conserving water and preserving life in all its fullness. Bring churches together to work in unity so that justice will prevail and water will be available for our generation and future generations.

Response: God of hope make us instruments of hope.

Leader: We bring these prayers to you in the name of Christ, our Savior

Response: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 'Let Justice Flow Like Streams'

Benediction

Leader: May God, who caused rain to water the face of the earth, May Jesus Christ, who gives us the water of eternal life, May the Holy Spirit, who quenches thirst with gifts from the spring of life inspire and challenge us to become advocates for water justice and bless us all to flow as 'justice rolls down as waters' both now and forever more.

Response: Amen.

Day 3 Focus Area: Pathos of Climate Refugees

**Theme: O Lord, Accompany Us Through the Valleys of Hunger and Starvation
(Psalm 23: 4)**

OPENING PRAYER*

Leader: Creator God, Maker of the universe! Today we join with birds and trees and animals, with rocks and rivers and mountains, to worship and adore you as the One who brings all beings to their birth! Christ of the spheres, child of God's wisdom! In your womb the universe was made; but in your love you emptied yourself of all divinity and took the way of ultimate suffering. We have gathered this day to sing our thanks! Hail, Spirit Holy, breath of God's life and primal fire! You dwell in our souls as the instinct for love and justice; you clear our eyes to appreciate beauty and celebrate life. You are the voice of calm and the fire of passion. Ignite our worship, make us lovers of God!

Response: Amen

Silence

CALL TO WORSHIP(All Standing)

Leader: God speaks through rocks and trees and water,

Response: Come let us worship God in the sound of the rocks, trees and water

Leader: God speaks through budding flowers and twinkling stars,

Response: Come let us worship God with flowers and stars

Leader: God speaks, and is still speaking, when every living creature on earth breathes

Response: We share the "Peace of God with all" in this worship

Silence

HYMN: I Sing the Almighty Power of God

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Leader: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,

Response: And plants for people to use

Leader: To bring forth food from the earth,

Response: And wine to gladden the human heart,

Leader: Oil to make the face shine,

Response: and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Leader: The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,

Response: The cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

Leader: In them the birds build their nests;

Response: The stork has its home in the fir trees.

Leader: The high mountains are for the wild goats;

Response: The rocks are a refuge for the Coney.

Leader: You have made the moon to mark the seasons;

Response: The sun knows it's time for setting.

Leader: You make darkness, and it is night,

Response: When all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

Leader: The young lions roar for their prey,

Response: Seeking their food from God.

Leader: When the sun rises, they withdraw

Response: And lie down in their dens.

Leader: People go out to their work

Response: And to their labor until the evening.

Leader: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

Response: May the LORD rejoice in His works

Leader: Who looks on the earth and it trembles,

Response: Who touches the mountains and they smoke.

Leader: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.

Response: I will sing praise to my God in my being.

Leader: May my meditation be pleasing to him,

Response: For I rejoice in the LORD.

Leader: Let sinners be consumed from the earth,

Response: And let the wicked be no more.

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Response: Praise the LORD!

Silence

SCRIPTURE READING (*Kindly be seated*) Ruth 1:1-10

INSPIRATIONAL TALK

CONFESSION**

Leader: We confess, dear Lord, as creatures privileged with the care and keeping of Your Creation,

Response: That we have abused your Creation gifts through arrogance, ignorance, and greed.

Leader: We confess risking permanent damage to Your handiwork;

Response: We confess impoverishing Creation's ability to bring You praise.

Leader: Yet, we confess that Your handiwork provides the context for our living;

Response: It is our home, it is the realm in which we live the life of Your kingdom,

Leader: Your kingdom that is now in our midst and coming yet more fully

Response: We confess, Lord, that we often are unaware of how deeply we have hurt Your good earth and its marvelous gifts.

Leader: We confess that we often are unaware of how our abuse of Creation has also been an abuse of ourselves.

Response: O Lord, how long will it take before we awaken to what we have done

Leader: How many waters must we pollute? How many wood lots must we destroy?

Response: How many forests must we despoil? How much soil must we erode and poison, O Lord

Leader: How much of Earth's atmosphere must we contaminate? How many species must we abuse and extinguish?

Response: How many people must we degrade and kill with toxic wastes before we learn to love and respect your Creation,

Leader: Before we learn to love and respect our home?

Response: For our wrongs, Lord, we ask forgiveness.

Leader: In sorrow for what we have done we offer our repentance.

Response: We pray that our actions toward You and Your Creation are worthy of our repentance,

Leader: That we will so act here on earth that heaven will not be a shock to us.

Response: We promise to reverence Your Creation as a gracious gift entrusted to us by You, our God.

Leader: We promise anew to be stewards and not pillagers of what You have entrusted to us.

Response: Creator God, You have given us every reason to learn this wisdom of lives lived in harmony with Creation.

Leader: May we, your servants, increasingly serve.

Response: May we, your servants, increasingly come to love Your Creation as we increasingly come to love You,

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The creation of God's hand has heard your heartfelt confessions. God is merciful to embrace all who confess with a remorseful heart. Be assured of God's grace and forgiveness. Go therefore and sin no more.

Response: Amen

Silence

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Leader: Now that we are aware of the issues surrounding climate justice. Let us pledge our commitment.

Response: We are the Church. We will stand in solidarity with the climate refugees who are directly or indirectly affected by our deeds. We pledge to reduce carbon emission, stop deforestation and cutting down of trees, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and only use products that can be reused and recycled.

INTERCESSION:* (kindly be seated)**

Leader: For the sake of those facing rising temperatures, drought and water shortages,

Response: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing unpredictable weather, disrupted seasons and failed crops,

Response: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing flooding, land loss and salination of vital water supplies,

Response: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of all those who fear the changing climate,

Response: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of the poor, the vulnerable, and the refugee,

Response: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: Compassionate defender, we thank you for all those you have inspired and equipped to help communities suffering the effects of climate change now.

Response: Spirit of God, fill their minds with wisdom, their spirits with energy and their hands with skill.

Leader: Precious counselor, we thank you for all who are speaking out on behalf of the voiceless.

Response: Spirit of God, open the ears of the powerful to hear them.

Leader: Limitless comforter, we thank you for all who are serving and giving so that those in need can adapt to a changing climate.

Response: Spirit of God, fill their hands with more resources to give to those in need.

Leader: Spirit of truth, speak to our hearts and tell us what you would have us do.

Response: Spirit of God, we surrender to you.

Leader: For the sake of us all,

Response: Creator God, in your mercy, recreate our hearts that we might partner with you to renew this damaged world.

Leader: Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

CLOSING HYMN: To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the Creator God, give us the courage and faith to put ourselves on the line for climate justice. May the Christ, our redeemer encourage and liberate us to become sustainable communities. May the Holy Spirit move blow among us as we join our voices in tears of protest for people in climate struggle. May the goodness and mercy of the Triune God Accompany Us Through the Valleys of Hunger and Starvation

Response: Amen

*<https://www.ncchurches.org/lectionary-archive/year-c/climate-changesustainability-proper-28/>

**Adapted from <https://www.ncchurches.org/lectionary-archive/year-c/climatechange-sustainability-proper-28/>

***Adapted from <http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/written-prayers-prayers-in-response-to-climate-change.pdf>

Day 4 Focus Area: Food for Life

Theme: O Lord, Inspire Us to Expand the 'Table for All' (Psalm 23:5(a))

WORDS OF WELCOME

Leader: Yahweh Yireh, who gave to all, what you created, that we may relish the wondrous works of your hand. The birds in the air, fish of the sea, fruits of the trees, human on land and all creatures that feed on, speak of your glory. You gave food to the hungry and water to those who thirst. Your promise of the life giving water is life in abundance. We are grateful to your promises in our lives. Draw us together as we gather in your name.

CALL TO WORSHIP (All Standing)

Leader: Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.
Response: In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst

Leader: Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.
Response: In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed

Leader: Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.
Response: In the midst of a world filled with armed and political conflicts

Leader: Come worship a God who gives life meaning.
Response: In the midst of the many who feel life's worthlessness in struggle for dignity

Leader: Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.
Response: In the midst of a world of emptiness

Silence

HYMN: You are the master of all creation
You are the Master of all creation
Protector, preserver, almighty
Our hearts are filled with praises for thee
We bow down to worship, adore thee
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Amen

Heaven and earth shall pass away
But your word shall never pass away
My flesh will be destroyed and be gone
The just shall live by faith
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Amen

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,
Response: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the God of gods,
Response: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
Response: For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: For they had no faith in God, and did not trust his saving power.
Response: Yet God commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven;

Leader: God rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven.
Response: All ate the bread of angels; God sent them food in abundance.

Leader: God caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by God's power led out the south wind;
Response: God rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;

Leader: God let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings.
Response: And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

All: We give you our praise and thanksgiving O God.

Silence

SCRIPTURE READING (Kindly be seated) John 6:22-35

INSPIRATIONAL TALK

CONFESSION

Leader: We have sinned in the sight of God and Creation. Therefore let us confess our sins.

Response: O gracious and eternal God who is the source of all creation, we praise you for your majesty and the splendor in which you have created everything. The earth is filled with your glorious handiworks, as we stand amazed at its grandeur, for which we are ever thankful. We, your people, come before you in all humility to seek for pardon for not being worthy to be called your responsible stewards of creation. We have neglected the lives of the many and have wandered around accumulating for our own need and greed, when we as a church were called to give, we plead for forgiveness O lord. We have o lord stripped the earth of her very identity and her natural resources that has resulted in the famine and the drought that has hit our nations severely. We see in front of our eyes, our dear brothers and sisters and their little ones dying of hunger and thirst. We see the women walk many miles to fetch water. We see many children especially girls in malnutrition and crying tearlessly for food. We often neglected the young girls from the society and branded unfit even for education. Help us, the Church, O lord to act diligently, to commit to justice by not only in standing in solidarity with the people who are affected but also to work and address the issue, and help solve as much as we can. Give us the strength to work, and the mind to be just in all situations. Forgive us O Lord. Amen

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Feed the Hungry. Give water to the Thirsty. Clothe the Naked. Visit those in Prison. For all what you do to the least of these you do it unto me. Be assured in peace, that you shall be forgiven. Be reconciled through your actions, according to the confessions of your contrite heart.

Response: Amen

Silence

ACT OF COMMITMENT

(Pray: Ten Commandments of Food)

Leader: As an act of commitment, Let us say responsively the Ten Commandments of Food

Leader: Give Thanks for the Food you eat

Response: Eat food grown as close as possible to where you live.

Leader: Strive for all people to have knowledge about and access to affordable, nutritious food.

Response: Eat mindfully and in moderation.

Leader: Do not waste food.

Response: Be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.

Leader: Support fair wages for farm-workers, farmers and food workers.

Response: Reduce the environmental damage of land, water and air from food production and the food system.

Leader: Protect the bio-diversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and the cultures of food producers.

Response: Rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.

INTERCESSION: (kindly be seated)

Leader: O God of the hungry and the needy, we come before you in humility to pray for those people whom we have deprived of the very basic amenities of life because of our negligence of adhering to your call. We have grabbed the earth of her natural resources just so that we may live a life of coziness and luxury and have been an important reason for famine around the world, we pray that they may be able to face the challenges and resist the evils in their context.

Response: Lord in your mercy, hear our pleading cry

Leader: O God the giver of life, our lands have become a swamp of blood-sucking leeches that suck the lives of the farmers who have always given us the food for our daily living. We encroached their land and contaminated their water and polluted the air in the name of development. We have been ignorant about their contribution to the country's economy as well as the very life we live. Yet we plead renew our minds and heart and enable us to work diligently for the wellness of others.

Response: Lord in your mercy, hear our pleading cry

Day 4 Focus Area: Gender and Generational Justice

Theme: O Lord, Let your Rod and Staff Accompany Us (Psalm 23: 5(b))

Worship Setting

Worship can be arranged and conducted at the open space if possible, either a farm-yard or any open space with nature.

Procession

Congregation members proceed to the place of worship with Earthen pot with hot boiled rice and starch, fruits, grains, egg, to be placed at the altar

MUSIC: Indigenous music/dance may be played during this time

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: God the creator, as we remember the lives that surround the farming community, especially women. We pray that you lead us in this worship and deepen our understanding of you design in creating lives inter-related with each other. We are grateful to your promises in our lives. Draw us together as we gather in your name.

Response: Amen

Silence

CALL TO WORSHIP (All Standing)

A person holding Grains: Come, let us worship God who created me the grain, "I am but one grain yet there are many within me." The creativity and potentiality within me is beyond your human comprehension, yet I join you in worshipping our creator God.

A person holding Flora: Come, let us worship God who created us the flora with beauty in diversity, with all the grandeur and marvel to nourish and all earth communities.

A person holding Fauna: Come, let us worship God the sustainer of life who made us the fauna to co-exist with one another in the journey of life in realizing the God
A Farmer: Come, let us worship God the preserver of life who taught us to till and keep the land so that we and all generations may find life in abundance.

Silence

HYMN: (Sung to the tune of "Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing")

Once a woman seeking water at a well not far from home
Met a thirsty, waiting stranger from a people not her own.
Would she give a drink of water and respond to human need?
Could she know the joy and wonder she, the giver, would receive?

She drew water for the thirsty; Jesus offered something more:
Living water, God's own mercy, love abundant, freely poured.
One, a blessing for the body; one, a blessing for the soul!
Both are gifts of our Creator — gifts that help to make us whole.

Still God's people carry water from their wells and mountain streams;
Still at rivers women gather, sharing labor, sharing dreams.
Still a cup of water given in a dry and weary place
Is a blessing overflowing from the fountain of God's grace.

God, we ask your richest favor on the work we seek to do;
May we gladly share clean water and your living water, too.
May we see the face of Jesus, and how far your love extends,
In the ones we call our partners — no more strangers, now our friends.

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD;

Response: Praise the name of the LORD.

Leader: Blessed be the name of the LORD

Response: From this time on and forevermore.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting

Response: The name of the LORD is to be praised.

Leader: The LORD is high above all nations,

Response: And his glory above the heavens.

Leader: Who is like the LORD our God,

Response: Who is seated on high,

Leader: Who looks far down

Response: On the heavens and the earth?

Leader: He raises the poor from the dust,

Response: And lifts the needy from the ash heap,

Leader: To make them sit with princes,

Response: With the princes of his people.

Leader: He gives the barren woman a home,

Response: Making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Silence

SCRIPTURE READING (Kindly be seated) John 4:7-15

INSPIRATIONAL TALK

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us join in one voice to confess the sins we have committed against the lives of the members of the farming community especially against the women and children.

Response: God of life, our country witnesses crises of all kinds. The cries of farmers are loud and painful. We pathetically deny life for farmers and our government policies have become a strong political and social force to end their life. Consequences of this situation left the women community as widowers, compelled to face the struggles of life and death in their social, cultural, and economic life situations. Merciful God, we are guilty of not participating in their life struggles with constructive solidarity gestures. Lord, we confess that the women community's struggle in finding their equal treatment and wages in their work field has not been taken serious in our journey towards realizing your reign on this earth. O gracious God who call us by our names, we know the reality of the women of the farming community who struggle to get their social identity which they lack because of their gender identity and role that is given to them by the society. And we witness that even their struggle for food and to own the land which can help them to sustain their life. Yet, we are passive in our faith action towards this concern. Amen

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The cry of the women folk has now come to me; I have also seen how the you people oppress them. So come, I will send you to the leaders to bring my people, the people in struggle especially the women and children, out of their misery. In this way you shall find mercy in the eye of those who struggle. Be assured for God is merciful and just, to forgive those who confess with a penitent heart.

Response: Amen

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Earthen pot, with hot boiled rice with starch, fruits, grains, egg, to be passed from person to person denoting congregations' participation in the journey of the farming women, flora, farming community and fauna respectively.

Leader: As we partake in the struggles of the live we touched, may we be renewed in commitment towards and the empowerment of the farming communities especially the women and lives surrounding it.

Response: We as the church, pledge to pray, participate, and partake in the life struggles of the farming communities and the lives surrounding it.

INTERCESSION:(kindly be seated)

Voice 1: (Cry for life of a bird) I the bird, cry for life, for the world my ancestors lived in, was cleaner and free. But today I live a short life with so much of pollution and concreted walls. I do not find and trees nearby to rest, therefore I have to fly a far distance.

Voice 2: (Cry for life of a plant) I the plant, cry for life, for many like me are being cut down to satisfy your selfish dreams of a luxurious life. The world today is suffocating me and killing me of the blessing you could receive through my life.

Voice 3: (Cry for life by river) I the river, cry for life, for the many we were but now drained to become a few. I am being contaminated by your waste. Drained down so that you could steal my sand and strip me of the lives that live within. Kill me before I reach my sibling in the sea.

Voice 4: (Cry for life by a woman farmer) I the woman farmer, cry for life, for I have been denied life like every other man. I mostly eat less or nothing, just so that my husband and children could eat a little more. I walk miles in the scorching heat to fetch water from the well dug deep. My children leave me n go far assuming better lives, but never come back. You slaughter my life worse than other women that are reported.

Response: Oh God of all creation, we have been ignorant to the cries of the many voices that speak silently. We pray for the leaders of the world, the Church, Congregations and the society. May we stand together in addressing the cries of the many lives that depend on agriculture and farming. Give us the courage to resist the evil practices that demean the lives of the farmer especially the women.

Leader: Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

CLOSING HYMN:(Sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation")

**Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds.
But others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.**

**You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.**

**We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways,
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise.
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.**

**In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
Your Spirit gives us vision, and hearts and lives made new.
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.**

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the God the creator bless us as we learn to live with the creation with mutual respect and celebrating the diversity and magnitude of all the creatures. May the Son of God, the redeemer inspire us with his holistic radical missional engagement, and May the Holy Spirit the sustainer of all creation empower us to become part of the nature and learn to celebrate our life with the struggles of the women in farming communities. May the Triune God may your rod and staff accompany us.

Response: Amen.

Day 6 Focus Area: FOOD AND MIGRATION

Theme: 'O Lord, Your Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Us (Psalm 23: 6(a))

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Creator God, who created the world. You made all creatures in this world to dwell in inter-related harmony and in peace. You made no wall or broke no bridges. All you created the skies, seas, land, water, air, are boundary-less. We are grateful for the vision of a harmonious living with each other. May your rod and your staff accompany us in our journey to discern your will for the world. Amen

Silence

CALL TO WORSHIP(All Standing)

Leader: Let us worship God who leads and accompanies

Response: **Amidst a world where people are in transit**

Leader: Let us worship God who is a traveler and sojourner

Response: **Amidst a world where people are thrown back into the sea**

Leader: Let us worship God who calls us by name

Response: **Amidst a world that strips off citizenship**

Leader: Let us worship God who welcomes and embraces us all

Response: **Amidst the many who yearn for warmth of love**

Silence

HYMN: (Sung to the tune of "Morning has Broken")

**Some heard the promise — God's hand would bless them!
Some fled from hunger, famine and pain.
Some left a place where others oppressed them;
All trusted God and started again.**

**Did they know hardship? Did they know danger?
Who shared a home or gave them some bread?
Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger?
Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?**

**God, our own families came here from far lands;
We have been strangers, "aliens" too.
May we reach out and offer a welcome
As we have all been welcomed by you.**

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known the deeds among the peoples.

Response: **Sing to God, sing praises; tell of all God's wonderful works.**

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Response: **Seek the LORD's strength; seek God's presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles, and the judgments God has uttered,

Response: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Leader: When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in it,

Response: Wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people.

Leader: He allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account,

Response: Saying, "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."

Leader: Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

Response: And the LORD made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes.

Leader: Whose hearts he then turned to hate, to deal craftily with his servants.

Response: For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

Leader: So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

Response: He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples.

Leader: That they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.

Response: Praise the LORD! Amen.

Silence

SCRIPTURE READING(Kindly be seated) Exodus 23:1-9

INSPIRATIONAL TALK

CONFESSION

Leader: We have sinned in the sight of God and Creation. We have been a direct or an indirect part of the systemic violence that has resulted degradation of natural resources as well as the food insecurity. The world is not seeing rapid increase in starvation and deaths related to food. Let us all seek God's forgiveness.

Response: **We have sinned O God our sojourner. We walked with you but did not acknowledge those who walked with us and into our country. We have driven away many homeless persons when they were in need of a small place to rest and eat. We seek your forgiveness gracious God, for we have not been hospitable and have committed sodomy by having pride over our land, culture and its heritage, did not aid to the poor and the needy, hostile toward refugees and considered migrants a threat to national security. We have miserably failed to understand that every person who came into our land through struggle are created by your hands. We denied the migrants a place by claiming boundaries and spaces when you created a boundary-less world. We have joined hands to build walls of separation by being silent and did not resist by building bridges between communities in struggle and the others. We beg for pardon Lord, we have contributed immensely to the creation of a new group of persons called 'refugees and migrants' due to our greed over land, power, wealth and food; all of which you envisioned for all to have in abundance. Forgive us, migrants and refugees for not being spokes-people of God. Amen.**

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is merciful to pardon those who seek God with a repentant heart. For thus says the Lord, God of the homeless and the Hungry; "share your bread with the hungry, and bring the stateless poor into your house; when you see the naked, cover them." For in this way you shall gain favor in the eyes of the Lord to be assured of forgiveness.

Response: **Amen**

Silence

ACT OF COMMITMENT (Share a piece from one large bread)

Leader: Let us share in this bread of life that God gave to us this day. Remember those who hunger and thirst on their journey in search of shelter.

Response: **As we eat a piece of this bread, we commit to stand in solidarity with those who are hungry and stateless. We pray earnestly that God may use us as instruments to eradicate the homelessness and hunger. Amen.**

INTERCESSION:(kindly be seated)

Leader: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Response: O God of the wanderers, we pray for those in journey for life. We pray that they may find shelter, food and clothing as they go in search of the land that flow with milk and honey. We commit the leaders of the world into your hand, guide their thoughts and unravel the mysteries of struggles the refugees go through, so that they will have a heart to welcome them when they arrive at our country's border.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons. Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help.

Response: O God of the hungry, we pray for those who are in darkness inside the walls of the transit/refugee camps for trespassing 'boundaries' of the nations. We pray that they be welcomed and respected as human beings created by your hands. We pray for the people in the borders, grant them the courage and strength to welcome, feed and accompany the refugees like Rehab housed the Israelites spies, so that the world will know of your wonderful works in the lives of those who are in need.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Response: O God provider of shelter, blankets and food, we pray for the persons who are aged and weak, especially the women and children, in their journey toward a land of rest and food. Grant them O lord, strength and courage to face the challenges that comes their way and heal the receiving communities' with a spirit of belongingness. We pray that the Church would act swiftly in accommodating those in need of shelter, food and clothing and also accompany them in solidarity with their struggle for a dignified life.

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

Response: Hear our prayer.

CLOSING HYMN:(Sung to the tune of "Jesus, Lover of my Soul)

**God, how can we comprehend — though we've seen them times before
Lines of people without end fleeing from some senseless war?
They seek safety anywhere, hoping for a welcome hand!
Can we know the pain they bear? Can we ever understand?**

**You put music in their souls; now they struggle to survive.
You gave each one gifts and goals; now they flee to stay alive.
God of outcasts, may we see how you value everyone,
For each homeless refugee is your daughter or your son.**

**Lord, your loving knows no bounds; you have conquered death for all.
May we hear beyond our towns to our distant neighbors' call.
Spirit, may our love increase; may we reach to all your earth,
Till each person lives in peace; till your world sees each one's worth.**

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the love of God, empower us to be courageous in our stand with the refugees
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, urge us to toward being hospitable to all
May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, encourage us to establish relationships beyond borders, race, ethnicity, tradition, faith, color or creed.

May your good and mercy of the triune God follow us now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Sorry O God, our Church buildings are found grandeur but unfortunately we have forgotten to be disabled, migrants friendly.

When many people flee for life and future, we remain silent spectators and passive prayer activists. We were rarely bother to either voice for them or voicing against the injustices that made them vulnerable, exploited and marginalised.

We as your children whole heartedly confess all the above sins and such are ashamed for our silence. Forgive us Dear Lord. Amen

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. For God is merciful and forgives those who confess their sins. Therefore, be assured of God's Forgiveness.

Response: Amen

Silence

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Leader: As we hold the hand of our neighbor let us say the prayer of commitment together.

Response: **God the maker of all, we as a Congregations of God stand hand in hand to pledge that we will affirm life and the values of you kin-dom, were there shall be no injustice, violence or abuse but only Justice, Peace and Love in a society 'for' all, 'of' all, 'with' all and 'by' all. Amen.**

Silence

INTERCESSION: (kindly be seated)

Farmer: God of creation, we pray for the farmers and their families. We pray that they get adequate rain so that their crops flourish. We pray for our leaders of the nations, to act swiftly in this regard and hear the cries of the farmers. We pray that the policies and programmes of the government reach the poorest of the poor farmer so as to eradicate or reduce the number of suicides, as we walk towards a society of all.

Response: **O lord, give us 'Green Pastures'**

Migrant: God of the migrants, we pray for the many people in our lands are leaving their native place because of the employment, climate change, and loss of livelihood. We pray that you may provide their

needs and help them to stay in their native land. As our country marches with Just development toward just and inclusive communities.

Response: **O lord, Let your rod and staff accompany us.**

Woman: God the mother of all, we pray for the women you have created in your image and likeness. We as men have neglected and ill-treated women in the family, in the society & even in the church. Give them grace, they may know their potentialities to challenge the patriarchal notions of power and be vocal of their rights to march towards equity in the society.

Response: **O lord, accompany us through the valleys of hunger and starvation**

Youth: God our friend, we pray for the youngsters who are the back bone and also the future of the Church and society. We know that they have their issues of suicides, addiction and negligence. We pray that they may not be led astray by the evils of the society, enlighten them by your spirit that they may participate in the struggles of the people and envision their future in a society for all.

Response: **O lord, Your goodness and Mercy shall follow us as we migrate on Climate change.**

Children: God the lover of children, we pray for the children who are your heritage to us. You envisioned them to be the centre of our deliberations on kin-dom values that you taught, but today our children are forced as child-labourers and are abused, thrown out, and abducted by people in our society. Help us as your people to deliver these children from the injustices they struggle with.

Response: **O lord, lead us to just waters.**

Communities in struggle (Dalit/Adivasi/Tribal etc.,)

God of struggling communities, we pray for the communities in struggle as they are deprived of their rights and are being violated, abused and killed in the society. We pray for stronger law against perpetrators so that these violence are reduced. We pray for the policy makers so that they may work for the welfare of the Dalit, Tribal and Adivasi and Indigenous communities

Response: **O lord, inspire us to expand the table for all**

Leader: God our eternal Parent, we pray and commit all our supplications into your hand. Lead us to help in constructively building policies of the governance of the nation. We pray that as a church we join hands

to stand against the violence that is meted to the people and communities around us. We pray for your guidance and strength to make the church inclusive and just as we join people advocating justice and inclusion. We ask all this in the name of the Lord our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Response: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 'Beauty for Brokenness'

BENEDICTION

Leader: May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness, to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. May we dwell in the oikos of the Triune God now and forever more.

Response: Amen.

The Churches, Organisations and Theological Seminaries Participated in Developing these worship resources (14 -15 Aug 2017 at SCM House, Bangalore, India):

- ❖ Arcot Lutheran Church,
- ❖ Arise Center for Health, Education and Development,
- ❖ Association of Theologically Trained Women in India,
- ❖ Bible Society of India,
- ❖ Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College,
- ❖ Churches' Auxiliary for Social Action,
- ❖ Catholic Bishops Conference of India
- ❖ Christian Farmers' Fellowship - India
- ❖ Council of Baptist Churches in North East India,
- ❖ Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower Bethany,
- ❖ Ecumenical Council of Drought and Water Management,
- ❖ FIREFLIES,
- ❖ Karnataka Christian Council,
- ❖ Lutheran World Service India Trust,
- ❖ Madras Christian Council of Social Services,
- ❖ Methodist Churches in India,
- ❖ National Council of Churches in India,
- ❖ Network on Food Security,
- ❖ National Missionary Society of India,
- ❖ South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies,
- ❖ Student Christian Movement of India,
- ❖ Synodical Board of Social Services,
- ❖ Church of North India,
- ❖ Tamilnadu Theological Seminary,
- ❖ The Association of Franciscan Families in India,
- ❖ Tamilnad Christian Council,
- ❖ United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India,
- ❖ United Theological College,
- ❖ World Vision India,
- ❖ Young Women's Christian Association

WCC - EAA - Participating Organisation in India

- ❖ Arise Center for Health, Education and Development
- ❖ Association of Franciscan Families in India
- ❖ Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College (University)
- ❖ Commission on Justice, Peace and Development of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India
- ❖ Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower Bethany
- ❖ Ecumenical Council For Drought And Water Management
- ❖ Madras Christian Council of Social Services
- ❖ National Council of Churches in India
- ❖ Synodical Board of Social Services of the Church of North India
- ❖ United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India