



United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India

National Council of Churches in India



Order of Worship

World Aids Day

1 December 2022

(Before we start the worship as a sign of our commitment let us affix the ‘RED RIBBON’⊕, to our right side)

Call to Worship

Come let us adore God, the architect, who is the great healer of all infirmity... Come let us adore Jesus, the activist, who is the advocate of all humankind... Come let us adore Spirit the soother, who is the living partner of all sufferers...

Come the channels of God’s love and care, let us invoke our architect, our activist and our soother who is always by the side of the underprivileged, stigmatized, discriminated, socially alienated...

Opening Prayer

Oh God our source of life, we thank you for the gift of life, which you have given us. As we come into your presence this morning, be with us, teach us to sit at your feet and to hear your words, open our minds and ears so that we may fully take part in this worship. And also cleanse our thoughts by the inspiration of your spirit in order to realize the truth and realities around us. Grant us grace and patience to understand the struggle of our neighbours, who are not accepted by our society. Let us move with anger against the societal structures, in Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen

Opening Hymn

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Confession (unison)

God who spoke through the burning bush to deliver the people of Israel, We plead you to deliver us from our voicelessness to speak against the evil practices, our reluctance to break the silence of loyalty. We admit that we have often shattered the aspirations and aims of our fellow beings, through our discourses and silences. We have often sealed our lips in the name of loyalty. We admit that we have denied to many the fundamental right of freedom and life. We confess our misdeeds and plead you to forgive our shortcomings and assist us to be a thunder when calmness and silence clamor.

Assurance

God assures us to live life in its fullness in the present. We are forgiven. Let us forgive others.

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

We affirm our hope that a new day is dawning. We believe in the love of God which is greater than all understanding and has the power to unite us as equals, so that we can participate in the being of God's great plan.

We believe in Jesus of Nazereth, who redeemed us from sin and shame and taught us to shatter the shackles that bind us, racially, politically, economically, socially, religiously and sexually. We believe in the Holy Spirit who guides us to be just and whispers us to comfort our neighbours when they weep and to accept them as they are.

We believe in one church where there is no discrimination as slave or free, caste or color, sick or healthy, weak or strong where men and women join hands with all creation to worship as one and work for God's glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading : *Mark 1: 40-45*

Sermon : *Not with Sympathy but with Solidarity*

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: God of compassion, we pray for those whose hope and dignity has been lost because of their sickness or disease. These are the ones who feel rejected, persecuted, shamed and abandoned by brothers and sisters in Christ. May our apathy towards them be transformed into compassion. Lord in your mercy... **All: Hear our Prayers**

Leader: God of love, our fellow beings are dying because of the social structures and systems which crush the people who are living with or suspected of having HIV. They are turned away from health care services, denied housing and employment, shunned by their friends and colleagues, turned down for insurance coverage or refused entry into foreign countries. In many cases, they may be evicted from home by their families, divorced by their spouses, rejected by their church, and suffer physical violence or even murder. We pray that God enable each one of us to realize and challenge these structures.

Lord in your mercy ... **All: Hear our Prayers**

Leader: God, who disturbs, we pray for the church both local and universal, may it be a community marked by true understanding, fellowship, mutual support and hope. And it act as God's instrument of love, care and concern for others. Let it be shaken out of its self-righteousness and traditional values. Grant us all the courage, humility and loving spirit to resist injustice and evil. Lord in your mercy ... **All: Hear our Prayers**

Leader: God, who transforms, we also pray for our own community, gives us strength to confront the fears and failures and transform our inadequacies into positive expressions of our humanness. Enable each one of us to channelize our frustration, our anger and our disappointment in constructive and creative ways, so that we will be renewed daily by the new vision in our service to the people.

Lord in your mercy ... **All: Hear our Prayers**

Closing Hymn

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| 1. Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day! | 2. All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally! |
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Closing Prayer

Dear God, thanks a lot for being with us and reminding us of our responsibility towards the people, with whom You are concerned. Continue to enable and guide us, so that we may continue Your mission till the end of our life. We ask this in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lords Prayer (Let us join in the prayer the Lord taught us to pray)

Our father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come your will be done on earth. As it is in Heaven Gives us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, power and glory Forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Having been challenged and committed go forth in peace and love; have courage and justice, strengthen the fearful, support the weak and help the sick and suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in power of Holy Spirit. **Amen.**