

The International Conference of Church and Peace

“You will be my people and I will be your God”

Worship Celebration - May 22, 2011

Gathering

(W = Worshipleader, A = All)

Revelation 7:9-10 (reading before taking seats)

We read in the book of Revelation: “I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding **palm branches** in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.”

Psalm 95:1-7 (Dialogue)

WF Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

A: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

WD: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

A: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

WE: The sea is his, for he made it,

A: and his hands formed the dry land.”

WK: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

A: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Let us come before him with shouts of joy.

Choir: I got a robe

Opening words:

Good morning to each and everyone. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Rejoice in the Lord always. I repeat, rejoice! The Lord is near. In a moment of silence, let us prepare our bodies, our hearts and our minds to welcome him.

Silence

Song: Komm, Heilger Geist 30

W: It is right and good to celebrate the Lord; to glorify his name and to give thanks for who he is and for all he does. May the Lord enlighten our sight and fill our hearts with a spirit of unending praise.

Songs:

- Laudate, omnes gentes **23** (Latin and German) followed by
- In the Lord I'll be ever thankful **10** (French, German, English and Slovenian)

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

W: In the book of Jeremiah 7:23 we read: “...Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you.”

Hear how God wants to be praised and served:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these two.

Song: Obey my voice 1

W: These words invite us to an honest act of repentance. Let us therefore humbly recognize our failure to love God and neighbor. (Silence)

W: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. (Silence)

W: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Amen.

W: Forgiveness is the reigning sign of God's love. God demonstrated his own love for us in this: He sent his Son into the world so that through him we have life. God, the Almighty, forgives us and lights the way to eternal life.

W: Let us welcome these words of assurance of forgiveness with the song...

Song: Allélujah! 27

Passing the Peace:

W: Hear the words of the Lord Jesus, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (Jn. 14.27) Not an easy peace, not an irrelevant peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us now. ... Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young, he has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Let us share his peace with each other¹.

Proclaiming the Word

W: "You will be my people and I will be your God." Many believers have preceded us on the path of faith; Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Elijah, Deborah, Ruth, Esther, Mary. In God's benevolent plan, God's Word sent them forth, not only for their own happiness, but for the benefit of all humanity.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'

Scripture: Ephesians 2:14-19 (English)

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new person out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household.

Message: Marisa Johnson (English)

Response to the Word

Song: Qu'ils sont beaux 19

W: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Let us turn now to Christ, who has conquered evil and death. Bringing our prayers to God with confidence, and in the name of our Lord Jesus, let us pray for the needs of all people so that they may have life.

1 Wild Goose Worship Group, A Wee Worship Book, 101, 89.

Prayers of the People:

W: Brothers and sisters, the Lord calls us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. Let us join in prayer in his name.

Song: Señor, renueva tu paz – 33

A: Lord, we pray for the innocent victims of war, for displaced populations, for shattered futures and for those whose countries are in total disarray, for those who are uprooted; for the devastated and poisoned earth.

Song: Señor, renueva tu paz (O God replenish your peace)

A: With those for whom peace finds expression in liberty and the rebuilding of their people we pray...

Song: Señor, renueva tu paz (O God replenish your peace)

A: With those for whom peace finds expression in sharing and refuse to tolerate the privileges of the wealthy or the growing ranks of the poverty-stricken majority, we pray...

Song: Señor, renueva tu paz (O God replenish your peace)

A: With those for whom peace finds expression in education, and work to help mold the social and cultural character of their people, we pray...

Song: Señor, renueva tu paz (O God replenish your peace)

A: With those for whom peace is conveyed through claims of the right to the freedom of conscience, we pray...

Song: Señor, renueva tu paz (O God replenish your peace)

A: Lord, united in hope with all of those who are waiting on you, we pray...²

The Lord's Prayer (each in his or her own language)

The Lord's Supper/Eucharist

Invitation

Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is right that we call to mind the meaning of the Supper. It is a remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ for the sin of the world; an encounter with the risen Lord; a feeding on him in faith, a communion with one another in his body, the church, and an anticipation of the day when he will come again³. This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is to be made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. Come, not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord. Therefore, let us come to the Lord's Table in faith, knowing our weakness.

Therefore we pray:

Creator God, you are holy. On you alone we depend. Send your Spirit down on our community, sanctify us and renew us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of institution (1 Cor. 11.23-26) and Communion Prayer

"The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you, do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

So now, following Jesus' example and command, we take this bread and this wine, and eat and drink in his memory.

² Communauté de Pomeyrol, Petite liturgie quotidienne, prière pour la paix, p. 204 (Pomeyrol et Oberlin, 1996)

³ John Rempel

(Say over the cup)

We give you thanks, Father, for the holy vine, which you made known to us through Jesus your servant, son of David. To you be glory forever!

(Over the broken bread say)

We give you thanks, Father, for the life and the knowledge which you have revealed to us through Jesus your servant. To you be glory forever!

As this broken bread scattered on the mountains was gathered and became one, so too, may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. For glory and power are yours through Jesus Christ forever.⁴

Song during the distribution of the bread: Ubi Caritas 32

When all are served: "Let us eat the bread of the Lord."

Song during the distribution of the cup: We are one in the Spirit 31

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

WF: We praise you Lord for kinship in the faith and the communion of this meal.

A: Help up to cultivate it.

WD: We give you thanks for our brothers and sisters, for their presence and their fervor.

A: Help us to know how to love them.

WE: We praise you for the daily bread of your presence, the life of our hope.

A: Help us to retain it.

WK: We give you thanks for the grace of this feast, a light unto our path.

A: Help us to know how to share it.⁵

Benediction and Sending

Call to Service:

W: Hear now this call to service.

W: For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean ... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws...You will be my people, and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

W: This promise is ours for the taking today. We need only to grasp it.

W: And now, God sends us into the world to be the Lord's witness in word and act; a people called to be a benediction to all peoples. Let us go now with Jesus, the light who illumines our paths. "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it." (1 Thess. 5:23-24)

Song:

**The Word of God
is very near to you
It is in your mouth
and in your heart
and in your hands
to accomplish it**

⁴ The Didache, from around the year 100.

⁵ Antoine Nouis, Tome 1, 30.