

Worship for Overcoming Nationalism, Xenophobia and Populism

(Edited by Rebecca BLOCKSOME)

I. Invocation

Leader: We gather in the name of God, the Creator, the Liberator and the Sustainer.

All: **Amen.**

II. Call to Worship and Act of Praise

How good and how lovely it is,

To live together in unity.

If the Lord's disciples keep silent,

These stones would shout aloud.

Surely it is God, Who saves me,

I will trust in God and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,

And God will be my Saviour.

Make God's deeds known among the peoples;

See that they remember that God's Name is exalted.

Sing praises of the Lord, for God has done great things and is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the Great One in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

III. Confession and Promise of Forgiveness

What shall we say in Your presence, You, Who dwell on high? What shall we declare to You, Who are in Heaven beyond? For You know things secret as well as revealed. You know the mysteries of the Universe and the unconscious thoughts of everyone alive.

You search the innermost parts, You watch our motives and our passions. Nothing is concealed from You. Nothing is hidden from Your gaze.

For sins which we ourselves have committed and for sins of omission, for sins of our hands and sins of our hearts, for the hurt we have caused you and our neighbours through ignorance or indifference, O God of Abraham,

Have mercy on us.

For failure to see your image in someone who is different, O God of Sarah,

Have mercy on us.

For putting our own welfare and social comfort above the basic needs of others, O God of Jacob,

Have mercy on us.

For our reluctance to get involved, O God of Rachel,

Have mercy on us.

For being grateful that we are in some way superior to another, O God of Leah,

Have mercy on us.

For teaching that it is better to receive than to give, O God of Sinai,

Have mercy on us.

For the failure of Your Church to be light in the darkness, O God of Calvary,

Have mercy on us.

Amen.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for the Lord's compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for the Lord." (Lamentations 3,22-24)

IV. *In the Lord I'll be ever Thankful* (Song)

V. Confession of Faith (*Hispanic Creed* by Justo GONZÁLEZ)

We believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of Heaven and Earth,
Creator of peoples and cultures,
Creator of languages and races.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,
God made flesh in a human being for all human beings,
God made flesh in a moment for all ages,
God made flesh in a culture for all cultures,
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Through which God incarnated in Jesus Christ,
Is present in our people and in our culture,
For which God the Creator of all that exists,
Empowers us to be new creatures,
Who with infinite gifts makes us one people,
The body of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Church,
Universal as a sign of the coming Kingdom,
More faithful as more colourful she appears,
Where all colours paint one landscape,
Where all languages sing one praise.

We believe in the coming Kingdom, joyful day,
Where all the colours of creation
Will be united in a rainbow of harmony,
When all the peoples on Earth
Will be united in a banquet of joy,
When all languages in the Universe
Will be united in a choir of praise.

And because we believe, we commit ourselves
To believe for those who do not believe,
To love for those who do not love,
To dream for those who do not dream,
Until what we expect becomes a reality. Amen.

VI. Scripture Reading Genesis 17,1–8 / Acts 2,1–12

VII. *O Lord Hear My Prayer* (Intercessions)

IIX. Dedication

We thank you, Father, for the encounter, which lies before us, and which we now begin in Your Name. Give us quiet in our minds and seriousness in the depths of our hearts; be near to us every day in the word and in the Spirit. Bless our speaking and our listening, that our hearts may be ready for Your Word. Bless our fellowship, that we may help each other into the truth and on to You, in the common unity of the Spirit. Come, O Lord, and visit us. Be in the midst of us, living and saving.

Lord, let us accept calmly all that this week might bring us and let us devote ourselves completely to Your sacred will. Direct us and help us each hour of this day and week. Control our thoughts and feelings in all our deeds and words. When unpredictable circumstances arise, do not let us forget that everything comes from You.

Teach us to be just towards our sisters and brothers, never to provoke wrath or cause sorrow. Control our will and teach us to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive and to love.

Lord, let us be an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred, let us spread love; where there are insults, forgiveness; where there is discord, unity; hope, where there is despair; light, where there is darkness; joy, where there is sadness.

O, Divine Teacher, let us give, rather than receive, consolation, let us understand others, rather than be understood, let us love others, rather than be loved. For when we forgive, we are forgiven, when we give, we receive, and when we die, we are born into eternal life.

Holy Spirit, help us to dedicate this week to our Lord and Saviour. Give us courage to serve You worthily, to place justice above profit, to realise noble deeds above momentary pleasures, to put others before ourselves, and to fulfil Your commandment of love. Let the light of Your beauty, goodness and love shine in us.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, it is better not to live than to live without You. We thank You, God, for the gift of this day and for all the blessings You have bestowed on us and through us. Let none of us escape Your call or miss Your peace. Into Your hands we commit ourselves. Bless our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forever more. **Amen.**



IX. Lord's Prayer

X. Here I Am, Lord *(Song)*

IX. Blessing

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us;

May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us;

And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us;

From now unto eternity.

Amen.