

Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) 2006

Empire and Basileia

1. Welcome and Sharing Peace

In the name of God. *Amen.*

The peace of Jesus Christ be always with you. *And also with you.*

Jesus Christ is our peace. *Let us live in his love.*

2. Invocation (by Brian WREN)

Living Love, beginning and end, giver of food and drink, clothing and warmth, love and hope: life in all its goodness: *We praise and adore You.*

Jesus Christ, wisdom and word; lover of outcasts, friend of the poor; one of us yet one with God; crucified and risen: life in the midst of death: *We praise and adore You.*

Holy Spirit, storm and breath of love; bridge-builder, eye-opener, waker of the oppressed; unseen and unexpected, untameable energy of life: *We praise and adore You.*

Holy Trinity, forever one, Whose nature is community; source of all sharing, in Whom we love, and meet, and know our neighbour; life in all its fullness, making all things new: *We praise and adore You.*

3. Confession (by Jan BERRY)

God, You heap Your love upon us like a mother providing for her family's needs, embracing all her children with tenderness. *Kyrie eleison.*

Forgive us when, like spoilt children, we treat Your generosity as our right, or we hug it possessively to ourselves. *Kyrie eleison.*

Forgive us when we are blind to the injustice in our world and community. *Kyrie eleison.*

Forgive us when we see injustice and choose to do nothing. *Kyrie eleison.*

Forgive our complicity with systems that oppress and destroy your people and Your creation. *Kyrie eleison.*

Forgive our lack of faith in You, in Your people, in ourselves and in the possibilities for change. *Kyrie eleison.*

We turn to You, O God; we renounce evil; we claim Your love; we choose to be made whole. We look to You for grace to offer forgiveness, and to know ourselves forgiven. *Amen.*

4. Reading from the Old and New Testaments

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. *Thanks be to God.*

5. Affirmation of Faith (by Yong Ting Jin)

We believe in Jesus Christ, our saviour and liberator; the expression of God's redeeming love; the mark of humanness, source of courage, power and love; God of God, light of light; ground of our humanity.

We believe that God resides in slums; lives in broken homes and hearts; suffers our loneliness and powerlessness.

We believe that through death and resurrection God gives life, pride and dignity; provides the context of our struggle; promises liberation to the oppressor and the oppressed; hope to those in despair, vision to the blind.

We believe in the activity of the Holy Spirit, Who revives our decaying soul; resurrects our defeated spirits; renews our hope of wholeness, and reminds us of our responsibility in ushering in God's new order here and now. *Amen.*

6. Prayers of the People (by Lara Blackwood)

We pray, O God, for a deeper understanding of Christ's union with his Church, and his will for it, and for the renewing action of Your Holy Spirit so that Your Church may be one. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the awakening of a desire of Christians throughout the world to meet together, to work and witness and worship together. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for a better cooperation among all branches of Christ's Church, so that in our unity we may work for justice both outside and within the Empire. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the work done by the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), that the Federation may bring Christian students together in dialogue, mission, service, study, justice and discipleship for a fuller expression of what it means to be the Church. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the regional and subregional manifestations of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), and their national Student Christian Movements (SCMs). Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for *Africa*: May this candle represent the light of God present in the work of the African Region. Bless their work, O God. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for *Asia* and the *Pacific*: May this candle represent the light of God present in the work of the Asia-Pacific Region. Bless their work, O God. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for *Europe*: May this candle represent the light of God present

in the work of the European Region. Bless their work, O God. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for *Latin America* and the *Caribbean*: May this candle represent the light of God present in the work of the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Bless their work, O God. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the *Middle East*: May this candle represent the light of God present in the work of the Middle East Region. Bless their work, O God. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for *North America*. May this candle represent the light of God present in the work of the North American Region. Bless their work, O God. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the ecumenical movement and for all who suffer, pray and toil in the cause of unity and justice: that all these efforts may bear good fruits to the honour and glory of Your most holy name. Uniting Spirit: *Hear our prayer.*

7. Prayer of Jesus Christ (by Jim COTTER)

We pray for fresh insight that we might find alternatives to Empire and injustice. Renew our commitment and challenge our assumptions as we pray the prayer Jesus Christ taught us, in a new way:

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver; Source of all that is and that shall be; Mother and Father of us all; Loving God in Whom is Heaven!

The hallowing of Your name echo through the Universe. The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world. Your heavenly will be done by all created beings. Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you Reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.

8. Sending out (from Book of Common Prayer)

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; and may the blessing of God our Creator, Liberator and Sustainer be with us now and always. *Amen.*