World Day of Prayer 2020

Focus on Zimbabwe

Rise! Take your mat and walk

Shortened Version

*Preparation:*

*Prepare a table with fabrics that display the colours of the Zimbabwean flag (green, yellow, red, black and white). Drape all fabrics on the table so they touch the floor- to symbolise unity. On the holiness table (or another table) place a flame lily: this is the national flower of Zimbabwe and means full of glory.*

*Place a red candle, a white candle and a yellow candle on the Holiness table with the flower. Light the candles just prior to the meeting.*

Leader: Today we come together to celebrate World Day of Prayer. World Day of Prayer is celebrated all over the world, by many Christian organisations, churches, universities and schools. We focus today on the country of Zimbabwe.

Speaker 1: God of peace and freedom, we welcome you in our midst.

Speaker 2: We praise you for your love which surpasses all understanding.

Speaker 3: We praise you for who you are – now and forever.

**ALL: You are an amazing God.**

Leader 1: Creator God, we praise you for the natural resources we are called to care for: the vegetation, minerals, animals, waterfalls and forests of our world, and especially in Zimbabwe.

**ALL: You are a gracious God.**

Leader 2: Jesus, we praise you for the gift of respect, for the dignity of human life, for the love of one another, and for the friendliness of the people of Zimbabwe.

**ALL: You are the Bread of Life.**

Leader 3: Holy Spirit, we praise you for enabling us to gather in worship and pray for Zimbabwe.

**ALL: You are the Spirit of Truth. Unify us in prayers for your people.**

Song 1006/122 or 116 (SASB) For the Healing of the Nations

IN Christ there is no east or west,

In him no south or north,

But one great fellowship of love

Throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In him shall true hearts everywhere

Their high communion find;

His service is the golden cord

Close-binding all mankind.

3 Join hands then, brothers of the faith,

Whate’er your race may be;

Who serves my Father as a son

Is surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,

In him meet south and north;

All Christly souls are one in him

Throughout the whole wide earth.

*John Oxenham (1852-1941)*

Speaker 2: Merciful God, we come before you, recognising that we need a change.

Speaker 3: We have sinned against you and our sisters and brothers through our negligent words and actions.

Speaker 1: We have disobeyed you and done things that we should not have done.

**ALL: We confess our wrongdoings and ask you for courage to change. Forgiving God, hear our prayer.**

Leader 2: We see your children suffering poverty, hunger and violence.

**ALL: Grant us compassion to help all those who are suffering.**

Speaker 1: There is a lack of integrity in our lives. We fail to love and to unite those who are divided for reasons of ethnicity, language or political views.

**ALL: Forgive us, heal our hearts and minds.**

Song 1000/395 (SASB) For the Healing of the Nations

FOR the healing of the nations,

Lord, we pray with one accord,

For a just and equal sharing

Of the things that earth affords.

To a life of love in action

Help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom,

From despair your world release,

That, redeemed from war and hatred,

All may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness

Fear will die and hope increase.

3 You, Creator-God, have written

Your great name on humankind;

For our growing in your likeness

Bring the life of Christ to mind;

That by our response and service

Earth its destiny may find.

*Frederik Herman Kaan (1929-2009)*

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Scripture: John 5:2-9a

Devotional Message

Song: 608/751 (SASB) Make Me a Channel of Thy Peace

MAKE me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

And where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek*

*So much to be consoled as to console,*

*To be understood, as to understand,*

*To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

*(chorus after verses 1 and 2 only)*

2 Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,

And where there’s sadness ever joy.

3 Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive,

And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

*Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)*

Leader 1: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”

Leader 2: Go in peace to serve the world in the name of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Leader 1: Rise! Take your mat and walk.

Amen