

# ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

## CHURCHES' WEEK OF ACTION ON FOOD

### BUILDING RESILIENCE

# 2014

Mike Garcia/EAA

Liturgy prepared by the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, with special thanks to Bryce Wiebe, PHP and Andrew Donaldson, World Council of Churches.

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This liturgy is based on a worship service prepared by the Presbyterian Hunger Program responding to the 2014 theme for Churches Week of Action on Food – Building Resilience. Resilience in relation to food and nutrition security means ensuring that for the long term we have:

- » Resilient livelihoods, communities and relationships
- » Resilient farming production and food chains
- » Resiliency promoted through policy

## GATHERING

Wisdom calls out to her children

**“Have you learned with my people the way you must go?”**

Wisdom gathers to teach us;

**“Learn lessons from the land, from the gardens and the fields”**

Wisdom sets out a banquet of understanding

**“Feast on the harvest of knowledge planted here.”**

Learn from the seasons of planting, and be taught by communities who know.

Her children have known struggle and they persevere.

They have seen disaster and have come through. Listen to Wisdom calling to you.

**Let us worship God!**



## SONG: LES CIEUX ET LA TERRE

Edmond L. Budry (1854-1932) Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

Les cieux et la ter - re cé - lè - brent en choeur la gloi - re du Pè - re, du  
 C'est toi qui nous don - ne le prin - temps joy - eux, les fruits de l'au - tom - ne, l'é -  
 Mais, Ô Dieu su - prè - me, plus que tous tes dons, c'est ton a - mour mè - me que

Dieu Cré - a - teur. Ô Dieu re - dou - ta - ble dans ta ma - je - sté, tu  
 te ra - di - eux. Lar - gesse in - fi - ni - e que rien ne ta - rit! Ta  
 nous a - do - rons. Ô source é - ter - nel - le de grâce et de paix, ton

es ad - mi - ra - ble dans ta cha - ri - té!  
 main ras - sa - si - e tout è - tre qui vit.  
 peu - ple fi - dè - le te loue à ja - mais.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Creator,

We have eaten our fill of this world's bounty and allowed the leftover to spoil.

**Have mercy on us, and help us to take only what we need.**

We have used all of our resources, and taken those of others

**Have mercy on us, and help us to take only what we need.**

We have created disasters in our response to disasters

**Have mercy on us, and help us to listen.**

We have believed we were right, simply because of our wealth

**Have mercy on us, and help us to listen.**

We have received more than we need, and rarely given the excess away

**Have mercy on us, and help us to share.**

We have failed to fix our systems of waste

**Have mercy on us, and help us to share.**

Come to us, Holy Spirit, and hear our prayers. Forgive us these things and those we have not named. Restore us, O God, and renew our minds, our bodies, and our communities for the work of your justice in this, your world. Amen.

*hand drum or tom-tom* Native American

Man - y and great, O God, are your works, Mak - er of earth and sky.  
 Zahl - reich und groß ist, Gott, was du schufst, Er - de und Him - mels welt!  
 Grant un - to us com - mun - ion with you, O star - a - bid - ing one!

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O Lord my God, you are very great.

**You are clothed with honour and majesty,  
Wrapped with light as with a garment.**

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

**You set the beams of your chariots on the waters,**

You make the clouds your chariot,

**You ride on the wings of the wind,**

You make the winds your messengers,

**Fire and flame your ministers.**

**Refrain : Many and great, O God are your works**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;  
The earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,

**Creeping things innumerable are there,  
Living things both small and great.**

There go the ships,

And Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

**These all look to you  
To give them food in due season;  
When you give to them, they gather it up;  
When you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

When you hide your face they are dismayed;

**When you take away their breath, they die  
And return to their dust.**

**When you send forth their spirit they are created;  
And you renew the face of the ground.**

**Refrain : Many and great, O God are your works**

## **READING: MATTHEW 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, <sup>[a]</sup> you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## SONG: THIS LAND OF BEAUTY HAS BEEN GIVEN

### This land of beauty has been given

Elena G. Maquiso, Philippines, alt.

This land of beauty has been given by  
The self - ish peo - ple, and not mind - ful - the  
Poor farm - ers long for whole - some liv - ing with  
Now to the wealth - y, we re - mind you: this

our Cre - a - tor, full of mer - cy. Its love - li - ness has been in -  
few - will claim land as pos - ses - sion, de - prive the man - y poor and  
what they need for food and cloth - ing, a home to shel - ter them in  
land God gives is not for hoard - ing. The right to land is for all

ten - ded for ev - ery - one, for all the peo - ple, and  
need - y, who live in want, who fear and suf - fer. And their  
com - fort, with things to use in - side the dwell - ing, their  
peo - ple; the poor have much need of it, tru - ly. The

each one claims a right - ful por - tion, a  
then comes an - ger, pain and con - flict, with  
child to have a bright to - mor - row, with  
farm - ers need a bright - er fu - ture, a

piece of land to tend and care for. This her - i - tage so full of  
hate and bit - ter - ness pre - vail - ing. Then fam - ily ties and friend - ships  
ed - u - ca - tion and a fu - ture, the joy of car - ing for their  
bet - ter life, re - ward for striv - ing. This land of beau - ty is God -

pro - mise, this land was pur - posed for us all.  
shat - ter, and sor - row takes the place of joy.  
child - ren, with friends and kind - ly neigh - bours near.  
giv - en: the hope it brings is for us all.

Music and text (c) Elena G. Maquiso (1914-1995), Philippines. In: *This land of beauty*, Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), Hymnal

## SERMON/HOMILY/REFLECTION

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

In the towering cliffs we see your majesty, and on quiet lakes we experience your peace. Revive, O Lord, the lands and fields, the water and air. May the resources we find in it be used for your glory and not for the enrichment of a few.

God, Creator of the land, **hear our prayer.**

We ask for your blessing upon the farmers of the world, for water and sun, for fertile soil and good health. May they have freedom to till the land for the feeding of their families and their communities. Guide their tending to respect what you have provided for the flourishing of all life.

God, Creator of the first garden, **hear our prayer.**

God, our provider, pour out your gifts on the communities of the world. May they find harmony in relationship and be sustained by the bounty you have given. Help all communities rely upon each other, so that the needs of all will be met, and hope might be found even in the midst of tragedy. Let them flourish and guide their generosity, that their hospitality might reflect your own.

God, Creator of community, **hear our prayer.**

May the hand of your justice be made known in our food system. Let the benefits be received by all who participate. Let those who labor, be paid. Let those who grow food, not be made needy. May nourishment reach the hungry, and even the crumbs find mouths to be fed.

God, Creator of justice, **hear our prayer.**

Bless, to us, food that is wholesome and good. May our tables be filled with the fruits of our local fields. Let all that we eat give life to those who dine, give strength to our bodies, and energy for the work of your justice, peace, and love.

God, Creator of all that there is, **hear our prayer.**

### ***Lord's Prayer***

*In our many languages.*

## HOLY COMMUNION MAY BE CELEBRATED HERE.

## SONG

### Huapango del pan

1. Que - re - mos re - cor - dar en es - te tiem - po de tan - tos o - dios, de de - si - gual -  
1. In times so full of pain, so deep - ly trou - bled by hat - red and in - jus - tice, fear and  
dad, a a - que - llos que deam - bu - lan por las ca - lles pi -  
dread, some wan - der end - less streets, a - lone and hun - gry; They  
dien - do só - lo u - na o - por - tu - ni - dad. 2. Que - re - mos ver tus ma - nos po - de -  
look for life, a chance to earn their bread. 2. To you we pray in pro - test and in  
ro - sas con nues - tras ma - nos hoy en u - ni - dad por e - so te pe -  
cri - sis, for you have al - ways sid - ed with the poor; u - nite our hands with  
de - mos pre - su - ro - sos, que en nues - tra tier - ra ya no fal - te  
yours, O God of jus - tice, that those in hun - ger live in want no  
mas. El pan de ca - da dí - a sus - ten - to de la vi - da que  
more. For dai - ly food brings jus - tice, brings dig - ni - ty and glad - ness, a  
tra - e sa - cie - dad y dig - ni - dad, el pan bien re - par - ti - do li - be - ral o - pri -  
guar - an - tee of peace in ev - ery creed. May we, O God now la - bour with love for ev - ery  
mi - do yes nues - tra ga - ran - tí - a de la paz.  
neigh - bour that all might have this day our dai - ly bread.

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## BENEDICTION

Send us out with our minds renewed and our spirits refreshed.

May our lives be a reflection of your love to the world. Amen.