

**Ecumenical Centre  
Morning Prayer  
Monday, 15 May 2023**

*With the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for the churches and people of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.*

***UN International Day of Living Together in Peace (May 16)***

**Welcome**                      Rev Dr Kenneth Mtata, Director – Public Witness & Diakonia

**Invitation**

We gather today for prayer,  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is risen.  
**He is risen indeed.**

**Prayer**

O Saviour Christ,  
in whose way of life lies the secret of all life,  
and the hopes of all people,  
we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.  
We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age;  
but let its problems challenge us,  
its injustice anger us,  
its possibilities inspire us,  
and its vigour renew us,  
for the kingdom's sake. **Amen.**

*(Pilgrim Prayer, 93)*

♪      **Top Ranking – Bob Marley**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HXzm-kFgPw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HXzm-kFgPw)

**Reading of the Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 1 – 11**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he began to speak and taught them, saying:  
<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection**                    **Rev Seoyoung Kim** (*Member of CC, PROK*)

♪        **Why Can't We Live Together – Timmy Thomas**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYx2uZRIJck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYx2uZRIJck)

**Reflection**                    **Rev Ezekiel Kondo** (*Archbishop, Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan*)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

#### **Bangladesh**

Merciful God, we come before you today with heavy hearts, seeking your grace and mercy for the people of Bangladesh. As one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, Bangladesh has been facing numerous challenges, including sea-level rise, yearly flooding, cyclones, drought, heavy pollution in air and water bodies, forced migration, landslide, river erosion, and other frequent natural calamities and disasters. We pray for an end to injustice, exploitation, and discrimination that prevent many people from accessing economic welfare services in Bangladesh. We ask that you guide the leaders of the country to create a more fair, balanced, sustainable, and inclusive economic development plan that benefits all people, regardless of their socio-economic status. We pray that you continue to guide and bless the efforts of those who are working towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable economic development in Bangladesh.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

#### **Sudan**

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being heard day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Cor. 4:16-18 NIV)

Loving God, we give thanks for your divine protection even in the midst of war and unrest. As the people of Sudan, our hearts are filled with gratitude and appreciation to all those who have expressed their concern and continue to pray for us during this time of crisis. We pray for those who have fled from Khartoum to other parts of Sudan where the conflict is not as intense. Be with them. Merciful God, hear our prayers and bring about durable peace in Sudan. Bring a speedy end to the conflict and may there be life-saving provisions for all who are suffering.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

#### **Colombia**

God of Life, you move us towards reconciliation so that we can live together and be loving communities, but every day we are confronted with economic power struggles that make us see each other as enemies among brothers and sisters, with our own people. We pray that you will open our eyes as you did with the Emmaus walkers. Open our eyes to create the opportunity for better relationships with those who oppose the justice that rebuilds life. Open our eyes to envision transformations that care for life in all its fullness. Open our eyes in the midst of confusion and uncertainty to continue to believe that you are a God of peace and not to lose the momentum of your spirit in building bridges of reconciliation and unity for the world.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

#### **Nigeria**

O Lord, you who made the heavens and the earth by the outstretched of your arms, please have mercy on us. We pray for the hundreds of thousands of lives lost and properties worth billions that have been destroyed. Give comfort to the survivors who have been displaced from their homes, who have no food to eat nor shelter to lay their heads. Keep them safe even as they find themselves scattered in deserted places sleeping with reptiles and dangerous animals and exposed to health hazards. We come interceding for safety for the believers in the Northern region do not have freedom of worship. For those who continue to persecute Christians, we pray that you will open their eyes and understanding to repent and become instrument of use in your hands. God of peace, bring peace to these parts and with it meaningful and lasting development. We know that the peace you give that the world cannot give. Be with the nation of Nigeria as it is in a transition period with the newly elected leaders who will soon be sworn into office. May your presence be manifested especially during this period of transition.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, give us your peace. Teach us to cultivate peace and to live in peace with ourselves and our neighbours in eastern DRC and everywhere in the wide. We pray for those who are hungry and whose lives have been impacted by the ongoing mineral wars that have resulted in the slaughter of the innocent, incidents of rape and acts of gender-based violence. We pray especially for the Congolese who have been displaced by force by force and have had their land and wealth taken from them. Give freedom to those who have been enslaved. God of Peace, bring peace to the DRC. Teach us to live in peace with ourselves and our neighbours; to reconcile and genuinely love one another. As a reconciled people, may we bring an end to the internal wars and the senseless killing of the innocent. Give us, we pray, justice, love and reconciliation.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Korean Peninsula**

God, as we mark the 70th anniversary of the 1953 Korea Armistice Agreement, may the spirit of reconciliation reign on the Korean Peninsula, guiding us towards ending all hostile actions. God, may the spirit of unity prevail as we pray for renewed trust between the North and the South. We confess that: while speaking of peace and reconciliation, we have only accumulated misunderstandings and hostility; while speaking of cooperation and mutual growth, we have only fostered conflicts and discord. We repent for confessing only with our lips God's peace, reconciliation, and unity, while failing to live them out in our actions. We pray that the Korean Peninsula, through the mutual building of trust, may become a gateway to peace and a stepping stone for world peace. We ask believing that trust may be restored once again between the North and the South. God, may the spirit of love that fills our hearts with joy also move us towards reconciliation and peace on the Korean Peninsula. We pray that the churches in the North and the South, in particular, will be firmly rooted in Christ's love, which can transform the hardened hearts of people on both sides.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **South Sudan**

God our father we thank you for the gift of life, our country and for the people of South Sudan. Holy spirit, we ask you to come down upon the people of South Sudan, to enlighten their minds and fill them with the spirit of love, tolerance, forgiveness, understanding, reconciliation, and unity. Lord, touch the hearts of our leaders and all signatories to the revitalized peace agreement to sincerely put all efforts to implement the peace agreement as it is without any alteration or any further delay. Father God, may you touch the hearts of all South Sudanese people including our leaders with the grace of true repentance, that we may all be new in spirit and stop all kinds of

evil and corrupt deals. We pray for our church leaders to be the salt and light of all South Sudanese. Lord, may you give them courage and strength to continue interceding on behalf of your people, and to stand for the truth without fear or favor. May they always work for reconciliation, unity, and peace. Lord, the people of South Sudan have suffered enough, may you in your kindness and mercy turn all the challenges they face into blessings, peace for sustainable lasting peace and development. Our challenges are too many to be listed all, among the many we offer you the following to be transformed by you in your goodness.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

## **Ukraine**

### **Ethiopia**

O Lord, Our God Bless all the people and the whole flock bless; all the peace that You sent it is from heaven send us into the hearts of us all and vouchsafe us the safety of our life therein. Vouchsafe peace to our country Ethiopia, to her unity, to her guards, to those who lead in her people. And to the multitude of our neighbours at home and abroad; adorn them with all peace: O King of Peace, grant us Your Peace, for you have granted us all things. Possess us, O Lord, and requite us, for beside you we know none other; we make mention of your Holy Name and call upon it, that our souls may live through the Holy Spirit; and that death and sin may not have dominion over us your servants and all your people.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Haiti**

O Lord, our God, our refuge, our fortress, our support, our hope, all the peoples and kingdoms of the world belong to you. You rule over the nations. You are the Atta El Roi, the God who sees. We cry out to you for the deliverance of the people of Haiti, who no longer know where to turn to escape from this fear, misery, and never-ending suffering. Lord, how long? Come down and speak out. Children, young girls, defenseless women, and men are kidnapped, raped, and massacred daily in front of everyone by armed gangs, and no one lifts a finger to help them. Speak out and intervene. Speak to the religious leaders. Inspire them to rise and proclaim your word of peace, love, and conviviality and denounce the injustice, selfishness, and hatred that plague Haitian society. Speak so that your Church may be the model and the force that you have called to be for the moral and spiritual transformation of the country. Speak to the government members and the political leaders, and touch their hearts to make the motto of the country *l'Union fait la Force*, a national reality in the lives of the citizens. Give them the courage to fight against the corruption that gangrenes the institutions and to work to make this country the pearl of the Antilles that it was in the past in the economic, social, health and educational fields.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Palestine-Israel**

At the outset of human history the Tower of Babel was a symbol of the confusion of languages and minds. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit enabled the believers of Jesus who were gathered in Jerusalem, to overcome the language differences and to understand one another. We ask God to send his Spirit upon us and renew his Pentecost among us. We pray that every man and woman should begin to understand his brothers and sisters in love and justice. We ask that each and everyone of us be inspired by love, not hatred, by peace, not oppression or injustice.

Lord, on this day, in this land, you sent you Spirit to renew the face of the earth and reconcile man with you and with one's brothers and sisters. Today in this Holy Land we are in need of reconciliation. Send your Spirit upon us to renew us, to bring us reconciliation.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Lord's Prayer** (*in our many languages*)

**Blessing**

**May God bless us with peace.**

**May God uphold us with grace.**

**May God send us into the world to overcome violence in all that we do.**

**Amen.**