

WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION



Universal Day of Prayer for Students 2013

Theme: God of Life, Lead Us to Justice and Peace

17 February 2013

Prepared by the Student Christian Movement of Cuba,
together with the WSCF Inter-Regional Office with material contributed by the
Student Christian Movement of India

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this service on the Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) 2013. The UDPS has been observed by the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) since 1898, making it one of the oldest ecumenical days of prayer. The UDPS is one of the tangible signs of our common life and connection between students and senior friends (alumni) of the Federation all around the world.

The WSCF invites our members and friends to celebrate the UDPS on (or around) the 3rd Sunday of February, WSCF's current tradition. You may also choose to set an alternate date that is more convenient for your community.

This year's UDPS liturgy was inspired by the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly theme "God of life, lead us to justice and peace"

WSCF affirms a God of life who leads us away from the powers of death all around us, who has led and continues to lead us to justice and peace. We are committed to doing our best to say "yes" to this reality and to inspire young people around the world to commit their lives to the work of justice and peace. We are dedicated to working in partnership with our friends, within our church communities and in the overall greater society with all who are saying "yes" to God's mission of justice and peace in the world.

As the WCC prepares for its assembly, the entire church and ecumenical community have a unique opportunity to come together, reflect, and set the course for the future of our work and our witness. WSCF has decided to be involved deeply in this common journey, to learn, to contribute, and to share with our students around the world, news from the wider ecumenical movement.

The WSCF Executive Committee looks forward to the ongoing collaborative efforts and participation in the WCC Assembly. Together with our students and senior friends we intend on gathering for a celebration of this very UDPS at that time, as we continue to stay attentive to God's calling for our ministry and God's calling to the ecumenical movement at large.

The Inter-Regional Office, Geneva, Switzerland

February 2013

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE UDPS

- Appoint a small committee of interested persons to organize the service and to assign parts to leaders and readers. Try to involve both female and male students and senior friends. The committee must read through and **adapt the service for your region and/or context**.
- Parts to be sung may be spoken if preferred. Try to organize a good choir to lead the singing. The choir may vary/change the sung parts and select the hymns.
- Brainstorm creative and symbolic acts in the service that would serve to highlight the theme ‘God of Life, lead us to justice and peace’ e.g. Pictures of theme in your country to be displayed, ways to locally combat the theme highlighted, commitment of people to be written and put into the offertory trays/bags.
- Give adequate time for the preacher (student, senior friend, or clergy) to prepare a short sermon (recommended 7-12 minutes). She or he may select other Bible readings for the service as the spirit leads.
- If you wish to add a service of Eucharist together with this prayer service, please do so according to your tradition.
- Organize the collection. This year we invite the SCM or group organizing the service to take the collection for the global operations of the WSCF. This collection will support global publications and programmatic efforts to unite students around the world. Please contact the IRO or your national or regional office to arrange the best way to transfer the funds collected.
- Also inform churches in different parts of the country and invite them to organize this service in their communities.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing work and contribution to the global Federation and we pray for the success of a very meaningful and inspiring UDPS!

LITURGY FOR THE UDPS SERVICE

Prelude “The Kingdom of God”

During the singing, the participants bring objects related to their life stories as students, as well as symbols of WSCF and put them on the altar (e.g. backpacks, pencils, notebooks, logos, books, symbols of ecumenism).

Welcome

Leader:

Let us come before God today with all that we are, and all that we have. Let us together commit to bringing peace and justice on earth, and in the midst of despair let us make visible the kingdom that Jesus of Nazareth proclaimed for us.

(Invite participants to share gestures of peace by hugging or shaking hands, while all sing "In Christ We Have Access" or another appropriate hymn.)

Call to Worship (Psalm 146:5-10, Inspired)

Leader:

Blessed is the one whose help is the God of history.
Blessed is the one whose hope is in the Lord their God,
the Creator and Sustainer of Life,
who keeps the truth, who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry and sets the prisoners free.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord!

Leader:

Our Almighty Just King, you secure justice for the poor, and uphold the cause of the needy.
We come into your presence with hearts full of gratitude, for you are a God who continues to call your people to do what is right, good, true and just.

Response: *(Sung)* “Blessed are the Poor, For the Kingdom of Heaven is Theirs” (English verse)

5

Bless - ed _____ are the poor in spi - rit;
 Heu - reux _____ sont en Dieu les pau - vres;
 Se - lig _____ sind die geist - lich Ar - men;

6

for the heavenly King - dom is theirs.
 car c'est pour eux que s'ouvri - ront les cieux.
 denn das Himmelskö - nig - reich ist ihr.

Leader:

Our Eternal God, your steadfast love endures from everlasting to everlasting, and you are with us from generation to generation. We thank you for calling us to be instruments of your peace, bringing peace to your creation and our neighbours.

Response: *(Sung)* “Blessed are the Poor, For the Kingdom of Heaven is Theirs” (French verse)

Leader:

O God of Life, behold you create all things and make all things new. Your light shines in the darkest places, and you bring hope to the hopeless. Your liberating spirit breaks the chains of bondage and leads the righteous into truth, justice, peace and reconciliation.

Response: *(Sung)* “Blessed are the Poor, For the Kingdom of Heaven is Theirs” (German verse)

Readings

One or more Bible readings may be used.

The First Lesson – Genesis 1:14-19

At the end, the Reader says: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 85:8-13

Either sung by a choir OR women and men reading alternate verses.

The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 5:43-48

Reader ends: This is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Response (sung) "O Healing River"

Trad. African American

Chords: F⁷ B^b E^b B^b F⁷ B^b E^b B^b F⁷/A G^m C⁷

Voice

1. O heal-ing riv - er, send down your wa - ters, send down your wa - ters up - on the
 2. This land is parch - ing, this land is burn - ing, no seed is grow - ing in the bar - ren
 3. Let seeds of free - dom a - wake and flour - ish, let deep roots nour - ish, let tall stalks

4 F C⁷ F⁷ B^b E^b B^b D⁷

land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 ground. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your

6 G^m C⁷ B^b/F E^b/F B^b B^b E^b B^b

wa - ters, and wash the blood from off the sand.
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, send your wa - ters down.
 wa - ters, O heal - ing riv - er, from out of the skies.

Public Domain

Confession

Leader:

Let us come to God of all Grace in repentance, confessing our sins and seeking forgiveness and healing.

O God of Life, we confess to you the times when we did not allow the Spirit to transform our lives yet we took pride in celebrating your promise. We confess to you the times when we refused to accept the challenges which called for renewing of our minds and resulted in hardness of heart. We confess to you the times when we gave up standing for truth because we were frustrated to see evil prosper. We confess to you the times when we compromised with silence and ill-considered words when our neighbors were longing for justice and peace.

All: Lead us in the way of justice and peace!

Leader:

O God of justice, who judges with mercy our humanity, forgive us for remaining passive in face of so much violence and exclusion. Where there was unrest, forgive us for failing to communicate your love and peace; where distrust and doubt shattered relationships, forgive us for failing to communicate mutual trust and reconciliation; where longings of solace and health diminished the quality of life, forgive us for failing to communicate fullness of life; where evil prospers and injustice pervades, forgive us for failing to communicate truth and righteousness.

All: Lead us in the way of justice and peace!

Leader:

O God of peace, we confess the times when we have refused to be peacemakers. Forgive us for being irresponsible when we should have communicated compassion. Forgive us for building walls of prejudices when our brothers and sisters were crying out for acceptance and reconciliation. Forgive us

for often taking pride in power, position and education when we should have selflessly identified ourselves with the meek and the marginalized. Forgive us for the complacency that comes from thinking simply having good intentions is enough; complacency which becomes indifference and causes us to refrain from concrete action for justice and peace.

All: Lead us in the way of justice and peace!

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader:

May the creating God, who enfolds us and holds us in the rough waters of life, the redeeming God, who holds us and forgives us from power of sin and death, the sustaining God who leads us to new ways of life and health, free us from our shortcomings and grant us peace and freedom. Amen.

Song of Peace and Reconciliation “Pelas Dores Deste Mundo” or “Huapango del Pan”

Chant Acclamation

“Alleluia, Life Comes to Us” (Clara Luz Ajo and Pedro Triana, de la Misa Cubana)

Aleluya, Aleluya
viene a nosotros la vida.
Aleluya, aleluya
viene a nosotros la paz
Aleluya en el trabajo
aleluya en la ciudad.
Su palabra nos da vida
y nos hace caminar.
Luchar por un mundo nuevo
lleno de sol y verdad
Su palabra nos impulsa
Aleluya, aleluya

Offertory

Invite all to hear "Como la Cigarra" by Mercedes Sosa or another appropriate song to summon hope.

The offering is brought forward.

Como la Cigarra

Tantas veces me mataron,
tantas veces me morí,

sin embargo estoy aquí
resucitando.
Gracias doy a la desgracia
y a la mano con puñal,

porque me mató tan mal,
y seguí cantando.
Cantando al sol,
como la cigarra,
después de un año
bajo la tierra,
igual que el sobreviviente
que vuelve de la guerra.
Tantas veces me borraron,
tantas desaparecí,
a mi propio entierro fui,
sola y llorando.
Hice un nudo del pañuelo,
pero me olvidé después
que no era la única vez
y seguí cantando.
Cantando al sol,
como la cigarra,
después de un año
bajo la tierra,
igual que el sobreviviente
que vuelve de la guerra.
Tantas veces te mataron,
tantas resucitarás
cuántas noches pasarás
desesperando.
Y a la hora del naufragio
y a la de la oscuridad
alguien te rescatará,
para ir cantando.
Cantando al sol,
como la cigarra,
después de un año
bajo la tierra,
igual que el sobreviviente
que vuelve de la guerra.

Like a Cicada

So many times I was killed
many times I died

Prayer for the Offering

Leader:

May the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
and the giving of this offering
all show our thankfulness to you,
O God our Rock and our Redeemer.

none the less I'm still here
coming back to life.

I'm grateful to adversity
and the hand holding the knife
for it did a bad job at killing me
And I carried on singing.

Singing to the sun
Like the cicada does
after a year under the ground
like a survivor
who is coming back from war.

So many times I was vanished
Many times I disappeared
I attended my own funeral
alone and crying.

I made a knot with the handkerchief*
and then I forgot
It was not the first time
and I carried on singing.

Singing to the sun
Like the cicada does
after a year under the ground
like a survivor
who is coming back from war.

So many times you were killed
many times you will come back to life
How many nights you will spend
in desperation
and when you start drowning
and darkness comes
somebody will rescue you
and carry on singing
Singing to the sun
Like the cicada does
after a year under the ground
like a survivor
who is coming back from war.

Song "O God, You Planted a Garden"

O God, You Planted a Garden

Andrew Donaldson,
Canada

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of five systems of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "O God, you plant-ed a gar - den, a gar - den east-ward in E - den. You O God, you plant-ed a gar - den, a gar - den east-ward in E - den. You O God, you plant-ed a gar - den, a gar - den east-ward in E - den. You formed us there, you named us there; there we went our own way. taught us there, walked with us there; there we went our own way. blessed us there, a - mazed us there; there we went our own way. Ea - ger to taste of e - vil and good, we plucked, we ate, we hid, we blamed; but Ea - ger to learn the ways of wealth, we mined, we drilled, we squan - dered, spilled; now Ea - ger to grasp the ways of power, we built, we paved, we fenced, en - slaved; now now, con - fess - ing, seek your face. o - ceans drown in our ex - cess. all earth cries out for re - lease. Lead us in your way of just-ice, O God. Lead us in your way of peace."

Intercessions

All kneel or sit.

Leader 1:

God of Life, we submit our life to you. Lord, empower us and enable us to be communicators of justice and peace in our family, community, and nation and to the larger world. In situations of violence, rivalry and destruction, Lord, instill in us the ability to forgive one another and build culture of love and peace. Make us your ambassadors of reconciliation that we will break down all walls of enmity and dominations.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader 2:

God of Life, as the one who reconciled all creation to yourself and renews all things, we pray for creation, which groans due to the pain that human beings have inflicted upon her because of our greed and folly, and out of her labour pain, eagerness awaits her liberation to be your cosmic body, sharing in the glorification that have been promised. Bless all the efforts in the direction of preserving the integrity of your creation, renouncing consciously all the activities that cause and enhance the

ecological imbalance and environmental degradation. Help us to live sustainably, rejecting consumerism and the exploitation of your creation.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader 3:

God of Life, we pray for all those whose bodies are controlled by others through flesh trade, child labour, bonded-labour, economic deprivation, domestic violence and various kinds of stigmatization, who are not able to dedicate their bodies in gratefulness to you out of their own freewill. Take away from us the heart of stone and make us sensitive to the human misery all around us.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader 4:

God of Life, we pray for the Universal church and the ecumenical movement which is called to witness in this world and imbibe in your people a culture which enunciates for justice and peace, and we pray for students and youth, that they be inspired to fulfill their unique vocation as agents of justice and peace in the church and in the world. Amidst all the challenges, may your Church stand in solidarity with those who are in distress and bring hope in their lives. Gracious God, we pray for all the people who are called to work in your field. Give them your grace to stand for the truth and be faithful stewards for the extension of your kingdom on earth.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader 5:

God of Life, we pray for the governing authorities around the world. Lord, empower them to be effective in shouldering their responsibilities and take bold steps for the equitable distribution of resources. Guide them in their decision making and let all the policies they make and implement suit the people, particularly people at the margins.

All: God of Life, make our wills, our desires, and our needs, your own and answer our prayers. Amen.

Song of Response:

Andrew Donaldson, Canada Used by permission.



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Leader:

All these prayers we bring together in the prayer Jesus teaches us:

All: (in our familiar language)

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Peace

All stand

Leader: Finally, beloved, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you (2 Corinthians 13:11).
Let us share a sign of peace.

All move around and greet one another in the traditional manner of your country.

Gesture

Each participant retrieves their objects and symbols presented at the beginning of the liturgy and shares how they can be bearers of justice and peace in their communities.

Closing Song “Enviado Soy de Dios”

Cuba

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa - ra cons - truir con
 él un mun - do fra - ter - nal. Los án ge - les non son en - viados a cam -
 biar el mundo de do - lor por un mun - do de paz; me ha to - ca - do a
 mí ha - cer lo rea - li - dad a - yú da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.

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 Centro Hispanico de Estudios Teológicos, 6113 Clara Street, Bell Gardens, CA 90201, USA

Benediction

Creator and Sustainer of peace, guide us unto the path of clarity and creativity as we explore the depths of who you have called us to be. Grant us the wisdom and the courage to take a stand against oppressive systems and chains of injustice. Lead us onto life abundantly beyond our words, into accountability binding love with action. Save us from ourselves when we have failed to understand your will and your way in the beauty of the earth. Show us how to live simply, so that others might simply live. Give us awareness of the comfort that we often choose over sustainability.

God of life, as you lead us we thank you for your justice and peace that will be established throughout the nations. Go in peace.

SUGGESTED MUSIC

Huapango del pan

Voice

1. Que - re-mos re-cor-dar en es-te tiem-po de tan-tos o-dios, de de-si-gual
re-mos ver tus ma-nos po-de-ro-sas con nues-tras ma-nos hoy en u-ni-
In times so full of pain, so deep-ly trou-bled by hat-red and in-jus-tice, fear and
7 you we pray in pro-test and in cri-sis, for you have al-ways sid-ed with the

dad a a-que-llos que deam-bu-lan por las ca-lles pi-dien-do só-lo u-
dad por e-so te pe-di-mos pre-su-ro-sos que en nues-tra tier-ra
dread, some wan-der end-less streets, a-lone and hun-gry; They look for life, a
poor: u-nite our hands with yours, O God of jus-tice, that those who hun-ger

14 1. 2.
na o-por-tu-ni-dad. 2. Que - El pan de ca-da dí-a sus-
ya no fal-te más. El pan de ca-da dí-a sus-
chance to earn their bread. To For dai-ly food brings jus-tice, brings
live in want no more. For dai-ly food brings jus-tice, brings

21
ten-to de la vi-da que tra-e sa-cie-dad y dig-ni-dad, el pan bien re-par-
dig-ni-ty and glad-ness, a guar-an-tee of peace in ev-ery creed. May we, O God now

28
ti-do li-be-ra al o-pri-mi-do y es nues-tra ga-ran-tí-a de la paz.
la-bour with love for ev-ery neigh-bour that all might have this day our dai-ly bread.



Pelas dores deste mundo

Rodolfo Gaede Neto, Brazil

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score consists of six staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics in Spanish and English. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, D, Bm, F#m, A, G, D, A, D, Bm, F#m, A, G, Em7, and Asus4-3.

Im - plo - ra - mos tu pie - dad, oh buen Se - ñor, _____
For the trou - bles and the suf - ferings of the world,

— por quién su - fre en es - te mun - do, _____ a
God, we call u - pon your mer - cy: the

u - na gi - me to - da la crea - ción.
whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain!

Tus o - í - dos se in - cli - nen al cla - mor _____
Lend an ear to the ris - ing cry for help

— de tu gen - te o - pri - mi - da, _____ a -
from op - pressed and hope - less peo - ple. Come!

pu - ra, oh Se - ñor, tu sal - va - ción.
Has - ten your sal - va - tion, heal - ing love!

Se - a tu paz, ben - di - ta y her - ma -
We pray for peace, the bles - sed peace that

na - da a la jus - ti - cia, que a
comes from mak - ing jus - tice, to

bra - ce al mun - do en - te - ro: ¡ten com - pa - sión!
cov - er and em - brace us. Have mer - cy, Lord!

Que tu po - der Sus - ten - te el tes - ti -
We pray for power, the power that will sus -

mo - nio de to pue - blo; tu
tain your peo - ple's wit - ness: un -

Rei - no ven - ga hoy, ¡Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son!
til your King - dom come, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son!