

Universal Day of Prayer for Students 2008

The 2008 Universal Day of Prayer for Students has been prepared by the Inter-Regional Office on the theme of Students in the 21st Century. It also refers to the WSCF 34th General Assembly's theme which is taken from the prophesy of Joel, "I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy...and your young people shall see visions."

UDPS 2008

The WSCF IRO hopes that this liturgy can be a resource for SCMs throughout this year. Note that the UDPS 2008 also includes two songs commissioned for the 34th General Assembly "Where is the Miriam, where is the Moses?" and "A new proclamation of hope".

Preparing for celebration of the UDPS

To prepare for this liturgy please:

1. Read the liturgy through and adapt it for use in your situation. The structure is a suggestion; different parts are optional and can be modified according to your local situation.
2. Organise the venue; in your university or college, in a church supportive of your SCM, or in the place where you usually gather with your group.
3. Brainstorm symbolic acts to be carried out during the worship.
4. Find someone or some people (student, senior friend or clergy) to prepare a sermon/reflection. It would be appropriate for the sermon/ reflection to be about the scripture readings chosen or generally on Students in the 21st Century. Inviting local students to share their own experiences and to participate in the liturgy is recommended.
5. Find people to lead the music
6. In consultation with those who will lead the music select the songs and music for the liturgy. Suggestions are made in the order of service.
7. Organise pens and pieces of paper to write their hopes for students on. Organise baskets for the pieces of paper and for offerings.
8. Find people to lead the liturgy; try to have several people (women and men, students and senior friends) taking the leader's part
9. In this General Assembly year WSCF asks that offerings be collected to help students travel to the General Assembly. Announce that there will be a collection for WSCF. Send a cheque to your national SCM or to the IRO.
10. Invite students and senior friends to share this liturgy.

Universal Day of Prayer for Students 2008

Theme: Students in the 21st century

Welcome and sharing peace

Leader: In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life

All: Amen

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, the love at our beginning and without end, in our midst and with us.

All: God is with us, here we find new life.

Leader: The peace of Christ be always with you

All: And also with you

Leader: Let us exchange a sign of peace

(Participants greet one another with words/signs of peace)

Leader: Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

All: Jesus Christ is good news for the poor, release for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind and liberty for those who are oppressed.

Song

Where is the Miriam, where is the Moses?(in appendix)

Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness.

Leader: We confess that we take your gifts and especially our education for granted. We confess that we forget your love and generosity, and the gift of the opportunity to study.

All: Chiu Chu lien min women

Leader: We confess that we forget our sisters and brothers who are less fortunate than ourselves. We forget those who have no access to education. We confess that we fail to support those around us. We confess that we don't defend the right of others to receive education.

All: Chiu Chu lien min women

Leader: Forgive us when we are inattentive to our studies and resistant to learning. Forgive us when we are closed to new ideas and when we don't listen to others in a spirit of respect, humility and openness.

All: Chiu Chu lien min women

Leader: Forgive us when we use our studies and our lives in selfish ways instead of for your justice, your love and your peace.

All: Chiu Chu lien min women

Absolution

Leader: God the Creator brings us new life, forgives and redeems us. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

All: Tu yo es el reino (in appendix)

A reading from the Old Testament Joel 2: 28-29

Song

Word of Justice (in appendix)

A reading from the New Testament

1 Timothy 4: 11-16

Song

Word of Justice (in appendix)

Sermon

Silence

During the silence people are invited to reflect on the best of their experience as a student, and their hope for the students of the 21st century, and to write this hope on a piece of paper.

Confession of faith

Je crois, seigneur (in appendix)

Intercessions

Leader: Let us pray for all students. Let us pray for those who find their work too difficult; for those who do not give of their best in their work; for those who are possessed by fear of failure; for those who are perplexed by the world in which they live; for those who are isolated and without friends.

Let us pray for those who work is a joy to them, that they may share it with others; for those engaged in research and discovery, that they may carry it out to your glory; for those active in student affairs, that their actions may be for good.

Let us pray for those studying abroad, that they may be preserved from loneliness and discouragement; For those among whom foreign students are to be found, that they may welcome them and help them in all possible ways; especially for Christian students, that they may consider foreign students as a God-given responsibility.

All: O Lord hear my prayer

Leader: Let us pray for students who suffer as a result of war, political or economic upheaval; for those who are hungry and cold; for those whose freedom is endangered; for those who are persecuted and imprisoned; for those who live in fear.

Let us pray for students who are ill in body or mind; For those who are in despair because their hopes have collapsed; for those who are blinded by success or comfort; for those who are looking for a cause to serve.

All: O Lord hear my prayer

Leader: Let us pray for all universities, colleges and schools, that they may become real communities of learning. for those which are hampered by intellectual opposition; for those which have to struggle against lack of resources and shortage of teachers; For those searching for a sense of their function.

Let us ask for all of them that they may become centres of thinking, study and education and that they may contribute in a constructive way to the life of society and of the world.

Let us pray for all student pastors and university chaplains, that they may be given the necessary discernment and love.

All: O Lord hear my prayer

Leader: Let us pray for the World Student Christian Federation, for its leadership and staff, and for all the movements and students united within it.

We pray for the members and leaders of the Student Christian Movement in every country, that they may be courageous in witnessing to the gospel in their context.

We thank God for senior friends and every person who encourages and supports the Student Christian Movement.

We ask for God's blessings on the Federation's 34th General Assembly in August. God, we ask that you enable the Federation to raise up prophets for our day, strengthen its witness for unity, justice and peace, and use it as your instrument among the students of the world.

All: O Lord hear my prayer

Leader: As we celebrate the Universal Day of Prayer for Students we thank God for this day of prayer and for all who have faithfully observed it over the past 110 years. We thank God for the unity, hope and solidarity shared through this day of prayer since 1898.

We ask God's blessings on all days and weeks of prayer which unite people. We ask God's blessings on all those who work for the unity of Christians, praying that we may embody Jesus's prayer 'that they all may be one'.

All: O Lord hear my prayer

Leader: All these prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose grace we are assembled. Let us join with Christians everywhere in the prayer Jesus teaches us, each in her or his own language.

Lord's prayer

Song

A new proclamation of hope (in appendix)

During the hymn people bring forward the paper with their hope for the students of the 21st century and place it in a basket at the front. Offerings to support students to attend WSCF's 34th General Assembly may be collected.

Sending out

Leader: May God's Spirit pour out on us, on all students and on all people

All: Amen

Leader: May God give us visions, and empower us to realise those visions

All: Amen

Leader: May God raise up prophets amongst us and give us openness to hear them

All: Amen

Leader: May God transform us personally and as a community

All: Amen

Leader: May the blessing of God, the Creator, the Liberator and the Sustainer of life be with us and amongst us.

All: Tu yo es el reino (in appendix)

Song

En viado soy de Dios (in appendix)

Liturgy prepared by WSCF Inter-Regional Office, Geneva.

Sources

Welcome: A New Zealand Prayer Book He

Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa p 456-457 (adapted)

Song: Where is the Miriam?, Shirley Murray/Per Harling, commissioned for WSCF's 34th General Assembly 2008

Confession: WSCF

Absolution: A New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa p 460

Song: Chiu Chu lien min women, Vancouver Assembly Worship Book No. 12

Song: Tu yo es el reino, Vancouver Worship Book No. 18

Song: Word of Justice, Agape No 107

Affirmation of faith: Je crois, Seigneur, Alliance No 46

Intercessions: UDPS order of service 1964 (adapted)

Song: O Lord hear my prayer, Taizé Community

Song: A new proclamation of hope, Tim Hurd, commissioned for WSCF's 34th General Assembly

Sending out: WSCF

Song: En viado soy de Dios, Worshipping Ecumenically p 52

Songs Appendix

Song 1. Where is the Miriam, where is the Moses ?

Song 2. Ch'iu Chu lien min wo men (Kyrie)

Song 3. Tuyo es el reino

Song 4. Word of Justice
Song 5. Je crois, Seigneur (Affirmation of Faith)
Song 6. O Lord Hear my Prayer
Song 7. A new proclamation of hope
(WSCF 34th General Assembly song)
Song 8. Enviado soy de Dios

All songs that appear in the UDPS 2008 liturgy are available in downloadable pdf file below.

[UDPS2008_SongsAppendix19.pdf](#)