

PRAYER FOR EVERYONE

Dedicating and praying for the Sustainable Development Goals
Ecumenical Centre, Geneva
Tuesday, 22 September 2015

Introduction

What is Prayer for Everyone?

*Prayer for Everyone aims to engage faith communities in a **worldwide prayer action** over seven days from 24th September to 1st October 2015 to pray for the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving the Global Goals will require mobilising a broad network of committed stakeholders – and the 6 billion believers globally are a significant starting point. Faith communities can play a critical role by popularising the goals and engaging their members in prayer and action. Christians being the largest faith communities can influence large number of followers/ believers.*

*During 25-27 September at the UN SDG summits during this year's annual UN General Assembly in New York, the SDGs will be launched. That's why from 24th September till 1st October all the faith communities around the world are invited to Pray and act towards the success of the SDGs, under the banner of **Prayer for Everyone** initiative.*

This prayer service at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva is aimed to pray and show our solidarity with the Sustainable Development Goals which will aim to eliminate extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change and water scarcity by 2030.

Call to worship

(please rise¹)

- L** Are you ready with ears to hear
the words of God that ring so clear?
- C** **Yes, we are ready to hear
words which God speaks, loud and clear.**
- L** Can your feet run fleet and fast?
Can you shout, "Good news at last?"
- C** **Yes, we'll run,
to show the world the good news that's come.**
- L** The sick will see their sickness flee;
The slaves unchained, and living free.
- C** **Healing for sickness, sight for the blind,
We will break the chains that bind.**

¹ as you are able

L Bringing hope to those who cry.
I will hope for those that die.

C **How long will God's children cry?
How long will God's children die?**

L Soon the lame will dance with glee.
Soon deaf will hear, and blind will see.

C **Feast and dance, and praise abounds
in the songs and joyful sounds.**

L Are you ready with ears to hear
the words of God that ring so clear?

C **Yes, we are ready to hear
words which God speaks, loud and clear.**

L Can your feet run fleet and fast?
Can you shout, "Good news at last?"

C **Yes, we'll run,
to show the world the good news that's come.**

Mayenziwe

Not too quickly

South Africa

Ma - ye (Ma - ye) - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye (Ma - ye) - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.

*Your will be done on earth.
Ta volonté soit faite sur la terre.
Dein Wille geschehe auf Erden.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra.*

[Please be seated]

Prayer

L “Listen!” says God the Creator, “I’m speaking to you,
This world is beautiful, lovely – but people suffer.

I love you – but not the injustice that you create.
So with and through you I’m going to transform the world.”

C **Give us courage to join the journey**

L “Come,” says God the Son,
the brother, the companion;
“Journey with me here and now,
and together we walk with
the hungry, the poor, the refugees, the suffering.
I promise, I won’t let you down. I’ll be with you
for the long haul – for now and for ever .”

C **Give us courage to join the journey.**

L “Be quiet,” says God the Holy Spirit
“I am the stillness,
the small voice, the grain of sand,
the light that will never go out.
So come with me,
and together, with quiet passion,
we can ‘be the change we
want to see.”

C **Give us courage to join the journey**

(please rise)

Mayenziwe

Not too quickly

South Africa

Ma - ye (Ma - ye) - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye (Ma - ye) - nzi - we 'nta -

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi we 'nta - ndo ya -

kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.

*Your will be done on earth.
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[Please remain standing for the readings]

Readings

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak out for those who cannot speak,
 for the rights of all the destitute.
 Speak out, judge righteously,
 defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

The kingdom of God

Rom. 14: 17

Taizé

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly
Spi - rit. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gate of your king - dom. The

[Please be seated]

Prayer of confession and commitment

L1 Anointing God,
You have gifted us with good news
amazing good news,
not just that you love the world very much;
but that you came
to share its life and hopes and dreams
and to take the weight of its hurt and harm and hopelessness
in Jesus – the ultimate good news.

L2 Liberating God,
You have shouted out loud and clear
that keeping people locked up,
keeping them poor and despairing
is an ugly, shameful offence to you.
At the top of your voice, you cry out
that this will not do.
Tear down of the shackling ways that shackle
and bind people in misery.
Declare freedom for the bound ones.

Where we have failed to join our voices with yours;
where we have stood silent
in our self-comfort and indifference,
forgive us and anoint us again with your Spirit
so that we yell out
with courageous, outrageous, risky,
good news!

L3 Favouring God,
Your vision is for a world that lives and loves
so that everyone and everything
thrives and prospers,

at peace and fulfilled.

But we know that for much of the world
that vision is a long way off.

We have got used to the ways of war,
of business driven only by profit,
of most people struggling, so that the few can prosper.
We shrug our shoulders and accept the lie.
We say, this is just the way the world works.

Where we have failed to live as people who hope,
having forgotten your loving vision for all creation,
where we shrug our shoulders with all the rest -
forgive us and anoint us again with your Spirit !

**C For the Spirit of the Lord is upon us,
because God has anointed us
to bring good news to the poor
God has sent us to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.
Today, may this Scripture be fulfilled in our hearing.**

L4 May the Spirit of the Lord help the leaders of the nations and all of us
in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals;
give us wisdom, courage and perseverance to be the instruments of change,
realizing your peace and justice for all in the world.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

[Please rise]

Sending prayer

L May God the Maker bless us;
God who speaks words of freedom and justice,
May God bless us with hope
so that we walk the talk.

C Amen.

L May Jesus the teacher bless us;
Jesus who speaks of Good news for poor people,
May Jesus, who walks the talk,
bless us, with truth.

C Amen.

L May God the Holy Spirit bless us;
the Holy Spirit who speaks in fire and stillness,
may the Holy Spirit bless us, with joy.

C Amen.

May we walk and talk with God
 who loves us forever,
 every step of our journey
 every moment of our life.
 Amen.

Sources: Church Action on Poverty: Its time to close the Gap : (www.church-poverty.org.uk/closethegap)

The Sustainable Development Goals:

1. **NO POVERTY:** *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*
2. **NO HUNGER:** *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*
3. **GOOD HEALTH:** *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*
4. **QUALITY EDUCATION:** *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*
5. **GENDER EQUALITY:** *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*
6. **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION:** *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*
7. **MODERN ENERGY:** *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*
8. **GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:** *Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*
9. **INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*
10. **REDUCED INEQUALITIES:** *Reduce inequalities within and among countries*
11. **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES:** *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*
12. **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION:** *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*
13. **PROTECT THE PLANET:** *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
14. **LIFE BELOW WATER:** *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*
15. **LIFE ABOVE WATER:** *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*
16. **PEACE AND JUSTICE:** *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*
17. **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS:** *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*