



## Morning Prayer

Ecumenical Centre, Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

### A PILGRIMAGE TOWARDS WATER JUSTICE

#### **Introduction:**

*Dear Friends,*

*The Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) of the WCC is in the midst of its Lenten campaign – the **Seven Weeks for Water**. One of the objectives of this campaign is to raise awareness among the churches on issues of injustice related to water and sanitation around the **World Water Day**, which we just celebrated on the **22<sup>nd</sup> March**. The prayers this morning are dedicated to those millions of people who are deprived of enjoying the wonderful gift of God and the cradle of life - **water**.*

*For more information about EWN's work please visit our website <http://water.oikoumene.org>*

*This week we also remember in our prayers China, Hong Kong and Macau according to the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*

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#### **Call to Worship**

L: With a wind over the waters  
and a voice into the void  
you spoke light  
creating all that is.  
You made humanity in your image and loved what you made.  
With the law and the prophets  
you set your people free to act justly  
and walk humbly with you.  
When we had closed our ears,  
you sent your Beloved,  
so we could see what you intended us to be.  
With all those washed in the waters of your grace,  
we sing the endless song of praise.

#### **Hymn**

# A Água

Excerpts

Simeí Monteiro

Albete Corrêa

F<sup>6</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>/G C

C Dm Em

C Dm/F G<sup>9</sup> C

F G F C/G

C Dm C

F<sup>6</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>/G C

A tu - a gra - - ça, Se - nhor,  
Your faith - ful mer - - cy and grace

me - lhor que a vi - - da, se - rá.  
will be much bet - - ter than life

E o teu a - mor em nós se - rá ma - nan - ci - al  
And in the de - sert of our lives a ri - ver flows

de á - gua bo - a a a ter - rar  
a pure wa - - - - - ter for growth;

pra nos - sa se - de es - tan - car.  
re - fresh - ing, heal - - - ing our land.

Portuguese and English Simeí Monteiro. Music: Albete Corrêa. © WCC-COE, 150, Route de Ferney, 1211, Geneva, Switzerland

## Thanksgiving over the water and Psalm 29

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: We give you thanks  
for the wind that swept over the waters of creation  
for the voice that brought forth light,  
for the life you formed from the seas,  
slowly transforming simple cells into breathing beings  
for the spirit reforming women and men into your image

R: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

**C: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

R: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name;

**C: worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

R: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**C: the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.**

R: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

**C: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

L: Through the great flood you saved Noah so humanity could start anew.  
You stood the waters of the Red Sea on their feet  
so your people could pass to freedom on dry land.  
In the muddy Jordan you healed a leper.  
By the rivers of Babylon your people sat down and cried  
remembering home,  
hoping for the day when they would return.  
You promised streams in the desert and water for everyone who thirsts  
and bread without money or price.

## **Response** "Let all nations praise the Lord" (*Thuma Mina* 26)

L: In the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit.  
A voice echoed from the water, the Beloved with whom I am well pleased.  
In his baptism, you adopt us as your daughters and sons,  
heirs of your promise, servants of all.  
With the rebirth of your Spirit you name us your own, your beloved,  
clothing us with grace and truth,  
anointing us to be a priestly people, caring for the least  
so they, too, know they are beloved by you.

**C: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as ruler forever.  
May the Lord give strength to the people!  
May the Lord bless the people with peace!**

L: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Response** “Let all nations praise the Lord” (*Thuma Mina* 26)

**The Litany** (*adapted from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*)

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Response**

Saisiat melody: Taiwan



Chú ah Kiû Lí lín bín goán, Sei-gneur, aie pi-tié de nous. Ki tok Kiû Lí lín bín goán, Christ, aie pi-tié de nous. Chú ah Kiû Lí lín bín goán. Sei-gneur, aie pi-tié de nous.

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L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Response**

L: For the peace of the whole world and for the well-being of the people of God and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Response**

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious God. Let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

**C: To you, O Lord.**

**Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading Revelation 21: 1-6 (RSV)**

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; <sup>3</sup>and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be

with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.” <sup>5</sup> And he who sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Reflection:** Dinesh Suna, Coordinator, Ecumenical Water Network, WCC

## Response

### Let justice flow down

Douglas Romanow  
Canada

Let jus - tice flow down, down like a riv - er, down to the val - leys where the  
 help - less cry. Right - eous - ness flow through us for - e - ver,  
 lead us to the stream that will ne - ver run dry

## Prayers of intercession

L: Lord we give you thanks for China, Hong Kong and Macau for:

- Those who struggle for human rights against great odds.
- Christians meeting in house churches. Growing congregations.
- The China Christian Council, the Amity Foundation, the Hong Kong Council of Churches.
- Those with a concern for the poor and disadvantaged.

Lord we pray for the people of China, Hong Kong and Macau, particularly for:

- Those suffering unemployment in cities and those who are unable to find homes.
- The rural poor, and those forced to labour in the countryside.
- Refugees from North Korea.
- Those suffering from forced sterilizations, abortions and infanticide.
- Educational reforms that they may bring about a holistic approach to learning.
- A reduction in the amount of pollution and environmental damage and improved access to safe drinking water.

Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer**

L: Lord, we thank you for the gift of life and the life sustaining fresh water which is in the rivers, the lakes, the streams; the water which is frozen in the glaciers, the water which is in the air, the

water which is beneath the ground. Help us to protect this gift. Help us to preserve and share this precious resources - water.

**C: Creator of life, transform us so that we have welling within us, springs of eternal life.**

L: God of justice, we pray for all those who are resisting the plunder and pillage of natural resources and threaten the livelihood of indigenous communities. We remember the, Tribal, Dalits and Indigenous people of Narmada valley in India, who are resisting the forced displacement due to construction of large multipurpose hydroelectric dams, by doing a "Jal Satyagrah" by submerging themselves in waters of the dam in protest. We remember all those engaged in resisting commodification and marketization of water. Strengthen these resisting communities, guide them and sustain them in their endeavors.

**C: God of justice strengthen these "satyagrahis" and the "earthkeepers". Amen.**

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

**Hymn**

## Let justice flow down

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Let jus - tice flow down, down like a riv - er, down to the val - leys where the



help - less cry. Right - eous - ness flow through us for - e - ver,



lead us to the stream that will ne - ver run dry



1. Flow to the mouths of the hun - gry,  
2. Flow to the streets of the home - less,  
3. Flow through the courts of our na - tion,



flow to the hands of the poor. Flow to the hearts of the  
find - ing no place they can go. Flow to the cells of the  
guide us in love's de - crees. Lead us to streams of sal -



or - phans, the ra - va - ges of war.  
pri - son - ers, who face each day a - lone.  
va - tion; and flood our lands with peace.

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## **Benediction**

**May the Voice over the waters  
reach into our hearts,  
calm our fears,  
open our hands towards the stranger,  
send us forth with the voice of love,  
so all that we say, speaks to those who would hear,  
You are God's child,  
Beloved  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*This order of worship is adapted from the liturgy prepared by Rev. Terry  
MacArthur for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneva*