**Morning Prayer**

**Friday, 24 February 2023**

*With the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for the churches and people of*

*France, Germany and Monaco.*

**Prayer**

God, creator of all things, you are our sun, our light, our strength.

Help us to grow in your love.

Grant that your church may shine with your light.

Your church today is spread all over the earth,

as you wanted it to be: thousands of colours to give you thanks,

thousands of colours to sing your glory,

thousands of colours who dance and are united in you.

Father, we bless you for the love with which you love us.

Father, we bless you for the love you give us each day.

In the midst of our sadness, you place your love of many colours.

Glory be to you. **Amen.**

*(Pilgrim Prayer, 39)*

**♪ O Jésus mon frère** *(Jesu, meine freude)*

**www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg4nRt8GGLQ**

**Responsive Psalm 32**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
    and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
    my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”
    and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
    you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
    I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
    whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

**Many are the torments of the wicked,
    but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
**and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading: Romans 1: 8 – 17**

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. 9For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, 10asking that by God’s will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. 11For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened— 12or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. 13I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you, as I have among the rest of the gentiles. 14I am obligated both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish, 15hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God’s saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”

The word of the Lord;

**Thanks be to God.**

*Moment for Silent Reflection*

**Prayers of Intercession** *(led by Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Moderator of the Central Committee)*

Gracious God, on this day we bring before you our lament. Our lament in the face of terrible suffering under violence, injustice and war in so many places on this earth.

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

Our lament about the invasion of the Ukraine that happened today a year ago. Our lament about the many thousands who have been killed in this war since then.

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

Our lament about the brutal attacks on civilians, which terrorize the Ukrainian people. About the war crimes against innocent people, which violate all minimal standards of humanness. About the misuse of religious language in justifying the invasion.

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

We bring before you the despair of all those who have lost their loved ones on both sides. Our own feelings of powerlessness in trying to find ways to overcome this terrible violence.

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

Send beams of hope into our hearts and into the hearts of all those who have lost every hope.

God, we ask you to send your spirit into the hearts of those in power.

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

May those who are responsible for this war recognize the injustice of their action and repent. May those fighting against each other may find ways for a just peace. May the logic of military violence give way to the logic of dialogue and peace.

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. You sustain us every day. Show us your presence. Give us your comfort. Strengthen our faith and our love and our hope in this difficult time. In you we trust. Amen

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

**Our Father…..** *(each in our own language)*

**Sending Forth**

**We go on our way to act in accord with Jesus’ words and deeds,**

**to be the salt of the earth, to seek justice,**

**to build peace, to protect the creation, and to gain life. Amen**

*(Pilgrim Prayer, 38)*