

Sunday Worship

Ecumenical Celebration on
the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary
of the World Council of Churches

Saint Pierre Cathedral, Geneva
Sunday, 25 June 2023



Sunday Worship
Ecumenical Celebration on
the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary
of the World Council of Churches

Saint Pierre Cathedral, Geneva
Sunday, 25 June 2023



SUNDAY SERVICE

L: Leader

C: Congregation

♪ *ORGAN PRELUDE* (Mr Vincent Thévenaz, organist of Saint Pierre Cathedral)

(You may stand.)

Procession

♪ *Vous qui sur la terre*

(Stanza 1: French; stanza 2: English; stanza 3: German; stanza 4: Spanish; or you may sing in the language of your choice.)

Psalms 100 paraphrase

Genevan Psalter 1551

1. Vous qui sur la terre ha - bi - tez,
1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell,
1. Nun jauchzt dem Her - ren, al - le Welt!
1. Oh pueb - los to - dos a - la - bad

chan - tez à plei - ne voix, chan - tez.
sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
Komm her, zu sei - nem Dienst euch stellt,
en al - ta voz a Dios can - tad,

Ré - jou - is - sez - vous au Sei - gneur,
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
kommt mit Froh - lo - cken, süu - met nicht,
re - go - ci - ja - os en su ho - nor,

é - gay - ez - vous à son hon - neur.
Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
kommt vor sein hei - lig An - ge - sicht.
ser - vid a - le - gres al Se - ñor.

Français:

2. Lui seul est notre souverain,
c'est lui qui nous fit de sa main:
nous le peuple qu'il mènera,
le troupeau qu'il rassemblera.
3. Dans sa maison dès aujourd'hui,
tous présentez-vous devant lui:
célébrez son nom glorieux,
exaltez-le jusques aux cieux.
4. Pour toi, Seigneur, que notre amour
se renouvelle chaque jour.
Ta bonté, ta fidélité
demeurent pour l'éternité.

Deutsch:

2. Erkennt, dass Gott ist unser Herr,
der uns erschaffen ihm zur Ehr.
Als guter Hirt ist er bereit,
zu führen uns auf seine Weid.
3. Die ihr nun wollet bei ihm sein,
kommt, geht zu seinen Toren ein
mit Loben durch der Psalmen Klang,
zu seinem Hause mit Gesang.
4. Er ist voll Güt' und Freundlichkeit,
voll Lieb und Treu zu jeder Zeit.
Sein Gnad währt immer dort und hier
und seine Wahrheit für und für.

English:

2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.
3. O enter then his gates with praise.
Approach with joy his courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? The Lord our God is good:
his mercy is for ever sure,
his truth at all times firmly stood
and shall from age to age endure.

Español:

2. El soberano Creador
de nuestra vida_es el autor;
el pueblo suyo somos ya,
rebaño que_El pastoreará.
3. A su santuario pues entrad,
y vuestras vidas ofrendad;
al nombre augusto dad loor,
que_al mundo llena de_esplendor.
4. Incomparable_es su bondad,
y para siempre su verdad;
de bienes colma nuestro ser
su gracia no_ha de fenecer.

English: William Kethe 1560. French: Roger Chapal 1970, according to Théodore Bèze 1562
© Fédération Protestante de France, 47, Rue de Clichy, 75009 Paris.
German: according to Cornelius Becker 1602 / Hannover 1646.
Spanish © 1960 Federico J. Pagura

Greetings

- L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

Call to worship

L: The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah —

**C: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”**

L: The word of the Lord came to Mary —

**C: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.
And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you
shall call his name Jesus.”**

L: The word of the Lord comes to women and men, young and old, gathered here and now —

C: “Follow me.” “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

L: And here we are ... with the willingness of Mary and the hesitations of Jeremiah,

C: yearning for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

(Please be seated.)

Words of welcome

Prayer of thanksgiving

L: Merciful God,
you have called us to gather in this place;

C: we thank you.

L: You have called us to live together in unity;

C: we thank you.

L: You have guided us, the World Council of Churches,
in walking together as a fellowship of churches for 75 years;

C: we thank you.

L: You have bestowed on us, by your grace, the gift of salvation;

C: we thank you.

L: From a deep well of gratitude,
C: **help us to proclaim your great and glorious deeds.**

L: In response to our sin and your salvation,
C: **help us to live lives of service to you and to your creation.**

L: Strengthened by the Holy Spirit and rooted in Christ's love,
C: **help us to make every effort to maintain the unity
and to build up the body of Christ.**

L: May our worship today be a witness
to the kind of unity that comes only
through Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

(You may stand.)

♪ *Cantai ao Senhor*

(Stanza 1: Portuguese; stanza 2: English; stanza 3: German; stanza 4: Portuguese; stanza 5 you may sing in the language of your choice.)

Psalm 96 Brazilian Folk Tune

1. Can - tai ao Se - nhor um cân - ti - co no - vo, can - tai ao Se -
1. Oh, sing to the Lord, Oh sing God a new song. Oh, sing to the
1. Ich sing die mein Lied in ihm klingt mein Le - ben. Die Tö - ne, den

nhor um cân - ti - co no - vo, can - tai ao Se - nhor, um cân - ti - co
Lord, Oh sing God a new song. Oh, sing to the Lord, Oh sing God a
Klang hast du mir ge - ge - ben, von Wach - sen und Wer - den, von Him - mel und

no - vo, can - tai ao Se - nhor, can - tai ao Se - nhor.
new song. Oh sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.
Er - de, du Quel - le des Le - bens. Dir sing ich mein Lied.

2. Porque ele fez, ele faz maravilhas, (3x) / cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!
3. Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome, (3x) / cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!
4. É ele quem dá o Espírito Santo, (3x) / cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!
5. Jesus é o Senhor! Amém, aleluia! (3x) / cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!

2. For God is the Lord and God has done wonders. (3x) / Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.
3. So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. (3x) / Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.
4. Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit: (3x) / Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.
5. For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! (3x) / Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.

2. Ich sing die mein Lied - in ihm klingt mein Leben. Den Rhythmus, den Schwung, hast du mir gegeben von deiner Geschichte, in die du uns mitnimmst, du Hüter deus Lebens. Dir sing ich mein Lied.
3. Ich sing die mein Lied - in ihm klingt mein Leben. Die Tonart, den Takt hast du mir gegeben von Nähe, die heil macht - wir können dich finden, du Wunder des Lebens. Dir sing ich mein Lied.
4. Ich sing die mein Lied - in ihm klingt mein Leben. Die Höhen, die Tiefen hast du mir gegeben. Du hältst uns zusammen trotz Streit und Verletzung, du Freundin des Lebens. Dir sing ich mein Lied.
5. Ich sing die mein Lied - in ihm klingt mein Leben. Die Töne, den Klang hast du mir gegeben von Zeichen der Hoffnung auf steinigten Wegen, du Zukunft des Lebens. Dir sing ich mein Lied.

English © Gerhard Cartford. Administered by Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, USA.
 German: Fritz Baltruweit, Barbara Hustedt 1994 © tvd-Verlag, Düsseldorf, Germany.

(Please be seated.)

Prayer of Confession

- L: Dear friends, let us love one another,
 because love comes from God.
 Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God.
- C: Jesus Christ, forgive our separation,
 grant us peace and unity.**
- L: There is one body and one Spirit,
 just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,
 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.
- C: Jesus Christ, forgive our separation,
 grant us peace and unity.**
- L: The peace that Christ gives is to guide us in the decisions we make,
 for it is to this peace that God has called us together into one body.
- C: Jesus Christ, forgive our separation,
 grant us peace and unity.**
- L: With his own body he broke down the walls of separation.
 By his death on the cross Christ destroyed our divisions.
- C: Jesus Christ, forgive our separation,
 grant us peace and unity.**

♪ Kyrie eleison

Mt. Athos Melody, Greece

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie eleison. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in G-clef and a bass line in F-clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -'. The second system also has a vocal line in G-clef and a bass line in F-clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics 'le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' The bass lines consist of long, sustained notes.

Lord, have mercy / Herr, erbarme dich / Seigneur, aie pitié de nous / Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.

(You may stand.)

Words of assurance

L: This is the good news:
God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love
with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ — by grace we have been saved.
For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

♪ *As many as have been baptized into Christ*

Serbian melody arranged by Milos Vesin

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: 'As many as have been baptized into Christ'. The second system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: 'We vic-ty-le us have been put on Christ, have been put on Christ, have been put on Christ, have been put on Christ'. The third system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: 'Qui con-foe-est bap-ti-za-do scien-dam Cris-tum in-to-Chris-tum ha-ben-tem Chri-stum an-ge-zo-gen-um, Je-sus-tie-ne a-re-ve-ru-je-tu-sus'. The fourth system is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics: 'A-le-lu-ja'. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature.

Arrangement: © Milos Vesin, German: Dieter Trommsdorff © Strobel-Verlag, Gießen, München, Germany
French: Robert Darbet © 1993 WCC, Spanish: Juan A. Gutierrez © 1993 WCC

(Please be seated.)

Prayer for illumination

L: O God,
you have spoken to us your divine and saving words.
Illumine the souls of us sinners
to comprehend that which has been read,
that we do not appear simply
as hearers of your spiritual words,
but doers of good deeds,
true pursuers of faith,
having a blameless life
and a conduct without reproach
in Christ our Lord,
with whom you are blessed and glorified,
together with you, all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit,
now and forever and to the ages of ages.

C: **Amen.**

(Prayer from the liturgy of St. James)

♪ Hallelujah

as taught by Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim, Syria

♩ = 108

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

As taught by Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim © 2004, WCC, Geneva, Switzerland.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 35 – 51

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed. ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

♪ Hallelujah

as taught by Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim, Syria

♩ = 108

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

As taught by Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim © 2004, WCC, Geneva, Switzerland.

♪ Meditative music

*We sing to you. We praise you. We thank you.
O Lord.*

*We pray to you, our God. (3x)
our God.*

Sermon Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, moderator of the WCC central committee

♪ Organ interlude

(You may stand.)

Common witness of our faith *(Nicene Constantinopolitan Creed)*

L: Together, let us confess our faith.

C: **We believe in one God,**
 the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 begotten from the Father before all ages,
 God from God,
 Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made;
 of the same essence as the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven;
 he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
 and was made human.
 He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered and was buried.
 The third day he rose again, according to the scriptures.
 He ascended to heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again with glory
 to judge the living and the dead.
 His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord, the giver of life.
 He proceeds from the Father
 and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
 He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
 and to life in the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Offering

For the work of these two projects: (1) *Sécurité alimentaire grâce aux semences, fruits et petit bétail* (n°830.391 for Haiti) and (2) *Rencontres et activités pour les jeunes en contexte de guerre* (n° 672.004 for Syria).

L: With joy, we offer our gifts to God
as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

♪ *Roho wa Mungu njoo kwetu* (Spirit of God, come to us now)

Bridget Ngeiyamu, Tanzania

Fipa melody

All



Ro - ho wa Mu - ngu njo - o kwe - tu njo - o kwe - tu sa - sa.
Spir - it of God, come to us now, O, come this ve - ry mo - ment.
Es - prit de Dieu, de - scends sur nous. Ha - bite en nous, Saint - Es - prit!
Oh, ven, Es - pi - ri - tu de Dios, Oh, ven en es - ta ho - ra.



Ro - ho wa Mu - ngu njo - o kwe - tu tu - e - ne - nde na - we.
Spir - it of God, come to us now, O, come this ve - ry mo - ment.
Es - prit de Dieu, de - scends sur nous. Ha - bite en nous, Saint - Es - prit!
Oh, ven, Es - pi - ri - tu de Dios, Oh, ven en es - ta ho - ra.

Leader



Tu - me - po - ka - a Ne - e - ma, ya hu - yo Ro - ho.
We are in need of your grace, Lord, grace of the Spir - it.
Nous cher - chons ta grâ - ce, Sei - gneur, l'Es - prit la don - ne.
Ne - ce - si - ta - mos tu gra - cia, tu gra - cia e - ter - na.



Tu - me - po - ka - a Ne - e - ma ya hu - yo Ro - ho.
We are in need of your grace, Lord, grace of the Spir - it.
Nous cher - chons ta grâ - ce, Sei - gneur, l'Es - prit la don - ne.
Ne - ce - si - ta - mos tu gra - cia, tu gra - cia e - ter - na.

2. Tunahitaji uzima wa huyo Roho, Tunahitaji uzima wa huyo Roho.
3. Tuwezeshe kuamini katika Roho, Tuwezeshe kuamini katika Roho.
4. Tuwezeshe kuamini kazi ya Roho, Tuwezeshe kuamini kazi.
5. Tuchague njia yako iliyo safi, tusipende mambo yetu, ila mambo yako.

2. We are in need of your life, Lord, life of the Spirit.
3. Help us to live out our faith, Lord, faith of the Spirit.
4. Help us to trust in your work, Lord, work of the Spirit.
5. We want to move in your will, Lord, move in your Spirit.

2. Nous cherchons tous ta vie, Seigneur, l'Esprit la sème.
3. Nous avons foi en toi, Seigneur, l'Esprit nous porte.
4. Fais-nous oeuvrer pour toi, Seigneur, l'Esprit nous aide.
5. Nous marchons dans tes voies, Seigneur, l'Esprit nous guide.

(French © 2017 Christian Kempf)

2. Necesitamos tu vida, vida abundante.
3. Dáanos la fe la la la la, fe que persiste.
4. En tu acción confiaremos, la seguiremos.
5. Tu voluntad sea la nuestra, ahora y siempre.

(Spanish © 2017 Jorge Lockward)

Prayers of Intercession

L: We join our hearts and voices to offer our prayers to God.

(Silence)

L: Gracious God, we give thanks to you for the gifts which, day after day, we receive from your goodness. Accept this offering as a sign of our love and our consecration to your service.

Let us pray

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We give thanks and pray for the mission works that God has entrusted to us, for all faithful missionaries and devoted mission organizations past and present, for churches and Christians who have committed themselves as missionary disciples, and for the World Council of Churches, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. Let us pray

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We pray for Switzerland, and all the countries from which we have come, that justice and peace may prevail, and that all people and the whole creation may live in fullness of life. Let us pray ...

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit,
and for those who suffer from wars and calamities,
that God's healing and wholeness might touch their lives. Let us pray

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We pray for each other and for the remaining work of this meeting of the
central committee,
asking for God's blessing on those around us,
praying that we will continue to hear and discern the voice of God,
and that we will truly move in the Holy Spirit from where we are now
to where God wants us to be. Let us pray

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us now pray to the Lord that the entire church may manifest the truth
of Christ
in communion with his sufferings and his resurrection,
and that, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we are able to realize the visible unity of the church
in our walking together in the pilgrimage of justice, reconciliation and
peace. Let us pray ...

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for those who bear great responsibilities,
for leaders in our countries and the world,
that they may seek to serve, not dominate;
for us in this place and all people that we may be empowered
to devote our whole lives to the task of making peace and upholding justice.
Let us pray

C: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Lord, accept our prayers,
and do us the honour of allowing us to enter ever deeper
into your thoughts and in our service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's prayer *(in the language of your choice)*

L: Let us pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus has taught us in our own
language.

Announcements

Words of greeting

(You may stand.)

♪ Move when the Spirit says move

Rod Boucher

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "We're gon-na go move when Lord when the Je-sus say go. We're gon-na go move when the Spi-rit say move. We're gon-na go move when Lord Je-sus say go. We're gon-na go move when the Spi-rit say move. We're gon-na go move when Lord Je-sus say go. We're gon-na go move when the Spi-rit say move. We're gon-na go all o-ver the world. We're gon-na go all o-ver the world. We're gon-na world. We're gon-na world." The score includes various chords (C7, D7, G, Em) and a repeat sign with first and last endings.

Music and words © 1974 Rod Boucher.

Blessing

- L: Sisters and brothers, if we live in the Spirit,
C: **let us also walk in the Spirit.**
L: And let us now depart with God's blessing:
C: **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and evermore. Amen**

Recessional

♪ *Organ postlude*

Today's worship of celebration was drawn from the spiritual life resources used at the WCC's Conference on World Mission and Evangelism held in Arusha, Tanzania and the 70th anniversary of the WCC held in 2018.

Seventy-Five Years of Fellowship: The World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of 352 churches that confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The life of the WCC is nurtured by the vision “that all may be one,” as Jesus prayed shortly before he was crucified. The WCC responds to that vision in various ways:

- It brings together church leaders and theologians to explore the doctrinal issues on which their traditions agree or disagree. Ecumenical formation encourages and enables younger theologians to work for unity in their contexts.
- In a tragically divided world, the WCC helps churches to renew their common witness to the gospel of life and to bring reconciliation; it helps their message of peace to be heard.
- It connects member churches and ecumenical partners with human rights movements and others working for the common good.
- By uniting their wisdom and voices in the WCC, churches can be more loving neighbours to those who suffer and can challenge social, economic, and political powers that control the lives of people.

Throughout its 75-year history, the council has constantly adapted its focus, responding to the needs of its member churches, the challenges of the world, and an ongoing concern for renewal in church life and witness. Thirty or forty years ago, there was little if any awareness in most churches about many issues that have become important to us today: mission from the periphery, climate justice, inter-religious relations, religion and violence, HIV and AIDS, and children’s well-being, to mention only a few of the council’s programmatic activities.

In the long pilgrimage of churches together, there have been many success stories, such as a declaration on “The Church, the Churches and the World Council of Churches,” memorable convergence documents on *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* and *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*, a Programme to Combat Racism, a study document on *My Neighbour’s Faith and Mine*, a Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, and a new mission affirmation, *Together towards Life*.

For more information about the WCC, visit www.oikoumene.org.



**World Council
of Churches**

www.oikoumene.org



worldcouncilofchurches



@oikoumene



@worldcouncilofchurches



wccworld



Follow us!