

“Investing in Action and Advocacy - Together for Gender Justice”

The Global 16 Days Campaign focuses on raising awareness about violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GbV) in general.

This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we are praying with the people and churches of East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, and Philippines.

This week also marks the start of the campaign for 16 days of activism against sexual and gender based violence (25 November – 10 December)

Opening Prayer

Creator of the universe, your creation is indeed very good!
We thank and praise you for green land, fertile soil, vast rich seas, beautiful meadows, verdant valleys.
Yet, because of human ignorance, the springs dry up, the lands become barren,
the seasons with their rainfalls unpredictable.
Because of human greed, forests are destroyed, wildlife endangered, waters contaminated,
fish and, coral reefs threatened.
Heal your creation.
Heal us so we live out your calling to preserve and care for our common home. **Amen**
(Pilgrim Prayer, 205)

♪ **Somba ma Jahowa Debatanta** *(Praise The Lord Our God)*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3gYNGj1_ZA

Prayer for Children *(International Children's Day was observed on November 20)*

Lord Jesus, son of the living God,
you knew early years of playfulness,
you laughed and ran through the springtime seasons of your childhood.

Today, many children, instead of playing, are marching in the streets - urging adults to change systems in order to protect their future.

We praise you for the children of every land, for their ideas. We thank you for the innovation and solutions which many children suggest, in response to the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Lift their ideas into decision-makers attention; Whisper hope into their ears and wipe away their tears.

Lord Jesus, Teach us ways to adapt school systems, to ensure that education responds to the challenges of the climate emergency. Teach us all to preserve creation through our behaviours and consumer choices – and protect our children through responsible choices.

Help us heal the wounds of children who are impacted by school closures, and promote access to education for all children.

And hear our prayers of thanksgiving, for the transformations which are possible with and for children, in these times of crisis. **Amen.**

Responsive Psalm 76

In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.

His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.

There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.

Glorious are you, more majestic than the everlasting mountains.

The courageous were stripped of their spoil;

they sank into sleep; none of the troops was able to lift a hand.

At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned.

But you indeed are awesome!

Who can stand before you when your anger is roused?

From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still

when God rose up to establish judgment, to save all the oppressed of the earth.

Human wrath serves only to praise you, when you bind the last bit of your wrath around you.

Make vows to the Lord your God and perform them;

let all who are around him bring gifts to the one who is awesome,

who cuts off the spirit of princes, who inspires fear in the kings of the earth.

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 – Matthew 23:37 – 24:14

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

³⁸ See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

¹ As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: ⁸ all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

⁹ “Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰ Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

¹⁴ And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Silent Reflection

Prayers of Intercession (*led by Rosiana Purnomo of Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia*)

The Lord's Prayer (*each in the language of our heart*)

Blessing

May the boldness of your Spirit transform us,

May the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,

**May the gifts of your Spirit equip us and send us forth into the world
with a passion for service.**

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.