

LITURGY (Based on the Revised Common Lectionary)

Suggested Hymns from the New Century Hymnal:

- #234 "I'll Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives" (great for Eastertide)
- #29 "Let Heaven Your Wonder Proclaim" (goes nicely with guitar)
- #97 "Now the Sun is Setting" (ideal for evening worship)

Call to Worship (based on Acts 3:12-19)

One: Praise God, whose Word goes out to all the nations!

All: We glorify the God of love and healing!

One: Praise God, whose Spirit guided ancient prophets!

All: We celebrate their calls to be renewed!

One: Though Jesus died, the Christ redeems us still!

All: We sing our praise unto the living God!

Invocation (based on 1 John 3:1-7)

All: Gracious God, you love us as a parent loves a child. You have created all of humanity in your image, and we thank you for your tender care. We place our hope and trust in you, inviting your Spirit into our hearts and minds. May our spirits be open to your presence, that we may be renewed as one human family. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession (based on Psalm 4)

One: For too long, we have turned God's glory into shame.

All: Too often, we have ignored the cries of the oppressed.

One: In our anger, we have sinned against our brothers and sisters.

All: In our desperation, we have clung to delusions.

One: We cry out to you, God, hoping for answers.

All: Deliver us from the depths of our distress.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Though we have sinned and turned from God's ways, we worship a forgiving God. We have all fallen short of God's glory at times, but God still offers us grace and peace. Having confessed our sins against one another, God grants us mercy.

All: With great joy in our hearts, we thank God for this blessing!

Filipino Litany (adapted from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) Hymnal)

One: We come before God, joining our voices with those of our partners in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, called with them to the work of justice by the God who answers human need in deed and word:

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: There is no respect for human rights as long as workers are denied the right to organize, the seek better wages and safer work conditions; as long as their services are co-opted by multinational companies whose lure of international investments preys upon those with no voice in the marketplace.

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: There is no genuine respect for human rights as long as there is no genuine land reform for farmers and peasants, as long as their lands can be taken by force or coercion and turned into corporate farms for the profit of those who have never picked up a plow or planted seed.

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: There is no genuine respect for human rights as long as the urban poor and tribal minorities remain squatters in their own land, as long as they continue to be the victims of evictions and takeovers, often for the sake of tourists.

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: There is no genuine respect for human rights as long as educational systems perpetuate colonial values and fails to serve the interests of the majority of the Filipino people.

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: There is no genuine respect for human rights as long as the integrity of the Gospel is compromised by the imported theologies of personal salvation rather than the social transformation that would free all – oppressor and oppressed, the wealthy and the poor, the powerful and the powerless.

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: There is no genuine respect for human rights as long as governments and their militaries seek to instill fear in those who dare serve the poor, the displaced and the oppressed, and those people who advocate for justice are silenced by threat, torture, imprisonment or murder.

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

One: We come before God, joining our voices with our Filipino brothers and sisters, mourning the church workers, community organizers, laborers, lawyers and journalists who have been assassinated for their work on behalf of the people. But we not only mourn; we celebrate a faith that continues to give life in the face of death, that still gives hope, that reminds us that when even one part of the body suffers the whole body suffers, that calls upon us to be advocates in the halls of power and join in God's proclamation of justice and peace:

All: I have seen the affliction of my people. Let my people go!

Benediction (based on Luke 24:36b-48)

May God, who created all the earth, create in you a new heart.

May Christ, the Prince of Peace, bring peace to all the nations.

And may the Holy Spirit, promised to us long ago, renew our promises to love one another.

AMEN.