

PRC CLOSING WORSHIP
“Sharing the Waters of Life”
Presbyterians for Restoring Creation
National Conference June 2005
Silver Bay, NY

GATHERING MUSIC

Song of Peace^a

*This is my song, oh God of all the nations
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating;
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean;
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover;
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
This is my song, oh God of all the nations.
A song of peace for their lands and for mine*

The Peace of the Earth^b

*The peace of the earth be with you
the peace of the heavens, too
The peace of the rivers be with you
the peace of the oceans, too
Deep peace falling over you
God's peace growing in you*

Processional – Halle Halle Hallelujah (Caribbean)^c

CALL TO WORSHIP (Brazil)^d

God of life

Prepare our hands for a touch, a new and different touch

God of life

Prepare our hands for a touch

a touch of encounter

a touch of awakening

a touch of hope

a touch of feeling

Many are the worn out gestures, many are the movements frozen in time,
many are the useless excuses just to repeat attitudes . . .

Give us daring to create new titles of community, new links of affections, breaking away from the old ways of relating, encouraging true meaningful ways to move into closeness.

God of life

Prepare our hands for a touch as we gather to worship you.

OPENING HYMN – O Sing Unto the Lord / Cantemos al Señor (Mexico/USA)^e

O sing unto the Lord a hymn of celebration;

O sing a hymn of love, every day a new creation.

God made the sky and sea, the sun and stars of heaven

And saw that they were good; all creation sings in splendor.

Alleluia! Alleluia! O Sing to God Above, Alleluia! (2X)

Cantemos al Señor un himno de alegría.

Un cántico de amor, al nacer el Nuevo día.

Él hizo, el cielo, el mar, el sol, y las estrellas

Y en ellos vio bondad, pues sus obras eran bellas

Alleluya! Alleluya! Cantemos al Señor. Alleluya! (2X)

O sing unto the Lord a hymn of joy and praising;

A song that shares our love, our faith and hopeful waiting

Creation shouts to all, that God is grand and glorious;

And so we sing our song to the God of grace and beauty.

Alleluia, Alleluia, O Sing to God Above, Alleluia (3X)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION^f

Kyrie eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

God have mercy, Christ have mercy, grant us peace (2X)

Holy God, we come to the waters of life,

And yet, we are dry bones that resist the call of the waters,

Fearful of being overwhelmed by their power.

Kyrie

Good Shepherd, we are invited to sit beside the still waters,

To drink deeply of your presence,

yet our busy-ness and our distraction keeps us from you.

Kyrie

Creative and Healing Spirit,
our earthiness in dirt and water means we have kinship with all of life,
But we do not see that our links with creation are the very foundation
of connecting with your power

Kyrie

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHORUS OF ACCLAMATION – Sanna, Sannanina (South Africa)

Sanna, Sannanina, Sanna, Sanna, Sanna (2X)

Sanna, Sanna, Sanna, Sannanina, Sanna, Sanna, Sanna (2X)

2 Kings 5:1-14 The Healing Waters^g

THE MESSAGE

“Healed by the Waters” The Rev. Renee Rico

COMMISSIONING OF STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION ENABLERS

BILL SOMPLATSKY-JARMAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE^h

We are praying, oh we are praying.

We are praying, oh we are praying (or hungry, homeless, marching, singing, etc.)

We are man, woman

we are children

and oh – we are praying (or hungry, homeless, marching, singing, etc.)

Let the rains go, let the healing river flow,

let justice roll like water

Let the day begin when new life enters in

and let your Kingdom come.

FAREWELL TRAVELING SONGS BY JOE BRUCHAC

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

COMMUNIONⁱ

INVITATION

The prophet Isaiah declares:

I will pour water on the thirsty land,

and streams on the dry ground;

I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.

Come and enjoy the fruits of God's wellspring.
Come to the table of life, where Jesus, our spirited-One on earth
Invites us to take bread for our journeys.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Giver of life,
Through water you have rained down your blessings on earth
Through the many generations.
May our corner of the world give thanks to God:
the sugar maples and red spruce, tamarack and balsam fir,
the yellow and white birch, white cedar and beech,
the beavers, pine marten and moose,
wolves and deer,
loons and bald eagles, ospreys and ravens
all these give thanks for this land.

We, the human ones, add our voice of thanks to you,
O God of All Creation.
We remember your presence on earth
through the stories of the many peoples of the earth
those of the Hebrews, and the Greeks,
the tales of the indigenous peoples of this land,
the stories of the Abenaki and the Mohawks,
and those on distant continents including Europe and Africa and Asia.

Many are the stories, great is the memory!
Holy is your name, and Holy is your work on earth, as in heaven!

INVOCATION

Let us bless the source of life that, like water
brings forth bread from the earth, and ripens fruit on the vine.
As we call this day Holy,
we remember the seventh day of creation,
The Sabbath day in which all of creation rested in the arms of God.
Help us to remember those sacred rhythms, resting God!

Holy Spirit, we call upon your presence at this time and place
As we eat of these foods for the journey,
grain and grape of God's creation infused by the healing waters of
life.

May they sustain us in times of struggle and celebration,
Moments of muddiness and mystery,
Days of dreaming and dedication. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Among friend, gathered round a table,
Jesus took the bread, broke it, and said,
"This is my body, it is broken for you.

And later he took the cup of wine and said,
This is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of my death.
Take this - all of you - to remember me.

These are the gifts of God
for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION AND ACT OF COMMITMENT

*[folks are invited to come forward to take communion and either plant a
seed or tie a Prayer on the "web of life"]*

*Sent by the Lord am I, my hands are ready now
To make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes (2X)*

*The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is mine to do—to make reality
O help me to obey, help me to do your will*

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus our Redeemer,
You have put your life into our hands;
Now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew us and remake us,

What we have been is past,

What we shall be, through you,
Still awaits us.

Lead us on,
Take us with you. AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN –

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – N nung yay dah^k (Ghana)

N nung yay dah

N nung yay dah, oh-oh

N nung yay dah, m ma bia

N nung yay dah

^a **A Song of Peace**

Music by Jean Sibelius (Finlandia)

Words by Lloyd Stone

©1934, renewed 1962, Lorenz Publishing Company

^b **The Peace of the Earth:** From the Iona collection entitled, “*There is One Among Us*,” which is published in the United States exclusively through GIA Music in Chicago. You can order this resource through their wonderful web site (which I encourage you to visit anyway): www.giamusic.com or you can call them at (800) GIA-1358.

^c A traditional Caribbean song which has been published in numerous resources with numerous arrangements, including: **Sing the Faith** (<http://www.ppcpub.com/Details.asp?BookID=0664502407>) Sing the Faith includes favorite songs by Presbyterians not included in The Presbyterian Hymnal; traditional hymns; world music from Europe, Africa, and Asia; African American and Hispanic American music; liturgical chants from the Taize community; plus more contemporary contributions such as 'Awesome God' and 'Sanctuary.'

^d **Call to Worship:** Adapted from a Brazilian liturgy in **Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community** (<http://www.ucpress.com>), edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy. A moving collection of liturgical resources from the global community, GIFTS OF MANY CULTURES will enrich the worship life of congregations in all denominations. Tirabassi and Eddy have developed an anthology of original prayers, poetry, stories and readings for sermons, invocations, calls to worship, confessions, liturgies for Holy Communion and baptism, guided meditations, songs, drawings, and other resources designed around the seasons of the church year. GIFTS OF MANY CULTURES will help enrich worship, encourage cross-cultural appreciation, facilitate church mission programming, and deepen spiritual understanding across the global community. A nice feature of this resource is that permission is granted to use all of the materials, including the black and white art, for worship. Orders can be placed online or by calling (800) 537-3394.

^e **Cantemos al Señor (O, Sing unto the Lord):** published in many resources and in many arrangements and translations. This one (and my favorite for congregational singing) is published in: **Sing! A New Creation** (www.faithaliveresources.com) A new hymnal co-published by the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church of America and edited by Emily R.

Brink. One of the unique features of this collection is that a full third of the songs are global and/or multi-cultural depending upon how one defines these terms. Music is formatted into very thoughtful and accessible arrangements. Sing! A New Creation can be ordered online or by calling (800) 333-8300. The web site offers MIDI sound files for the songs and a new leader's edition with full arrangements, background notes, tips, etc is also available.

^f Prayer of Confession written by Renee Rico, permission given for use.

^g The story of Naaman and the girl servant was read as an adapted story from the book **God Speaks to Us in Water Stories: Bible Stories** (God Speaks to Us Series) by Mary Ann Getty Sullivan and MaryGrace Dulski, Liturgical Press, 1996.

^h **Prayers of the People Song:** This sung prayers of the people is unpublished and written by Ben Johnston-Krase, Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry at University Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas.

ⁱ Communion liturgy written by Renee Rico and permission is granted for use.

^j **Sent by the Lord am I:** Published in numerous sources including the Iona songbook by the same title. For purchase information see notes for "The Peace of the Earth" above.

^k **N Nung Yay Dah:** An unpublished chorus from Northern Ghana, arranged by Corey Nelson. The lyrics are in Dagbani, the language of the Dagomba tribe. The translation loosely is: I believe, I believe, oh, I believe, my mother's child, I believe.