

# Worship Materials for the November 2008 Fast

## Call to worship

Welcome sisters and brothers, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the One sent by the Creator to bring light into the world;

The Redeemer, who brings life into the midst of death.

The Liberator, who brings freedom and justice in the midst of oppression and injustice.

The Lord of All, who calls us to acts of discipleship, walking with others who are poor and hungry.

Let us praise the God of our ancestors who brings life, freedom, and justice, and desires that all creatures possess life in all its fullness.

## Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we struggle with ourselves.

We allow our fears and inadequacies to keep us from caring for others whose lives are even more fragile than our own.

We speak of seeking peace with justice, but are content with the peace of solitude, and the injustice of silence, sometimes because we just cannot see how we might make a difference. Yet in a small vulnerable child, You gave us a Savior; in fleeting tender moments you make us your own.

Forgive us, and show us O God, what we may do together to find your peace.

## Assurance of Pardon

“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says God, who has compassion on you.”

In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

## Prayer for Haiti

God, you care for and love all of your children and have special compassion for the poor and the oppressed. We pray for those in Haiti who have been made poor and denied freedom; suffering oppression because of decades of dictatorships. We hear their cries and join in their prayers.

We pray for a change of heart in the rich and powerful in Haiti and others who hold sway over Haiti. May they and we grow in understanding that all citizens of the world are your children and deserve respect, protection and opportunities for a new life. May they and we be supporters where all people can participate and have a voice. We pray for reconciliation in Haiti.

Grant the gift of new eyes. May everyone have the ability to see your face in each citizen of Haiti. May the walls that have divided the country fall and a new unity replace suspicion, fear

and hatred. May forgiveness, compassion and understanding mark everyone as they look forward to a new day.

It is only You that grant peace. May each of us accept your call to be peacemakers and find appropriate methods of seeking peace. We pray for a new day in Haiti. We pray that we might be instruments of your will to help bring about that new day. We pray that we may witness to our sisters and brothers as companions and servants - a prayer which is offered through the Christ. Amen

### **Prayer of Discipleship**

Across the barriers that divide race from race;  
Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.  
Across the barriers that divide the rich from the poor;  
Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.  
Across the barriers that divide Christians;  
Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.  
Across the barriers that divide men and women;  
Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.  
Across that barriers that divide young and old;  
Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.  
Confront us, O Christ, with our hidden prejudices and fears that deny and betray our prayers.  
Enable us to see the causes of strife; remove from us all false sense of superiority. Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children.  
We ask a special blessing and guidance. Help us to recognize the special gifts you have given each of us. Grant us patience as well as laughter, song and energy for the tasks ahead. May it be readily known that we are Christians by our love. AMEN

(Service adapted from PC(USA)'s "Peacemaking Through Worship" Vols. 1 & 2 )

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### **FOOD & FAITH LITANY**

Refrain: How we eat determines how the world is used.

“Eaters ... must understand that eating takes place inescapably in the world, that it is inescapably an agricultural act, and that how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used.” (Wendell Berry) *Refrain*

“In food, I see clearly the presence of the entire universe supporting my existence.” (Thich Nhat Hanh) *Refrain*

“To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of creation. The point is, when we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament; when we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration... In such desecration, we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and others to want.” (Wendell Berry) *Refrain*

“To a man with an empty stomach, food is God.” (Mahatma Gandhi) *Refrain*

“The day that hunger is eradicated from the Earth there will be the greatest spiritual explosion the world has ever known. Humanity cannot imagine the joy that will burst into the world on the day of that great revolution.” (Federico Garcia Lorca) *Refrain*

“There is nothing to eat,  
seek it where you will,  
but the body of the Lord.” (William Carlos Williams) *Refrain*

“Modern Agriculture, addicted to oil and to poisons, strips the landscape of farmers, wildlife, biotic integrity, community, moral and spiritual vitality; all in an unsustainable effort to feed restless urban populations. To sustain the world we must rebuild rural communities; dense with complex systems of life - and rich with culture, ethics, and spiritual significance.” (Richard Cartwright Austin) *Refrain*

“Let us plead with ourselves to live in a way which will not deprive other beings of air, water, food, shelter, or the chance to live.” (Thin Nhat Hanh) *Refrain*

“Find the shortest, simplest way between the earth, the hands, and the mouth.” (Lanza del Vasto) *Refrain*

“Oh taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8)