

TOUCH OUR LIVES, Heal Our World!



*O Lord, the Healer of nations
and lands, Hear, O Lord, the
lamentations of your people
"Restore us to yourself,
O Lord, that we may be
restored!"
(Lamentations 5:21)*

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN 2021 In-Gathering Service

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
WOMEN'S INTERCHURCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

You can find the Circle of Prayer (Volume 25) at
www.fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org

You can find this service (for emailing or copying) at
<https://wicc.org/fellowship-of-the-least-coin/how-to-participate>

Artwork by Trelly Marigza, Philippines

LIGHTING A CANDLE

Leader

As we light this candle, we are reminded of the bush that burned but was not consumed.
And God was present.

All

**As we gather as a community to worship, let us trust and follow
the voice of God in our midst. The Holy Spirit is present.**

Moments of Quiet

INVITATION

Leader

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. *(Matthew 11:28-30)*

All

**We come to worship God at this time of uncertainty and vulnerability.
As we face an unprecedented threat not just to our well-being - but to our very survival,
let us pray together to our Almighty God to strengthen our faith and keep our hopes alive.**

PRAYER

Leader

Compassionate God, you have been our comfort in times of anxiety and hope in times of distress. You are mindful of those who are neglected and victims of prejudices. We draw our strength from the well of your grace and loving kindness.

All

**We affirm the dignity of life of your people and the whole of creation. We pray that the
travails and sufferings of your people move us into action towards a healing and a
redemptive community. Amen.**

HYMN OF HOPE AND JOURNEY

Suggested Hymn: *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*

Text: Ruth Duck, 1974, 1989, © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Found in *Voices United* #421

PRAYER

Reader 1

Breathe on us, Breath of God,
as we are mourning and grieving,
the deaths of many people – young, old, and vulnerable ones.

Reader 2

Breathe on us, Breath of God,
when we are anxious and scared
by a disease caused by a virus,
unseen by our eyes yet occupying bodies.

Reader 3

Breathe on us, Breath of God,
when we are angry and enraged
with hostile policies that are anti-poor,
leading the lowly into greater vulnerability.

Reader 4

Breathe on us, Breath of God,
as we repent our insensitivity and sense of privilege,
that blinds us to institutionalized oppression,
racism, and discrimination against our own people.

Reader 5

Breathe on us, Breath of God.
Awaken us to our complicity
with anti-poor policies.
Help us to be aware of the benefits
of our own privilege and security.
Raise our awareness
that this lockdown in poor communities
means suffering, hunger, and tears.

Reader 6

Breathe on us, Breath of God,
as we pray for those who care for the sick and dying,
and for those who look for cures and scientific solutions.
Release us from ignorance, myths, and false information,
that we may proclaim what is factual and true.

Reader 7

Breathe on us, Breath of God,
as we demand a just medical approach
to this health crisis,
as we clamor for free testing
and health services for the ill,
as we assert a rights-based approach to this problem.

All

**Breathe on us, Breath of God—
Spirit, Ruah, She Who Hovers Over,
the Movement That Never Expires,
Movement like the Wind,
that cannot be locked down.**

Sung Response

*Kumbayah our God, Kumbayah, (3x),
O our God, Kumbayah*

OUR FLC STORY

(can be Read or Dramatized)

Leader

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) was envisioned by Shanti Solomon, a Christian woman from India, in 1956. Shanti was part of an international mission team led by Presbyterian Women from the United States. The team travelled throughout Asia to meet with and listen to women who had been touched by injustice during the Second World War. The team heard stories of violence and trauma, deep pain and distrust.

Reader 1

When Shanti and the team went to Japan, three Japanese women met them at the airport. They brought garlands for Shanti and others on the team, but they brought none for the Americans. They said, “We have had enough of General MacArthur... we do not welcome American women.” On that visit, Shanti saw destruction all over Japan, especially in Hiroshima, where the United States military had dropped an atomic bomb that instantly killed 80,000 people and later killed tens of thousands of people due to radiation exposure.

Reader 2

When Shanti and the team went to the Philippines, they met with Filipinas who were selling their jewelry to rebuild churches that had been reduced to rubble during the Japanese occupation. When Shanti asked the women if they would ever receive a mission team from Japan to have conversations about reconciliation they said, “Not during our lifetime.”

Reader 3

When the team went to South Korea, Shanti had to stay behind in the Philippines because at that time, India and South Korea had poor diplomatic relations. After the Korean War, the United Nations asked Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to be the neutral world leader to settle the boundary between North and South Korea. Prime Minister Nehru settled the boundary at the 38th parallel even though most Koreans did not want their country to be

divided at all. As an Indian citizen Shanti's visa application was denied. She was not welcome in South Korea.

Reader 4

After hearing these stories of hurt and resentment and experiencing divisions and borders herself, Shanti prayed for peace, justice, and reconciliation among countries and peoples. She believed that if individual Christian women could pray about these issues, they could create ripples of peace, justice, and reconciliation that flowed to people and places all around the world.

Reader 5

When the team returned, Shanti told them her vision. The team pledged to pray whenever they were in conflict with another person. They committed to praying for the person that hurt them and for themselves – for strength and grace to seek understanding and offer forgiveness. As well, they committed to praying for peace, justice, and reconciliation all around the world.

Reader 6

As a token of each prayer, they agreed to set aside the least coin in their currency. Only the least coin was offered so that women of all socioeconomic status could be generous and participate in this peace-making.

Reader 7

Today, the FLC is a global ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice, and reconciliation, with prayers and least coins flowing to projects around the world that advocate for women and girls, support gender equality, and uphold human dignity.

YOUR FLC STORY

(Message, Presentation, or Small Group Discussion)

Leader

How did you first hear about the FLC? If you are part of a Christian women's organization, how did your organization start participating in this prayer movement?

What part of the FLC story and vision resonates the most with you and why?

How do you live out the FLC vision of peace, justice, and reconciliation in your own life, faith, and ministry today?

SHARING & PRAYER

(in Pairs or Small Groups, as permitted)

Leader

What is on your heart and mind today? What are your prayer concerns for your family, church, community, country, and world?

What do you want to hear from God? How is God speaking in your life today?

A LITANY FOR HEALING

(May be led by one person or several people)

God of grace, you nurture us with a love deeper than any we know, and your will for us is always healing and salvation. ***We praise and thank you, O God.***

God of love, you enter into our lives, our pain, and our brokenness, and you stretch out your healing hands to us wherever we are. ***We praise and thank you, O God.***

God of strength, you fill us with your presence and send us forth with love and healing to all whom we meet. ***Hear us, O God of life.***

We pray for the world, that your creation may be understood and valued. ***Hear us, O God of life.***

Touch with your healing power the minds and hearts of all who suffer from sickness, injury or disability, especially those who are sick of covid19, and make them whole again.
Hear us, O God of life.

Touch with your healing power the minds and hearts of all who live in confusion or doubt and fill them with your light. ***Hear us, O God of life.***

Touch with your healing power the minds and hearts of all who are burdened by anguish, despair, or isolation, and set them free in love. ***Hear us, O God of life.***

Break the bonds of those who are imprisoned by fear, compulsion, secrecy, and silence.
Come with your healing power, O God, and touch our lives.

Fill with peace those who grieve over separation and loss, especially those who lost friends, family and loved ones to covid19.
Come with your healing power, O God, and touch our lives.

Restore to wholeness all those who have been broken in life or in spirit by violence within their families; restore to wholeness all those who have been broken in life or in spirit by violence within our family of nations; restore to them the power of your love; and to them the strength of your presence. ***Come, O God, and restore us to wholeness and love.***

Let us now name before God and this community gathered those, including ourselves, for whom we seek healing, and whom we now name, silently or aloud.....

We lift up before you this day all those who have died of COVID19, whom we now name, silently or aloud.....

That they may have rest, ***in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.***

O God, in you all is turned to light, and brokenness is healed. Look with compassion on us and on those for whom we pray, that we may be re-created in wholeness, in love, and in compassion for one another. ***Amen.***

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Suggested Hymn: *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

Words & Music Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188
Found in *Voices United* #703

COLLECTION OF FLC OFFERING

BLESSING FOR THE OFFERING



Leader

Loving God, thank you for the gift of life and sisterhood. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from our doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with people crying out for peace, justice, and reconciliation today. Accept our least coins as tokens of our prayers. May this offering support women and girls all over the world. May this offering transform our faith. We pray for all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word and Spirit One. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader

God, you are with us now and always will be.
The promise we shall keep because we believe in the resurrection.
We pray,

All

God of Resurrection,
through dangers, snares,
toils, and fears, You strengthen us.
Comfort us in our weeping, cheer us up in times of grief,
console us when we feel alone, strengthen us when we are tired.
We entrust everything to You as we, following your command,
seek to love and serve others. Amen.

BLESSING

Leader

Go with the tender remembrance of those who have gone before us.

Go with all the warmth and fondness of their memory.

Go, calling to mind their courage!

And may the Creator God, Defender of the broken,

Source of all Wisdom, and Healer of the afflicted

breathe into you anew the courage and the conviction

to persist and insist on life!

May Jesus, inspirer of our deep solidarity,

and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and companion in the work ahead,

bless you and keep you, now and always!

Amen.

(Karen Kay Pamaran, Philippines)

CLOSING RESPONSE

“Amen Siyakudumisa” / “Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God”

Amen siyakudumisa (masithi)

Amen siyakudumisa (masithi)

Amen, Bawo, Amen Bawo,

Amen siyakudumisa. (masithi)

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’),

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)

Amen, amen! Amen, amen!

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)



Please remit your offerings through our regional ecumenical organization: **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**

- Donate online: <https://wicc.org/donate-online/> and selecting “Fellowship of the Least Coin” in the Fund drop down menu.
- Mail a cheque: Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, ON, M5S 2C3
with the enclosed Offering Remittance form.