

Earth Care - Our Calling



Artwork: Sr. Eleanor Llanes, ICM, the Philippines

2023 FLC IN-GATHERING LITURGY

PRELUDE

Liturgist: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104.30).

◆ *You are invited to bring forward any elements of nature that you have brought – as a way of making the worship place alive with God's creation.*

Opening Prayer:

Liturgist: Loving Creator, you care for the land by sending rain; you make it fertile and fruitful. What a rich harvest you provide!

People: All your creation sings for joy! When we take care of the land, sowing the seed and reaping the harvest, all your creation sings for joy.

Liturgist: When we keep streams and rivers clean, when we respect the purity of lakes and seas,

People: All your creation sings for joy.

Liturgist: When we recognize that we are one family - brothers and sisters together - with responsibility for the land and the waters.

People: All your creation sings for joy for you bless us abundantly all our days.

(Per Harling, from Gloria Deo, Prayers & Hymns for the 12th Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), 2003, Europe)

HYMN OF PRAISE and/or DANCE OF JOY WITH CREATION

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

HOW ARE YOU, OUR MOTHER EARTH? / COMMUNITY SHARING

From where you come from, what are the indications that our Earth is in danger or being destroyed?

How are you and your community affected by these?

PRAYER:

Liturgist: We ruin life by starting the fire in our woods. We replace the fresh air with smoke. We poison our water and have nothing clean to bath our children. We are killing our grandchildren by making them inherit poison and pests.

People: God, have mercy on us. Kyrie, kyrie, Eleison. Kyrie, kyrie, Eleison.

Liturgist: O God, we are ignoring the natural disaster, but nature is you. We are speechless, afraid of the laws abusing the nature. And we fear YOU.

People: And even the church as your body often keeps quiet looking for a safe place. O God we are waiting for the new heaven and earth where truth and justice belong to all your creation - O God, have a mercy! Kyrie, kyrie, Eleison. Kyrie, kyrie, Eleison. (*Karo Batak Protestant Church (GBKP), Worship, Medan, Indonesia, 2012*)

Moments of Silence

GOSPEL READING: Revelation 22: 1-5

SHARED REFLECTION: YOUR STORY IN CARING FOR THE EARTH

Questions

- 1) What is your own understanding of Earth Care?
- 2) How do you translate this understanding to your daily life? How is Earth Care a part of your calling as a human being?
- 3) How can you (or your group) help contribute to caring for the Earth in your own context?

HYMN

OUR FLC STORY

Leader 1: The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for peace, justice, and reconciliation. Through this movement, women around the world strive to be in solidarity with each other and are reminded to pray and work for peace.

Leader 2: The idea for the FLC emerged as a vision from God to Shanti Solomon of India. Shanti was part of the Pacific Mission Team, a group of seven women from different countries that traveled throughout Asia in 1956. The mission was organized by Dr. Margaret Shannon on behalf of the women of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of

America (PCUSA). On this mission, Shanti heard stories from Asian women who had experienced abuse and trauma during the Second World War. Due to unfavourable diplomatic relations between India and South Korea at the time, Shanti was refused a visa to South Korea. So, she stayed in the Philippines and prayed about her experiences and the stories she had heard.

Leader 3: When the team met her in the Philippines, Shanti shared her vision of Christian women praying for peace to transcend every national boundary and human-made division. Shanti wanted all Christian women to pray for peace, justice, and reconciliation in their own lives and throughout the world and to set aside a coin as a token for each prayer.

Leader 4: She proposed that all women give the “least coin” of their currency so that women of all socioeconomic status could be given opportunities to be generous and participate in this peacemaking. She challenged the Christian women of Asia and the women from PCUSA to combine their efforts and resources to launch this project of justice, peace, and reconciliation. The team accepted Shanti’s challenge and the FLC was born.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Moment of Silent Prayers

Community Prayer

Liturgist: God of power, God of people, God of power, God of people,

People: you are the life of all living things, the energy that fills the earth, the vitality that brings to birth,

Liturgist: the impetus toward making whole whatever is bruised or broken.

People: In you we grow to know the truth that sets all creation free. You are the song that the whole earth sings, a promise liberation brings, now and forever. Amen. *(From Words and Songs of Reconciliation and Praise, Graz, Europe, 1997)*

OFFERING - FLC LEAST COIN OFFERINGS

BLESSING OF FLC OFFERINGS AND PRAYER FOR THE FLC MOVEMENT

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.

CALL TO COMMITMENT

Liturgist: We have been guests of Jesus Christ. We have received God's good gifts.

People: Now we go to our homes, to our neighbors, to our work, equipped to put Jesus' words and being into action, to be the salt of the world, to seek justice, to make peace, to preserve the creation, and to gain life.

ALL: Thank you and amen.

(2nd European Ecumenical Assembly, Graz, Europe, 1997)

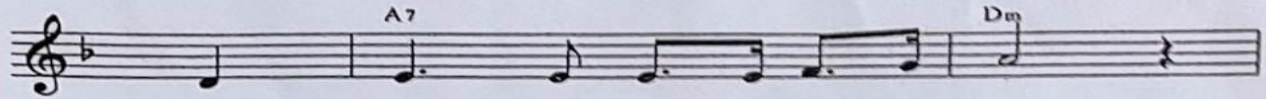
HYMN *God's Call for Today*
(used with permission)

362

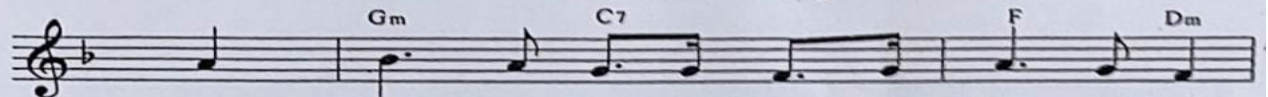
God's Call for Today



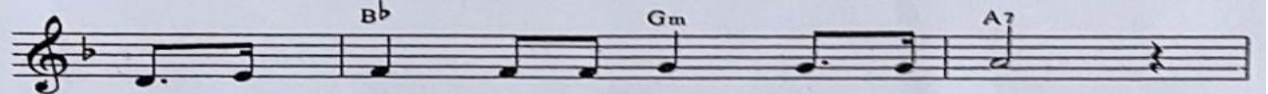
1 From ma - ny na - tions we have come
 2 We've heard the les - sons of the past,
 3 Cre - a - tion groans now in tra - vail



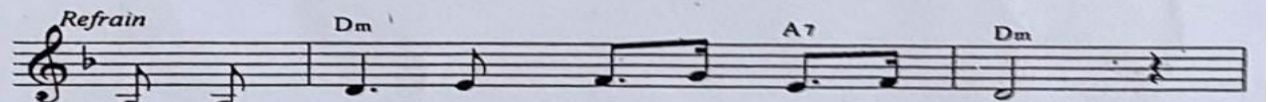
with bur - ning hearts and minds
 how greed des - troyed hu - ma - ni - ty,
 in need of care and dig - ni - ty.



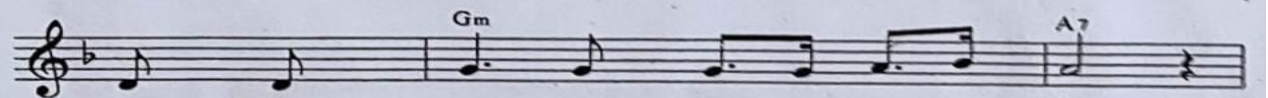
To share to all what we have seen and heard
 The na - tions rise and fall in flames of war
 Come peo - ple of the world, let's share our lives



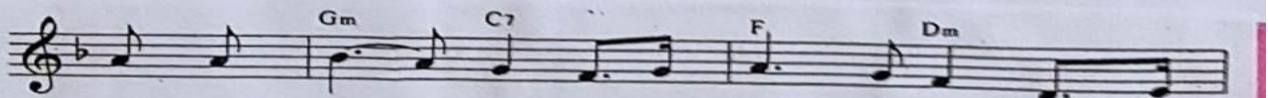
as God's call in our lands and seas;
 and the peo - ple live in mi - se - ry.
 for to live is to care for the earth.



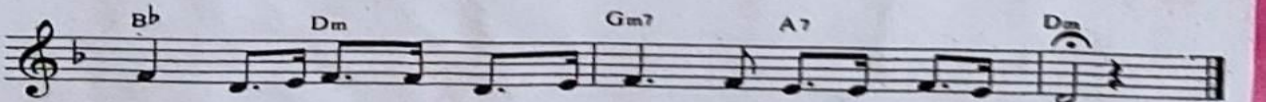
Refrain
 We have seen the strug - gles of the poor,



we have seen our bond of u - ni - ty



we have heard God call - ing us to-day: Pray for



peace, work for jus - tice and res - tore cre - a - tion's dig - ni - ty.

THE COMMUNITY BLESSING

Prayer:

Liturgist: Dear God,

People: We pray for another way of being, another way of knowing. Across the difficult terrain of our existence. We have attempted to build a highway and in so doing have lost our footpath.

Liturgist: God, lead us to our footpath:

People: Lead us there where in simplicity we may move at the speed of natural creatures and feel the earth's love beneath our feet.

Liturgist: Lead us there where step-by-step we may feel the movement of creation in our hearts.

People: And lead us there where side-by-side we may feel the embrace of the common soul. Nothing can be loved at speed.

Liturgist: God, lead us to the slow path to the joyous insights of the pilgrim; another way of knowing: another way of being. *(Michael Leunig)*

People: May we all embrace another way of knowing; another way of being in relation to each other, and to all of God's creation. **To care for and restore this Earth – our only home right now – is our one calling.** In the name of Jesus who showed us to be Christ to each other and to all of God's creation, Amen!

BENEDICTION

THREE-FOLD AMEN