

Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2010
A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Persons

Opening Worship
Friday, March 19, 2010

Sacred Songs from Around the World

- His Eye is on the Sparrow CIVILLA D. MARTIN (1860-1948) / ARR. JEFFREY LA VALLEY
- Aye Jele SOUTH AFRICA / ARR. TRACY McDONNELL
- Nueva Generación LATIN DIASPORA / ARR. TRACY McDONNELL
- Tumi Papir Thorey Aaj Aesheycho BANGLADESH
- Plenty Good Room AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL / ARR. TRACY McDONNELL

Call to Worship: Song for Haiti / Ephesians Antiphon

Maten, Lannwit, m' ape Voyage CHANT HAITIEN

The leaders stand on the stage to be visible. They gesture with one or both arms to have all stand..

English Leader: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and family members in God's house.

All: For in Christ the whole structure is joined together and grows into a dwelling for God.

Gathering Song

Tree of Life MARTY HAUGEN

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Tune: THOMAS, 87 87 7; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, GIA, Inc.

Litany of Witnesses / ¡Presente! JAMES WRIGHT RIOS / ARR TRACY MCDONNELL

Prayer

English Leader: Let us all pray together ...

All: Dear Jesus, our journey through life is long and hard.
We cannot make this trip alone;
we must walk together on the journey.
You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit.
Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us.

English Leader: In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence,

All: Let us see your Spirit.

Spanish Leader: *En el trabajador migrante, llevando comida a nuestras mesas,*

All: Let us see your Spirit.

French Leader: *Dans les demandeurs d'asile, qui cherchent la justice pour eux et pour leurs familles*

All: Let us see your Spirit.

English Leader: In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world,

All: Let us see your Spirit.

All: Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other,
You are present.

English Leader: Dear Jesus, you were once a migrant too. Guide us along safe paths, protect us from evil, and free us from all fear.

We pray together our response in Spanish:
Muéstranos el camino.

All: *Muéstranos el camino.*

Spanish Leader: *Enséñanos a dar la bienvenida a los extranjeros
a los inmigrantes, a los refugiados, a las personas desplazadas*

y a todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas en su trayectoria.

All: ***Muéstranos el camino.***

French Leader: *Aidez-nous à obtenir justice pour les opprimés,
de réconforter les affligés,
et à offrir l'espoir et la guérison à tous ceux que
nous rencontrons sur la route.*

All: ***Muéstranos el camino.***

English Leader: Help us to recognize that the only path to you is the way of justice. Strengthen us to make straight the way before our immigrant, refugee, and displaced brothers and sisters.

All: ***Muéstranos el camino.***

All: **Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst
but the gifts they bring as well:
the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity.**

English Leader: Dear Jesus, you and your family welcomed the Wise Strangers from the East into your home.
Grant us openness to all those who come with gifts.

We pray our response in French:
Donnez-nous la force de te suivre.

All: ***Donnez-nous la force de te suivre.***

Spanish Leader: *Curaste las heridas de todos los que te lo rogaron.
Danos el poder de liberar a aquellos que están
encadenados por la opresión.*

All: ***Donnez-nous la force de te suivre.***

French Leader: *Tu as prêché une vision d'amour, de paix et de justice
dans le coeur de l'Empire.*

*Donnez-nous les paroles pour dire la vérité au pouvoir
dans le respect et dans la confiance.*

All: *Donnez-nous la force de te suivre.*

English Leader: You were thrown outside the city wall and crucified
so that all might come to dwell with God.
Guide us in the work for fair, just, humane, and comprehensive
immigration law reform.

All: *Donnez-nous la force de te suivre.*

All: Dear Jesus, in your dying and rising,
you are our hope.
In your cross, we find new life and promise.
Bless our efforts this weekend,
as we seek “a place to call home”
for all of our brothers and sisters.

We have asked for the blessing of your Spirit,
the opening of our eyes,
the strengthening of our bodies for action.

This is the help you have sent:

We are not alone.
No estamos solos.

Nous ne sommes pas seuls.

We walk together on this journey.
You walk with us,
and for this
we give you thanks.

Bring us together as one family, in the dwelling of your love,
you who live and reign

**with Creator and Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.**

After the prayer the leaders motion for all to sit and sit themselves, either on the stage or in the front row.

Looking for Home: Meditations on God's Word and the Stories from our Immigrant Communities

People join in singing the refrain.

Spirit of the Living God DANIEL IVERSON / ADAPTED
© 1935, Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music. Administered by CCLI. All rights reserved.

3 readers with wireless microphones are situated in the assembly. They read as images are shown that relate to the readings:

Reader 1: For generations, the Israelite people were not a people at all and they had no place that was their own.

**That changed one day when their ancient descendents –
Abraham and Sarah -
and many others
followed the call of the One God who was revealed
in dreams and visions.**

They followed the call of this God not knowing where they would go.

**Reader 2: This promise of the God of Abraham and Sarah was fulfilled in their descendents.
But over time, the people of Israel again found themselves in a strange land, and subject to great pain and oppression.**

**Again, the promise of God was present,
as Moses was called to bring the people from slavery to freedom.
Hardened hearts were broken.**

The sea was divided.
God's People were on the move again.

Many years passed before they would be established again
in a stable place. As they prepared for that day,
laws were put in place,
so that the people would not forget the great things
God had done for them.

These laws reminded them that they should never forget
where they had come from
and how they should treat others:

Reader 3: You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether
other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns.

You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are
poor and their livelihood depends on it.

Otherwise they might cry to the Living God against you,
and you would incur guilt.

Reader 2: You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice.
Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the God of the Promise
redeemed you from there.

Immigration Story #1 – Latin America

*Following this sharing, there will be a profound silence for one minute. Then the refrain will
be played*

*As the refrain is being played, the three leaders will stand at their places, and invite all to
stand with a gesture of their arms.*

After the singing, the leaders sit, inviting all to be seated.

Reader 1: Caring for the poor and the strangers
was at the heart of the covenant between God and the people.
But over time, people's hearts grew tired,

and their memories short.
They forgot what God had done for their ancestors.
They built a great empire.
They made war against their neighbors.
They did not keep faith with the poor laborers, the strangers and
aliens.

Reader 3: Their ever faithful God called to them again and again.
Sending prophets among them, God invited them back “home”
to ways of justice and life.

The prophets, overwhelmed with divine pathos,
were filled with a zeal for the poor
and an unquenchable thirst
that those who had caused injustice in the land
might yet turn back:

Reader 2: Thus says our God:
Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, nor
shed innocent blood in this place.

If you obey these words, then through the gates of this house shall
enter great leaders and a great people.

But if you will not heed these words, this house shall become a
desolation.
And many nations will pass by this city, and all of them will say one
to another,

Reader 1 & 3: *(together, as one voice)*
Why has the Lord dealt in this way with that great land?

Reader 2: Because they abandoned the covenant of their Faithful God.

Immigration Story #2 – Haiti / Africa

*Following this sharing, there will be a profound silence for one minute. Then the refrain will
be played*

As the refrain is being played, the three leaders will stand at their places, and invite all to stand with a gesture of their arms.

After the singing, the leaders sit, inviting all to be seated.

Reader 1: Indeed, the people did turn away from God's plan.
Their land – their home – was taken from them.
They were led into exile.
A wandering and broken people, once again.

Reader 2: However, in the midst of their agony and pain,
God did not break faith.
The prophets became expressions of
a new hope –
one much bigger than before.

It was a hope that all people – of all times and places,
of all colors and creeds –
could come “home.”

Reader 3: Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,
O captive Jerusalem;
loose the bonds from your neck,
O captive daughter Zion!

Reader 2: On this mountain our God will make for *all peoples*
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,

And God will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

God will swallow up death for ever.

Then our Tender God will wipe away the tears from all faces.

It will be said on that day,

Readers 1 & 3: *(together, as one voice)*

This is our God;

This is the One for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in salvation!

Immigration Story #3 - Pacific

Following this sharing, there will be a profound silence for one minute. Then the refrain will be played

As the refrain is being played, the three leaders will stand at their places, and invite all to stand with a gesture of their arms.

After the singing, the leaders sit, inviting all to be seated.

Reader 1: For centuries, the people waited and hoped
that the promise of God would finally be fulfilled.

Many began to hope there was yet one more great ruler to come.

A Messiah. An Anointed One,
who would bring in the day of freedom and mercy and justice,
a day of “homecoming” for all the people of the earth.

Reader 2: And in an unexpected time,
in an unexpected place,
in a *completely* unexpected way,
that Messiah came ...

and people’s lives were changed forever
by this One,
universal companion
who also knew what it was like to be among
the rejected poor, and strangers, and aliens.

He lived and died in faithfulness to the vision
of promise – of the mountain of God –
where all could be at home.

And God –
the ever faithful God –
was true to him, too.

And to all of us who follow ...

Pause here a few moments (10 seconds) before the reading continues.

Reader 3: Let mutual love continue.
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that,
some have entertained angels without knowing it.

*Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them;
those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.*

Remember that Jesus also suffered outside the city gate
in order to sanctify the people by his own blood.

*Let us then go to Jesus outside the camp
and bear the abuse he endured.*

For here we have no lasting home,
but we are looking for the home that is to come.

Through Christ, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to
God,
that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such
sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Now may the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

All Readers & All: **Amen!**

Gospel Acclamation

*After a short silence, The choir intones the short refrain to introduce the gospel. **The leaders stand and gesture for all to stand. The refrain is sung.***

Wisdom, Wisdom TEXT FROM BYZANTINE LITURGY / ARR. LORI TRUE
Arr. Lori True. © 2006, 2007 GIA. All rights reserved.

It is repeated as the person who proclaims the Gospel comes forward, take the Bible from its location and brings it to the lectern.

Gospel Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem.

And he sent messengers ahead of him.

On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready
but they did not receive Jesus, because his face was set towards
Jerusalem.

When the disciples James and John saw it, they said,
'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven
and consume them?'

But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus,
'I will follow you wherever you go.'

And Jesus said, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but
the Son of God has nowhere to lay his head.'

To another Jesus said, 'Follow me.' But the person said, 'First let me
go and bury my father.'

But Jesus said, 'Let the dead bury their own dead;

but as for you, go and proclaim the reign of God.’

Another said, ‘I will follow you, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’

Jesus said, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the reign of God.’

¡Palabra de Dios!

All: *¡Gloria a ti, Jesucristo!*

Reflection / Sermon

Offering

Here I Stand IONA COMMUNITY

Text based on Rev. 3:19-22. Music © 1988 The Iona Community. GIA Publications, Inc. exclusive North American agent.

Intercessions

Response: Oyenos, Mi Dios BOB HURD / ADAPTED (OCP)

The leaders stand and go on stage and invite all to stand by raising their arms.

*The choir plays the refrain of the response and intones it. **People do not sing it yet.***

The leaders offer the intercessions (all in English).

English Leader: For the one Church of God, broken, but striving for unity and wholeness.

That the whole Christian community and our own local communities may be welcoming places for immigrants and refugees, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

Spanish Leader: For our elected leaders.

That they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and humane immigration law reform, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

French Leader: For migrant workers.

That they may labor in safe and justice conditions. That we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide, we humbly ask,

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

English Leader: For an end to human trafficking.

That the dignity of all of God's children will be protected, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

Spanish Leader: For the people of Haiti, Chile, Indonesia, Turkey, and all victims of natural disasters.

That God will bring forth new life in the midst of devastation, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

French Leader: For the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Israel / Palestine, and all those bearing the brunt of human made wars, violence, poverty, and terrorism.

That the promise of peace may become real, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

English Leader: For all of us gathered here these days to celebrate, advocate, network, and learn.

That we will find wisdom and courage to act with conviction.

In thanksgiving for the financial gifts shared this night to enable others to shape our future, we humbly pray,

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

Spanish Leader: For those in our churches and communities that struggle to respond to the Gospel call of justice for migrants and immigrants, and who harbor doubts or fears.

That they be touched by God's Spirit with a new openness of heart and mind, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

French Leader: For all the dead; for persons near to us who have passed over to God; for those who's names are remembered on our fence of prayer.

That we know that their lives still touch ours, and we will be with them again in God's heavenly homeland, we humbly ask:

All: *Oyenos, mi Dios; reçois notre prière. Mungu tusikie; hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

English Leader: Uniting all these prayers with the prayers of hearts, let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us ... praying in the language that is closest to our hearts:

Our Father ...

The English Leader begins leading the Lord's Prayer in English and all speak it until everyone is finished and there is silence.

Sign of Peace

English Leader: In the peace of Christ, let us offer one another a sign of peace!

All share a sign of peace for a few minutes.

Final Blessing Prayer

Spanish Leader: *Oremos.*

Slight pause for calm to return.

*Dios nuestro, en tu palabra
tu nos das historias de personas
que tuvieron que dejar sus pais:
Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ruth, Moises.*

French Leader: *Tu as choisi que la vie de Jésus
serait remplie de voyages imprévus
et de la fuite des ennemis.*

English Leader Help us to remember
that when we speak
of immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons,
we speak of Christ.

In the One who had no place to lay his head,
and in the least of our brothers and sisters,
you come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge.

Bless us as we seek to open wide the gates
of justice and welcome!

Spanish Leader: *Bendicenos al abrir las puertas de la justicia y la bienvenida!*

French Leader: *Bénis-nous qui ouvrons les portes de la justice et la bienvenue!*

English Leader: **Through Christ our Lord!**

All: Amen!

Song of Unity

The leaders leave the stage as the song begins. All remain for the final song.

In Christ There is No East or West AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL
Music: McKEE C.M. African-American melody, arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939. Text: 1 Cor.
12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22,
John Oxenham, 1908; alt. St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987.

Postlude

Walk With Me ARR. LEON C. ROBERTS
Text based on Ps. 116 & *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*, AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL;
arr. Leon C. Roberts. © 1997 GIA Publications.

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