



a partnership
of churches
in mission

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

40th Anniversary

CWM Sunday Worship 16 July 2017

Healing the Broken Body: Hope for Renewal



1977-2017

Celebrating 40 years of Partnership
of 32 Churches in Mission



CWM Sunday Worship 16 July 2017

In 2017 CWM celebrates 40 years of our shared partnership in mission. This important milestone in our journey together will be marked by a series of events, programmes and publications, beginning with the launch of the CWM 40th anniversary in Singapore at the Annual Members' Meeting in June. From June 2017 until June 2018 CWM will mark the anniversary giving thank for God's faithfulness, seeking to discern what the Spirit is saying to CWM today and committing ourselves to the future journeying together with God in mission.

CWM Member churches and local congregations are invited to share in celebrating the CWM 40th anniversary in worship together in our own places on Sunday 16th July.

Throughout Sunday 16th July, local congregations meeting for worship in different time zones, traditions and worship styles but as one diverse body throughout the world committed to bringing God's life to the places where we are. As the Council for World Mission we remain committed to sharing resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to share in God's mission locally.

Theme: Healing for the broken body

The following resources have been prepared by Jet den Hollander from the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, Heidi Petersen from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, Kevin Snyman from the United Reformed Church, and Wayne Hawkins CWM Mission Secretary (Europe).

The worship resources are provided for use in local congregations and group settings. Please feel free to adapt the resources as is appropriate for your own context.

Order of worship

Gathering songs

Where are we from? Celebrating 40 years of CWM

Call to worship

Today we meet to celebrate 40 years of the Council for World Mission. Our call to worship reminds us that the number 40 is important in the Bible and today a landmark moment in the life of the Council for World Mission.

As water flooded the earth for 40 days and nights and Noah found salvation in his ark.
We long for healing water to cleanse and restore your world.

When Moses spent 40 days on the mountain receiving your wisdom for living.
We long for wisdom to live life in all its fullness.

As your people wandered 40 years in the wilderness towards a new home
We long to discover ourselves anew and participate in God's mission to the world.

When Jonah spent 40 days calling the people of Nineveh to return to you
We long to hear your call and turn to you with fresh resolve and commitment.

As Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness discovering your purposes for his life
We long to discern together the future you have in store for us.

As we celebrate 40 years of the Council for World Mission
**We give thanks for each member church,
We long for your healing of our brokenness,
We commit to follow you as your Spirit leads us on.**

Hymn

Prayer of praise and adoration (originally written for the 1995 CWM bi-centenary)

Glory to you, Creator God,
You spoke and we were formed in your image.
We praise You!

Glory to you, Jesus Christ,
You called us to be your disciples and friends.
We praise you!

Glory to you, Holy Spirit,
You inspired us to speak boldly of salvation and life.
We praise you!

Inspiring God, we thank you for those before us
Who caught the dream “to spread the Glorious Gospel of the blessed God”.
Undaunted by the task ahead
They followed you with tenacity and joy.
In the midst of trial they held out hope,
In the midst of persecution, they witnessed to your power,
In the midst of hatred, they kindled love,
So that your life abundant might become manifest.
For their perseverance and patient labour, we thank you.

Inspiring God, we thank you for those before us
Who caught the dream “to be equal partners in mission”.
Not held back by the desire for security
They set out to share in new ways,
So that your commonwealth might become manifest.
Passing on to us the truth that:
It is by giving that we shall receive,
It is by becoming weak that we shall be strong,
It is by loving others that we shall be loved.
For their insight and powerful witness, we thank you.

Inspiring God, we thank you that you have brought us to this time,
Calling us to “partnership in Christ”.
You inspire us to mutually challenge,
Encourage and equip churches
To share in your mission.
We place our trust and confidence in you
Believing that you have led us so far,
Assured that you will travel with us
Into a future as yet unwritten.
For your leading and guiding to this time, we thank you.

Eternal God,
We thank you for the dreamers of all times and all places,
The stories of their lives show us the richness of your grace,
They inspire us to look deep within our souls
They encourage us to take the risk of faith,
And to serve you in new ways.
Thanks be to God.

Litany of Praise – A Colourful Journey



Purpose:

To evoke the decades and significant milestones - where we come from and what we celebrate this year.

General idea:

For each historic date or decade, one person brings a coloured cloth and the sheet with the year(s) into the audience / circle, and end up at the cross where s/he drapes the cloth at the foot or around it in the order of the colours of the rainbow. The sheet is put down

too. As s/he walks or dances in, the reader reads the respective text for that year / decade.

If the assembly is bigger than 30, those with the cloth and year sheet can enter from outside the hall. If it concerns a group smaller than 30, those carrying can remain seated in the circle till their turn comes, and then walk, dance and display with their cloth/sheet to the cross.

Needed:

- A central cross, either standing or on a wall, or a table cross
- 7 pieces of cloth, shiny/satiny in the colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. About 2 meter by 50 cm, or in the form of ribbons, or whatever is available.
- 7 A4 sheets with the years / decades printed on them in landscape (as below)
- 7 persons who process / dance into the room / circle
- One reader
- If there is a musician present, after each entry, the first line of “Dans nos obscurités” can be played while the pair sits down and the next two persons get up.

One person enters into the hall/ circle, or dances around it. S/he carries and displays the violet cloth, and the A4 sheet with the date “1975”. As s/he processes in, dancing if s/he is so inclined, a centrally placed reader reads out the text:

1975 (Nineteen seventy five): An historic meeting takes place in Singapore. It is the first time that the CWM mission board meets outside of London. Also, the first time that there are representatives from all of the CWM associated churches present. No-one has come with the explicit idea of restructuring. However, as the meeting progresses, more and more delegates

and board members become convinced that

“as currently constituted, CWM represents only a very limited understanding of the missionary task, and cannot do justice to the gifts and talents God has placed at the disposal of every church.”

Hurray for the Spirit of Singapore which, like **ULTRAVIOLET** radiation, shows us reality in a new way. Hurray for the proposal to radically restructure. Hurray for the Singapore participants, who did not only have the insight that change was needed, but also the courage to actually change.

Person two enters with the purple cloth, in the same manner as the predecessor.

1977 (Nineteen seventy seven): PURPLE is the colour of kings and power. However, the power of Jesus rests in his giving up power to serve others. This example inspired the representatives of the 22 founding churches of the new CWM to solemnly process into Union Chapel, London, to give up and share power, declaring that there is no more distinction between those who own and decide, and those who do not. We celebrate the restructured CWM as a multilateral platform where equal partners empower one another as authentic, creative and interdependent missional churches. All 22 take their place at the common table. We place our power and our strength, our gifts and our resources at the foot of the cross. And celebrate our unity in Christ, the servant king.

Hurray for the common table where there is room for all!

1977-1987 (Nineteen seventy seven – Nineteen eighty seven): We lift up **BLUE** for the renewal in CWM's first decade. Ever more actors take their place around the partnership table. True, partnership is costly, and there are some attempts to reverse the process. However, the Spirit cannot be stopped: Poor people get involved in CWM's "Mission with the Poor". The first Training in Mission programme is the start of generations of young adults experiencing and reflecting on partnership in mission. And congregations across the world get empowered for mission as they live out their faith in new ways.

Hurray for the many who get empowered for mission. Hurray for learning together to become whom we are meant to become as partners in Christ.

1987 – 1997 (Nineteen eighty seven – Nineteen ninety seven): GREEN is the colour of hope and new life. In CWM's 2nd decade partnership finds yet new expressions. In 1988, the financially strapped Church of Bangladesh is the first to send a contribution for hurricane-torn Jamaica. The gift of new eyes which foreign mission personnel bring is shared multi-directionally, from South to South, South to North, North to North, and North to South. Indeed, we dare to dream on as in 1995 we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the LMS. Together we practise God's Future Today within the laboratory for mission

empowerment that is CWM. Do we also dare to be, Bernard Thorogood asks, a circle facing outwards, so we see more clearly the broken world around us?

Hurray for the future which we practise today!

1997 – 2007 (Nineteen ninety seven – Two thousand and seven): The colour **YELLOW** is the colour of gold. A Hong Kong hospital is sold, millions of pounds come in. How to invest in such a way that the blessing does not become a curse? The gap between rich and poor is widening in our world; human trafficking creates hell for its victims; economic injustice and ecological degradation mean we cannot remain silent. How to articulate our faith in the face of Empire? With WARC and WCC, CWM creates OIKOTREE as a vehicle for action.

Hurray for Training in Mission in its 25th year, for Face to Face and our learning together, for faith that will not remain silent where God's creation is crushed.

2007 – 2017 (Two thousand and seven – Two thousand and seventeen): The colour **ORANGE** is the colour of warning. As some walls have been torn down, new ones are being erected. How to ensure that our hearts, churches and countries are open to everybody? The CWM Secretariat moves from London to Singapore, there where the dream began in 1975. We rediscover that a church is handicapped if it has no members with a handicap. The "More Able Church" initiative helps us to become advocates for the inclusion, ministry and mission of people living with disability. And theologically, we identify the wall that separates Palestine from Israel as a manifestation of empire, which demands our solidarity and resistance.

Hurray for walls that were torn down. Hurray for frontiers that were crossed!

TODAY Now we are here today, weaving the colour **RED** into the fabric of our lives as a community of churches for mission. Red stands for love and for life, but also for blood and for pain. The brokenness of our world, our churches, ourselves is often overwhelming. In 2017 the media show it all. And yet, when we start looking, there are these glimpses of that other world that is possible, God's future breaking into today, God's new heaven and earth, for us to practise, step by step.

Hurray for the courage to acknowledge our brokenness. Hurray for God's rainbow, sign of divine commitment to us, Christ's body, God's world.

Hymn

Where are we today? Discerning God at work

CWM film – available on the CWM website (www.cwmission.org) in June 2017

Bible readings: **Mark 5:1-20**
 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Hymn

Address (*see sermon notes and ideas*)

WHERE IS GOD CALLING US FOR THE FUTURE?

Act of commitment “Committing the future to God”

(Originally written for the 1995 CWM bi-centenary)

God’s rule is the rule of love.
 Let us then in response to that love
 And inspired by the dream we have been given
 Commit ourselves to God, to each other
 And to the world around us
 In an act of commitment.

We journey on with Christ
And choose the pilgrim way.
Intent on hearing what the Spirit says,
We dedicate ourselves afresh
To make real the fullness of Christ for all creation.

We offer time and talents,
Energy and love,
To mutually challenge, encourage,
And equip each other
To share in God’s mission.
All glory be to you our God who journeys with us.
Amen.

Hymn

Prayers of intercession

Sung response: Be still and know that I am God
 Be still and know that I am God
 Be still and know that I am God

Be still... and in the quietness, the stillness, the silence...
 Listen... and in reverence, give thanks to God, the Creator,
 For the many gifts we receive from God's generous hand;
 God's gift of LOVE
 God's gift of COMPASSION
 God's gift of GENEROSITY
 ...And God's gift of HEALING for the sake of justice,
 Equality, unity, peace and well-being for all creation,
 As we work towards God's Kingdom on earth,
 In obedience to God's calling to mission
 Through the many expressions of all that Christ
 Calls us to be in the unity of the Spirit.

And together we pray...

Response: Jesus, receive our gratitude

Sung response: I am the Lord that healeth thee
 I am the Lord that healeth thee
 I am the Lord that healeth thee

Gracious and Life-giving God,
 We stand on your promise that you can heal our Body,
 Your Body the Church and your creation.
 Life – giving God, whose Spirit is among us;
 We come to you to find peace-for ourselves,
 For our congregations and for a fragmented world.
 Encourage us, Lord, to be peacemakers,
 And in so being, enable and encourage us
 As we work to heal our broken world.

Make us and people everywhere agents of your reconciling Peace.
 For your church divided, often intolerant –
 Send us the guiding Light of your wise Spirit,
 The healing of your transforming love.
 For our countries –
 Suffering from the self-inflicted wounds of debt,
 Greed, oppression of the poor,
 Racism and the genocide of indigenous people;
 Teach us that greatness is only ever found in justice,
 Generosity and compassion.

For our sweet mother earth;
 Gouged by our mining,
 Flogged by our industry,
 Stripped of her forest clothes through un-sustainable farming,
 Crucified for the sake of our destructive economies:

Together we pray...

Response: Jesus heal us and let your transforming spirit renew our spirits

Sung response: In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust
 In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust
 In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust

God, nowhere else but in your firm embrace do we,
 Your People, want to be.
 For 40 years you have been a constant Presence –
 Faithful and worthy of our praise.
 We REJOICE in our Diversity
 We REVEL in our Unity
 We REMEMBER our promise to follow YOU
 We RENEW our commitment to be your people;
 A people who dare to trust in you.
 And so in confidence and trust we unite our voices to proclaim together:

Response:

**Glory, honour and praise to you O God;
 Praise to the God who healeth thee,
 The world, and me;
 Honour to the God who is with us always.
 Hallelujah!
 Amen.**

(The congregation could sing “Be still and know that I am God” in between the verses of the intercessions as a congregational response)

Alternative Prayers of Intercession

Who will save our Land and People?
 Who will rescue us from wrong?
 Christ, enough to save the sin sick
 Christ, enough to heal our land...
 Lord, surely you are also enough to heal our brokenness,
 Deeply felt within our bodies and the Body of Christ.
 Christ – you are the wounded Healer,
 We surrender ourselves to you.
 God bless CWM, bless our Land and People – we pray
Lord hear our prayer and heal our brokenness

For the healing of the nations and CWM faith communities,
 Lord we pray with one accord...
 All that kills abundant living,
 Let it from your body - your Bride the church - be banned;
 Sexuality, race, dogmas that obscure your plan.
 Show us how through care and goodness,
 Fear will die and hope increase.
 God heal us,
Lord hear our prayer and heal our brokenness

May your church in loving service,
 And in mission give a clear united witness and proclaim:
 CHRIST IS ENOUGH
 Lord in your mercy
Hear our Prayer

*(This prayer is inspired by the Fred Kaan hymn “For the healing of the nations” and could
 sung as a response during the prayer or the music to the hymn played quietly in the
 background)*

Hymn

Closing words

We go in God's name
And in God's peace
To bring God's healing.

We go in Christ's name
And in Christ's love
To bring Christ's reconciling love.

We go in the Spirit's name
And in the Spirit's power
To bring freedom to all.

Hymn Suggestions:

Thanks be to God whose church on earth	Rejoice and Sing 582
The church is like a table, a table that is round	Rejoice and Sing 480
For the healing of the nations	Rejoice and Sing 620
Be still and know that I am God	Mission Praise 48
The right hand of God	Rejoice and Sing 91

Sermon notes/Theme notes

Happy birthday

Happy birthday CWM! There is great Biblical significance in the number 40, just bring to mind the different times the number 40 is used in the Bible. For example:



- In the story of Noah, it rained for 40 days and nights to create a huge flood which destroyed creation. Once the flood waters began to recede Noah waited 40 days before sending out a raven to see how low the waters had dropped.
- Moses spent 40 days on the mountain to meet with God and receive the Ten Commandments – on both occasions. And his face shone for 40 days reflecting the glory of being in God's presence.
- The Hebrew people leaving Egypt spent 40 years in the wilderness discovering who God was calling them to become.
- Jonah warned Ninevah for 40 days over their need to return to God.
- Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted before he began his public ministry.

Just a few references then to the number 40 in the Bible and there are more. Now CWM is 40, so why is it significant? Can we suggest that it isn't that "life begins at 40" so everything before has been a rehearsal and now for the real thing! Rather it is that in each of these stories the people experience a journey of self-discovery and self-awareness finding their own identity in relation to God and the world – that is your mission.

Noah, Moses, Jonah and Jesus himself each discover something about themselves and how they are called to participate in God's mission in this significant period of 40 days and years.

Healing for the Broken Body

Much of the Biblical story is set against the backdrop of human empires – Assyrian, Babylonian and Roman. Since 2010, CWM has articulated its own vision and mission against the background of empire. That is the coming together of economic, political, cultural, military and religious power in a system of domination that distributes the benefits from the vulnerable majority to the powerful few. Empire circumvents national boundaries and undermines cultural identities; it by-passes nation states, and co-opts or marginalises religion.

Mark 5:1-21 recalls that before Jesus' time, the region around Gerasa had been a hotbed of Jewish revolt. Emperor Vespasian ordered a devastating attack. Thousands died. Property was burned, destroyed and stolen. That memory would have been fresh and raw in the memory of the people. Jesus meets a man near the town. Legion shows all the psychological, spiritual and physical effects of a people living under empire. He now symbolises all of Israel, suffering under and possessed by the "Legions" of Rome. Jesus demonstrates his power over empire by casting out Legion into unclean pigs. Empire meets its inevitable fate when face-to-face with the living God. It is drowned in much the same way as were the armies of Pharaoh, when God liberated the oppressed.

Some of the consequences of living in a world subject to empire are that the weak and vulnerable are further excluded; greater inequality between people's; creation and people are exploited and dominated by systems which convinces them that they are powerless to effect any change. Relationships between people's and being people and creation are undermined by empire. Indeed, as the author of Romans writes:

"For we know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain, like the pain of childbirth," (Romans 8.22),

Creation suffers and longs for healing and wholeness.

CWM has sought to engage with understanding and resourcing member churches who seek to participate in bringing healing to a broken world. Face to Face programmes bring theological students together in exploring human trafficking and migration in Europe or conflict and division in the context of Palestine. CWM supports member churches exploring issues of

inclusion through its a “More Able Church” initiative; helping churches become advocates for the inclusion in ministry and mission, of people living with disability. Through Member Mission Programmes CWM is supporting member churches engage in building missional congregations that can have the skills and capacity to partner with God in their local communities.

However, it is not only that creation is a broken body longing for healing, so too is the Church of Christ. In seeing the brokenness of the world we see the brokenness of the church. The renewal and restoration that the church seeks is not found in worship or superficial forms of church unity. Rather healing is found in discovering again our self-identity and becoming self-aware of who we are as faithful followers and disciples of Christ. The renewal and restoration of the Church takes place when it gives itself in faithful service. Giving itself in suffering, tears and brokenness even as Christ gave himself for the renewal of creation.

CWM – A Partnership of Churches in Mission

In 1977 CWM published “Sharing in One World Mission” where is said, “we seek a form of missionary organisation in which we may all learn from each other, for in that fellowship we believe that the Holy Spirit speaks to all through each.” Also, “At this point in history it is important that we share power as widely as possible, that we hold as much as we can ‘in common’ and that we value the different ways of discipleship in which Christ leads others. We do not cease to use the resources we have for God’s service; but we cease to regard them as our own.”

Those statements highlighted a new way of participating in God’s mission founded on partnership together. There are depths and riches of partnership and mutuality that CWM is still to discover but CWM continues to struggle and witness towards it in our life together. We affirm that true partnership is transformative for everyone involved and that the relationship is reciprocal and mutually enriching.

The rich variety of gifts that are given to the church (1 Corinthians 12) are used for the common good and benefit of the whole body. No one gift is greater than another and everyone is gifted by God with gifts that are needed by the whole. This partnership and variety of gifts inspires the community to declare “Jesus is Lord,” a statement of resistance to empire.



The Word rooted in land, culture and life

Etan Pavavalung (Taiwan)

Woodprint / Print Pigment / Acrylic Paint

60cm x 50cm x 5cm

The artwork featured on the cover expresses the salvation of God and the hope of the cross which takes root and germinates in the fertile soil of our lives and our cultural heritage.



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