

Earth Care - Our Calling



Artwork: Sr. Eleanor Llanes, ICM, the Philippines

2023 FLC IN-GATHERING LITURGY

Earth Care...Our Calling

The Fellowship of the Least Coin's In-Gathering Service is an offering from the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) as a suggested guide. There is space for local groups and churches to choose hymns and different ways of presentation (e.g. dramatization, small group discussions, homily or led reflection etc.). This service also suggests different leaders and voices to encourage greater participation.

The In-Gathering Liturgy is published and distributed annually every July, in time for the **traditional months of holding the FLC In-Gathering Worship in September/October.**

However,

different regional ecumenical partners,
denominational partners,
church Guilds and fellowship groups, and
local congregations

may wish to use the In-Gathering Service throughout the year to suit the needs of different groups.

Visuals may be used as posters or on screens during reflective spaces.

This year's theme is inspired by the Circle of Prayer (CoP) vol. 27 theme, **Heal Our Selves, Heal Our World**. Healing our Selves and healing God's Earth are our calling as creatures in God's image. There is no doubt, our Earth is dying; nay, it is being killed. We are called to do justice and to minister in kindness Mother Earth that sustains and keeps us alive.

The ICFLC would greatly appreciate your feedback on the In-Gathering Liturgy as well as personal anecdotes, stories, and

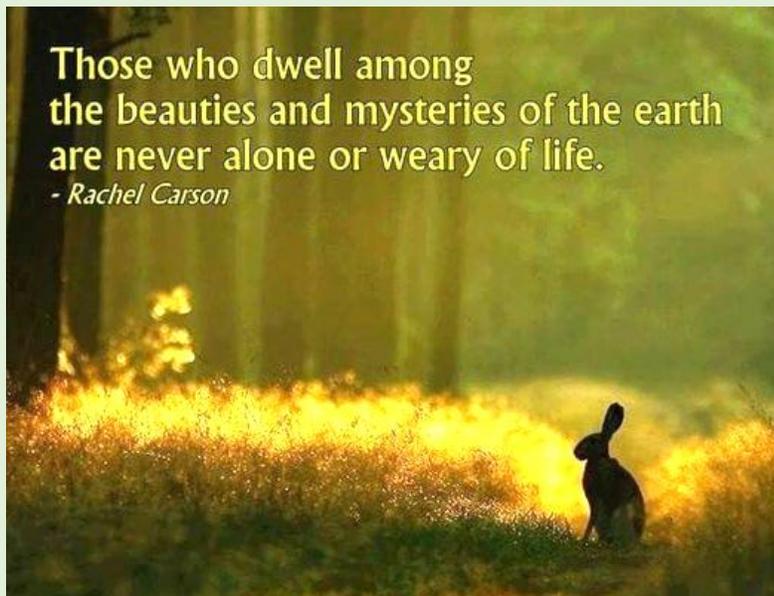
photos of your worship service. As well, if you feel you are not yet free from the covid19 pandemic, we encourage you and your group to follow the health and safety guidelines in your communities to ensure the safety of all who gather. **Please send any feedback to: icflcph@gmail.com** May you have a meaningful worship!

PREPARATION

Ask participants bring with them one natural element e.g. small stone, potted plant/flowers, soil, water etc. or a picture.

Prepare:

- paper cut-outs in the shape and color of leaves to write on prayer requests during the Intercessory Prayers.
- Sticky tape and a makeshift tree to attach these leaves of prayers later or alternatively a wall mounted tree shape.



PRELUDE

Moments of Silence

Leader: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of

the ground. (Ps. 104.30)

Welcome Sound (or any ethnic instrumental music sound)

While music is played, worship participants are invited place their natural elements at the center or around the worship space – as a way of making the worship place alive with God’s creation.

Opening Prayer:

Leader: 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.

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

People: All your creation sings for joy.

Leader: 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, with background on why this theme has been chosen.

HOW ARE YOU, OUR MOTHER EARTH?

(Leader may ask volunteers from the people to answer this question creatively, or by voicing out the feelings of the Earth at this time of so much destruction, climate change, and other ecological troubles that Earth is having.)

COMMUNITY SHARING (or sharing from someone who has direct experience the impact of climate change, or destruction of the environment)

Suggested question:

From where you come from, what are the indications that our Earth is in danger or being destroyed? And how are you and your community affected by these?

Silent meditation on what has been shared

Confession

Leader: We ruin life by starting the fire in our woods. We replace the fresh air with smoke We poison our clean water and bath our children with waste. We killed our grandchildren by making them inherit poison and pest.

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

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

People: And even the church as your body, we often keep 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.

Kyrie, kyrie, Eleison. (Karo Batak Protestant Church (GBKP), Worship, Medan, Indonesia, 2012)

GOSPEL READING

HOMILY (on the theme),
OR SHARED REFLECTION on:

YOUR STORY IN CARING FOR THE EARTH.

When doing a **Shared Reflection**, the leader may prepare a board or paper and pens to write the answers to the guide questions. **Suggested guide:**

- 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? What do you think of these suggestions, below?

Moments of Silence



(Pachamama Alliance)

Moments of Silence

HYMN

OUR FLC STORY

Leader 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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. 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.

Leader 5: 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 (People may be asked for their prayer requests or calls particularly concerning the destruction of creation, and our responsibility to care for all of God's creation. The requests/calls can be written down in the pre-prepared leaves cut-outs, and pasted/attached onto the makeshift tree, or on the wall)

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Leader: 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,

Leader: 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)*

Offertory hymn or music for the collection OF 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

Leader: 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, to gain life.

ALL: Thanks and amen. *(2nd European Ecumenical Assembly, Graz, Europe, 1997)*

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

We've been given a voice to speak when it matters. We've been given the choice to act when it will make a difference. Every one of us is needed. May we not let ourselves be bullied or silenced.

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