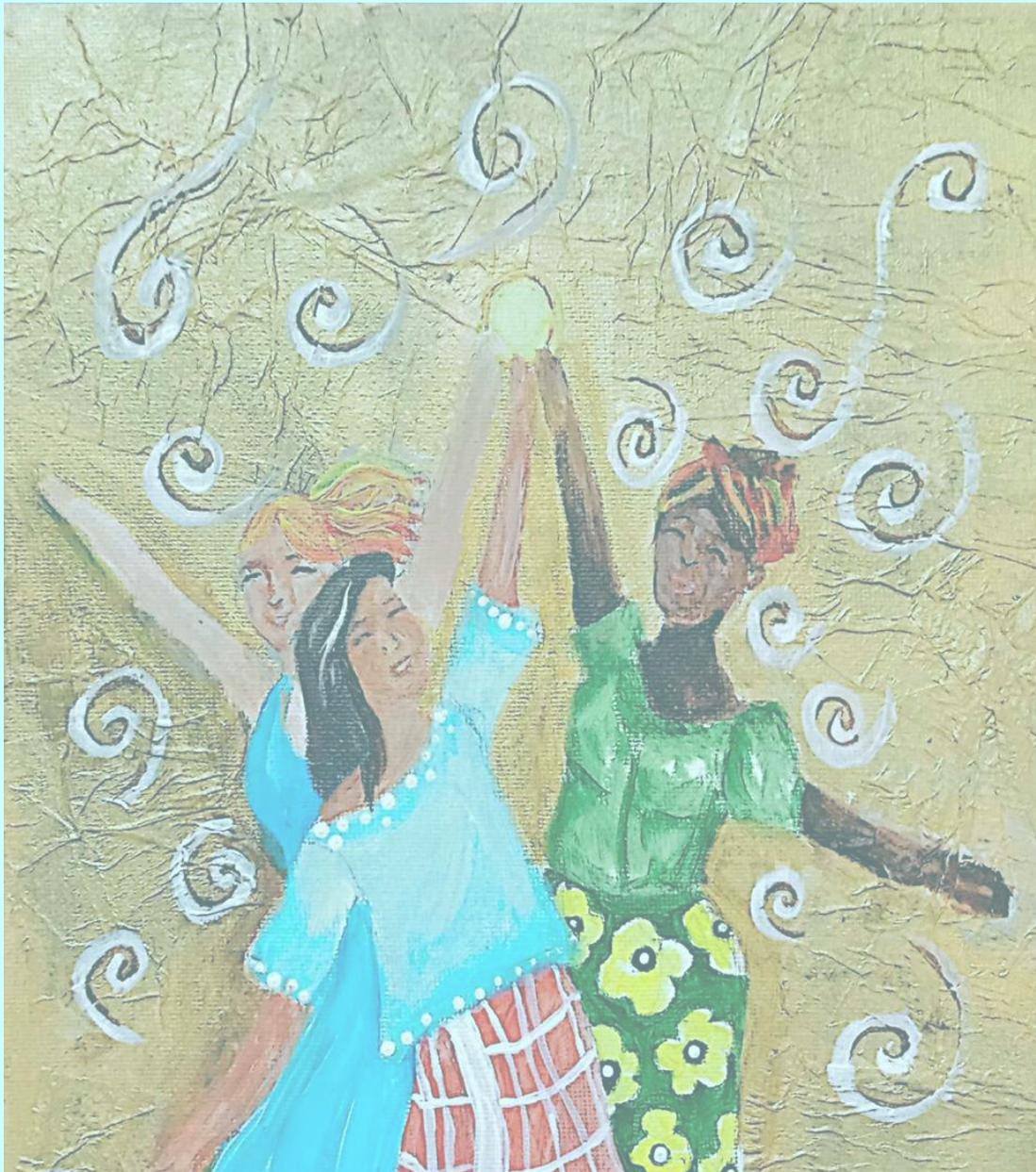


## SHARING CHRIST'S HEALING PEACE IN THE WORLD 2025 FLC IN-GATHERING LITURGY



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)

The In-Gathering Liturgy is published and distributed every July of the year, in time for the traditional holding of the FLC In-Gathering Worship in the Autumn. However the service can be used whole or parts adapted for local Church of Guild Prayer Services. Hymns are suggested but again other hymns can be sung.

## **MOMENTS OF SILENCE**

### **INVITATION**

Liturgist:

Come to the living God,  
Come to stand alongside the poor.  
Come to struggle with those who seek freedom.  
Come to resist all that offends God's justice.  
Come to the living, disturbing God.

*(Jan Berry in Bread of Tomorrow)*

**Opening Hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

## **MOMENTS OF SILENCE**

*(Lighting of the candle signifying the listening presence of Christ)*

A voice is heard in Ramah, Hiroshima, Salvador, women refusing comfort for their children are no more; no garland of lovely flowers can dispel the ancient grief or silence the anguished voices that abhor the war machine.

If our leaders could look us in the eyes of the children we carry,  
They would forget the bombs they drop and their budgets for war.

If the nations so distant and separate could break bread together, Coming to know that they are family with warm hearts to share.

If the beauty of God's creation could draw us to wonder, Humbly we'd drop our fears and pride and give birth to new life.

## **MOMENTS OF SILENCE**

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

Liturgist:

*We could not turn our lamentation into dancing;  
We could not turn our tears into laughter;  
We could not welcome the morning, as the night passes by;  
We could not let loose our voices into shouts of joy.*

People:

**God, hear our cries, in times of pain; listen to our sighs.  
God, who was with the people when they hunger for food and justice.  
You have been the Presence who led them,  
The Cloud who guarded them,  
And the Fire who lit their way.  
Will you do the same with the many poor who long for your assurance?**

Liturgist:

*We come to you as a community.  
We are bonded by our HOPE and strengthened by our LOVE  
We partake in the struggle for a future that is peaceful and abundant,  
Safe from poverty and oppression,  
Safe from abuse and exploitation.*

People:

**We remember the many hungry and thirsty.**

**The homeless, and the sick without resources for their healing.**

**We come to you,**

**God who always sided with the slaves and struggling people.**

**May their cries be heeded and Justice be served.**

**May your favor be upon her who is poor.**

**This is our hope. This is our prayer. Amen.**

*(Norma Dollaga)*

## **MOMENTS OF SILENCE**

**Hymn: Sister, brother let me serve you**

## **COMMUNITY PRAYER**

God of the repressed and the refugee, we ask your abundant mercy on those who have lost the security of hearth and home.

Make us ever mindful of those who live with the fear of uprootedness.

Be with those who suffer from being downtrodden by others.

Grant them the security of the knowledge that you will never leave us nor forsake us, even when the world does.

We ask your forgiveness to those who know not what they do.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Mission Yearbook | Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

## Story of Fellowship of the Least Coin

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.

**HOW DO YOU BUILD, OR FIND, OR SHARE PEACE IN YOUR LIFE?** *(Community or small group sharing around these suggested questions below)*

a) In what way do you live out the FLC vision of justice, peace and reconciliation in your own context today?

b) How does your church/group contribute to building peace in your community/country?

c) What do you commit to do starting now, to share Christ's peace in our world?

*(You may write your commitment on small piece of paper and save for offering later)*

## **OFFERING AND BLESSING OF FLC OFFERINGS**

Liturgist: Our 'least coin' Offerings are concrete tokens of our commitment to pray and work for justice, peace and reconciliation with God through the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC). This time you are invited to bring and offer in the altar/sanctuary your 'least coin' Offerings, together with your commitments written in paper.

**FLC PRAYER (unison)**

O loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. 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 all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept the least coin 'token of love'. Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honor your creation with love, as shown through the life and resurrection of your son, Jesus the Christ. 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.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Liturgist may ask the people for their prayer requests. Someone may be requested to offer an intercessory prayer afterwards.)*

**Response:**

**O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear Our prayer  
When we call answer me  
O Lord hear our prayer, O Lord hear Our prayer  
Come and listen to me.**

**COMMUNITY PRAYER**

*(Prayer inspired by Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Peace 2016)*

All too often, Lord, we turn away from the world's many problems,

which seem too big, too complex, or too far away.

Forgive us our indifference.

It is easier, Lord, to see only what is around us:

our lives, our homes, our challenges.

Forgive us our isolation.

Help us to see with your eyes:

eyes which notice one another

and help us understand.

Help us to dream your dream:

of communities that reach out and dialogue

and where diverse people creatively cooperate.

Help us to be people of solidarity and action,

so moved by prayer, encounter, and understanding

that peace can become a reality.

Amen.

*(Prayer from USCCB handout for World Day of Peace, 2016)*

**CLOSING HYMN****BENEDICTION** (Franciscan Blessing)

**May God** bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

**May God** bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

**May God** bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of

all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

**May God** bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God Almighty, our Creator,  
Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and  
Saviour,  
and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide,  
be with you and remain with you, this day and  
forevermore.

**AMEN.**

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**MARIA PUEBLO** (a poem to be read creatively)

I am Maria Pueblo,  
The collective begotten sons and daughters  
Of the world.  
I am longing to experience heaven here on earth.  
I have traveled far.  
Been through dreams and vision,  
Been the thread,  
That weaves the dance, songs and poetries of the people.  
I was the music the children sing and the forest hums,  
I was the Dance that rhymes with the songs  
Longing for Freedom,  
I am hungry and humiliated by impoverishment.  
I am thirsty, and longing for springs bursting in the slums.  
I was laid off from job, and I just can't explain why to my  
children.  
I am landless, and the golden grains have never been mine.  
I am jailed for picking mangoes from the trees of the  
landlord.  
I am an immigrant, and by law illegal.  
I imprisoned, tortured, and almost killed.  
I must endure these because I cried out for justice.  
I have been in funerals burying the dead who are not my  
blood-kind.  
I heard mothers' cries  
The breath of life is blowing..blowing and..and blowing  
Into my memory  
Into my vision  
Into my battle  
Into my decisive will and act.  
To be reborn and to unshackle the chains that dehumanize  
me.  
This wind...  
Giving new life to me, to many, to all of creation...  
this wind....**GOD'S SPIRIT OF LIFE AND LOVE.**

