



8 November 2024

**Message of CCA General Secretary
to the 18th General Assembly of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI)**

**“Living as a Light Bearing Goodness, Justice and Truth:
Towards a Pancasila Plural Society and at Peace with All of God’s Creation”**

Esteemed church and ecumenical leaders, distinguished delegates, and participants of the General Assembly of the PGI,

On the occasion of the 18th General Assembly of the PGI, I extend greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia and its large member constituencies, which span from Iran in West Asia to Japan in East Asia, and from Nepal in the north to New Zealand in the south.

I am very pleased and grateful to have been invited to attend the 18th General Assembly of PGI. However, as I am currently travelling and occupied with other CCA programmes, I regret that I am unable to join you all at the General Assembly in Toraja.

At the outset, I congratulate the leaders and representatives of the 97 member churches of the PGI for their efforts in organising this General Assembly with the wide participation of churches across Indonesia.

The theme chosen for the 18th General Assembly, “Living as a Light Bearing Goodness, Justice and Truth: Towards a Pancasila Plural Society and at Peace with All of God’s Creation” highlights the priority of the churches and the ecumenical movement in Indonesia in today’s context. As Christians, we are called to live as a light bearing goodness, justice, and truth in God’s love. The journey of living as a light amidst darkness is exemplary, reflecting the radical transformation that occurs when we encounter Christ. Darkness symbolises a life marked by ignorance, sin, and separation from God, while light represents wisdom, purity, and unity with God. This shift from darkness to light is not merely a change in behaviour but a profound transition toward embracing God’s will and purpose, rooted in a desire to reflect God’s goodness to the world.

Living in goodness involves seeking to embody Christ’s love in our actions, making choices that promote peace, healing, and wholeness within our relationships and communities. God’s love encompasses justice, integrity, and a commitment to act in ways that align with God’s will. In the biblical sense, truth goes beyond factual accuracy; it encompasses faithfulness and obedience to Christ and the Gospel, forming the foundation and guiding principle of our daily lives. Believing that all creation is God’s gift, we recognise our responsibility to be the light of the world, sustaining peace with justice. Peace arises from a deep inner balance, which influences our daily lives, both personally and communally. We are reminded that God created all things to exist in harmony, representing the peaceful kingdom of God. When God’s will does not prevail, peace is disrupted and derailed.

In Indonesia’s pluralistic context, reflecting on the principles of Pancasila through the overarching theme of living as a light bearing goodness, justice, and truth makes the value of unity even more significant. From a Christian perspective, unity is essential for the effective and impactful witness of the Christian faith, transcending cultural, ethnic, confessional, and denominational barriers, and bringing the transformative power of the Gospel to diverse contexts.

The Bible reminds us that humanity is created in the likeness of God and is graced with dignity and rights. God has entrusted humankind with the responsibility to care for all God’s creation. However, our greed and pursuit of unlimited wealth have led to exploitation and destruction of the Earth, and we now face the consequences. We still don’t realise or recognise that the exploitation of nature and misuse of common resources benefit only a few at the expense of many. We forget the reminder that “all creation groans to be set free, not least from the abusive actions of humans” (Romans 8:22). In this context, we must be constantly reminded of God’s profound plan for all creation.

May the deliberations of the 18th General Assembly of the PGI serve as a milestone in the ecumenical journey of Indonesian churches. Amid an increasing trend of social division, communal hatred, and political polarisation—serious threats to the peaceful coexistence of people and communities—Indonesian churches have made remarkable efforts to nurture communal harmony and peace with all of God’s creation.

CCA greatly values the presence of the PGI and its member churches, who have demonstrated their sincere commitment to our ecumenical journey since the CCA was founded in 1957. CCA deeply appreciates the solidarity and support extended by the Indonesian churches to the Asian ecumenical movement through the CCA over the past several decades, with their active participation and significant contributions in various ways. May this moment of celebration for the Indonesian churches at the 18th General Assembly continue to strengthen the bond of the PGI and its member churches in their prophetic mission and witness, and further contribute to fostering a deeper sense of unity and togetherness among Indonesian churches.

Wishing you God’s richest blessings and successful deliberations.

Yours along the journey,

Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA