

Asia Sunday

2017



Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light in Asia



Christian Conference of Asia

Introduction

The Asia Sunday in 2017 will be observed on Sunday 15 October.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) observes the Asia Sunday every year on the Sunday before the Pentecost. It was proposed that the Asia Sunday in 2017 be observed on 15 October 2017 as part of the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of CCA which will be held in conjunction with the Asia Mission Conference (AMC) scheduled to take place from 11 to 17 October 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar.

The theme of the Asia Sunday -2017 will be the same theme as that of the AMC, **'Journeying Together: 'Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light, in Asia'**.

The significance of this theme is that, it is linked to the role and relevance of the CCA in the Asian context, especially when it celebrates its journey of 60 years. As this theme resonates with the contemporary realities in Asia it will be helpful for Asian churches to reflect on the mission and prophetic witness of Asian churches in the midst of many adverse realities, and to emphasise the hope and trust in God's promises for all God's people in Asia.

More than 600 representatives of churches, ecumenical councils and related organisations from Asia and around the world will gather in Yangon, Myanmar for the AMC and more than 6000 representatives of Myanmar churches will come together in the afternoon of Sunday 15 October 2017 in Yangon to attend a thanksgiving service and commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of CCA. It is a time for celebrating the journeying together of the Asian churches and all members of the wider ecumenical family and fellowships. On this special occasion of the 60th anniversary of CCA, we request all member churches, councils and related ecumenical organisations to observe the Asia Sunday in a befitting manner on Sunday 15 October or another Sunday before the end of 2017, according to the convenience of each member church or council.

We request all member churches and councils of the CCA to offer special prayers and give thanks to the God almighty as CCA enters into a new era of journeying together as an instrument of God, working on behalf of Asian churches.



Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA

Journeying Together: Prophetic Witness to the Truth and Light, in Asia

The prophetic witness to the Truth is on the basis of the vision of the kingdom of God, Jesus proclaimed. The truth in this context implies that the ultimate freedom and liberation is for all God's people and the entire cosmos. The Gospel, Jesus proclaimed, was the Reign of God. In his mission for the realisation of the Reign of God, Jesus identified with the sinners, the poor, the lowly and the marginalised; he stood undoubtedly for the Truth and confronted courageously the dominant powers and structures.

Jesus exemplified the theology of prophetic witness through his actions. The prophetic witness of Jesus continues to challenge and motivate the church in Asia to be faithful to the Truth. The Church in Asia, as an instrument of prophetic witness to the Truth is called to be engaged in God's mission in obedience to the will of God, to transform the world. The prophetic witness of Jesus continues to challenge and motivate, the Church in Asia to re-envision its mission contextually and actualise it in history, with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Asia Sunday 2017

“Journeying Together: Prophetic Witnessing to the Truth and Light, in Asia”

Gathering

- ❖ *Choir members enter, bringing candles and lanterns, singing “We believe”.*

♫ We Believe

(♩ = 100) **Leader**



We be - lieve: Ma - ra - na - tha, Light of the Day.

Congregation



We be - lieve: Ma - ra - na - tha, Light of the Day.

We be - lieve: Ma - ra - na - tha, Light of the Day.

We be - lieve, we be - lieve.

L: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good. (Genesis 1:1-3)

(Lighting the Lamp)

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)

♫ We Believe

L: You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Mathew 5: 15-16)

♩ = 60



A - min, ha - le - lu - ya! A - min, ha - le - lu - ya! Ter - pu - ji na - ma - Mu. A - min, ha - le - lu - ya!
A - men, hal - le - lu - jah! A - men, hal - le - lu - jah! We praise your name, O God, A - men, hal - le - lu - jah!

Music: Sutarno, based on a Javanese melody.

Call to Worship

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has worked wonders,
Whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.
The Lord has made known salvation;
Has shown justice to the nations;
Has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.
(Psalm 98:1-6)

Hymn of Praise ... "O Many People of All Lands" (sts. 1-4 only)

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. O man - y peo - ple of all lands now come to God with praise;
 2. O var - ied tongues of hu - man - kind, now con - gre - gate to sing
 3. O Fount of Love and Light and Life, we thank you for this day;

to - geth - er shall we praise our God, LORD of all cul - ture's ways.
 with hymn of joy and won - der - ment, thank - of - fring we would bring.
 we are as - sured of your sup - ply of grace all through the way.

4. O Source of hope, desire and dream, just as we are, we come,
 inspired by you and your great beam
 to know more of your home.

5. From here we all go out to share
 in offices and homes,
 your never-failing love and care
 in substance, deeds, and forms.

Words: Natty G. Barranda, Philippines
 Music: MATERNIDAD; Los F. Bello, Philippines

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Confession

I know all about Ephraim;
 Israel is not hidden from me. Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution; Israel is corrupt.
 Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD. Israel's arrogance testifies against them; the Israelites, even Ephraim, stumble in their sin; Judah also stumbles with them. When they go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord, they will not find him; he has withdrawn himself from them. (*Hosea 5:3-6*)

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
 We confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you
 and with one another.**

Ku-ri-e-la-i-son

$\text{♩} = 72$

Ku-ri-e - la - i - son, Ku-ri-e - la - i - son, Ku-ri-e - la - i - son.

You people hate anyone who challenges injustice and speaks the whole truth in court. You have oppressed the poor and robbed them of their grain. And so you will not live in the fine stone houses you build or drink wine from the beautiful vineyards you plant. I know how terrible your sins are and how many crimes you have committed. You persecute good men, take bribes, and prevent the poor from getting justice in the courts. (*Amos 5:10-12*)

We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed and convenience.

We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people.

We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves.

Our love seems pure only for brief moments;

Soon our affections are drawn away.

How easily our devotion dies.

Forgive us;

Ku-ri-e-la-i-son

$\text{♩} = 72$

Ku-ri-e - la - i - son, Ku-ri-e - la - i - son, Ku-ri-e - la - i - son.

Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and

you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me. (Mathew 25:41-43)

God, empower us

To open our eyes to see the injustice inflicted upon the innocent, the poor and the weak.

To speak for the voiceless,

To hear the cry of the suffering,

To stand for the oppressed.

O Lord, Please Have Mercy on Us

Leader

Chu - yŏ u - li - rūl pŭl ssang hi yo gi so - sŏ

Congr.

Chu - yŏ u - li - rūl pŭl ssang hi yo gi so - sŏ

Leader

Kris - to - yŏ u - li - rūl pŭl ssang hi yo gi so - sŏ

Congr.

Kris - to - yŏ u - li - rūl pŭl ssang hi yo gi so - sŏ

Leader

Chu - yŏ u - li - rūl pŭl ssang hi yo gi so - sŏ

Congr.

Chu - yŏ u - li - rūl pŭl ssang hi yo gi so - sŏ

Pardon

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet, this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. (Lamentation 3:19-22)

Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unending love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. (Hosea 10:12)

AMEN.

Praising ... "Salidummay"

Drum (♩ = 104) 6/8 3 3 3 3 simile

1. My soul doth mag-ni - fy the LORD, my spir - it doth re - joice in God, my Sav - ior, for his word de - clared to me, the choice
2. Be - hold, from hence forth to my name shall gen - er - a - tions give their bless - ings. "Great is God who came as man with all to live."
3. The proud he scat - ters in their pride, the rich must emp - ty go, the strong his pow - er sets a - side, the might - y are brought low.

Of his hand maid - en to be - come the moth - er of the Christ,
The mer - cy of our God is great and pure his deed of love,
The hum - ble are ex - alt - ed high, the hum - gry filled with food.

that for the Son of God my home and hum - ble heart suf - ficed.
he looked up - on our low es - tate and lift - ed us a - bove.
The God of Is - rael has drawn nigh, the LORD, our God is good.

Readings from the Scripture

Send your Word, O Lord (Choir)

(♩ = 72)

1. Mi - ko - to - ba o ku - da - sai, fu - ri so - so -
 2. Mi - ko - to - ba o ku - da - sai, fu - ku - ka - ze -
 1. Send your Word, O LORD, like the rain, fall - ing down up -
 2. Send your Word, O LORD, like the wind, blow - ing down up -
 3. Send your Word, O LORD, like the dew, com - ing gent - ly

gu a - me no yo - o ni, me - gu - mi no Shū
 no yo - o ni tsu - yo ku, su - ku - i no Shū
 on all the earth. Send your Word. We seek your end - less
 on all the earth. Send your Word. We seek your won - drous
 down all the hills. Send your Word. We seek your end - less

gu a - me no yo - o ni, me - gu - mi no Shū
 no yo - o ni tsu - yo ku, su - ku - i no Shū
 on all the earth. Send your Word. We seek your end - less
 on all the earth. Send your Word. We seek your won - drous
 down all the hills. Send your Word. We seek your end - less

(Readings from the Scripture to be read by different members of the congregation)

“I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth.” (John 18:37)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me, will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Sermon...

“Journeying Together: Prophetic Witnessing to the Truth and Light”

FOLLOW CHRIST, WALK IN THE LIGHT

♩ = c.96 Lively
 6 = G 0

1. When the Lord comes in his glo - ry, He will find us with the poor.
 2. Je - sus came to serve God's king - dom, We who fol - low are the same.
 3. Righ - teous - ness, faith, love and mer - cy, These are signs of lives re - newed.
 4. Self - de - ni - al is the mo - del We've been called to em - u - late,

3. 3 5 3 5 | 6 5 6 i 2 - | i 2 i 6 5 | 6 i 2 6 i - |
 Do - ing jus - tice, lov - ing kind - ness, Walk - ing hum - bly there with God.
 Liv - ing, giv - ing, life sus - tain - ing. Here in A - sia in God's name.
 By these things the Lord has pro - mised. Know God's King - dom's come to you.
 We will learn to love our e - ne - mies, Take the cross and fol - low Christ.

3. 3 7 - | 2 2 2 6 - | i. i 5 5 | 6 i 3 i 2 - |
 Fol - low Christ. Walk in the light. For the truth he test - i - fied.

3 3. 7 7. | 2 2. 6 - | i. i 5 #4 5 | 6 i 2 6 i - ||
 As we lis - ten to his voice, We're to - geth - er on the way.

Words: David Alexander, Taiwan/USA, 2017

Music: I-to Loh, Taiwan, 2017

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Confessing Our Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **AMEN**

Prayer of Intercession

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will bear their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

(Micah 3: 2-5)

**God the Creator,
God the Liberator,
God the Father,
God the Mother,
Renew a right spirit within us.
Pour out all your Spirit on all your people.
So, your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see vision. (Joel 2: 28-29)**

**Make us alive with the courage and faith of your prophetic truth.
May those who mourn be comforted,
the injured be healed,
the persecuted have strong faith,
the desperate find peace and hope.**

When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.
(Leviticus 19:33-34)

Lord, you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to take refuge from oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Help us to give witness to your love to all people and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Romans 8:22)

Giver of life, sustain your creation.
Confront us with our greedy consuming of your gifts.

**We commit ourselves to join with you O God, to nurture the plants and the animals, the elements, the sacred womb of sea and soil.
We offer to you, our ability to create and our potential to release peoples' loving energies for the benefit of all creation.
We are yours, and you in us are hope for the renewing of nature through the healing of the nations.**

Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. (Hosea 6:1)

**Spirit of unity, reconcile your people, heal your people.
We pray for unity of your people despite our differences,
tearing apart the walls and barriers to bring life in fullness for all.**

❖ *Each church may add a prayer for the people in one's context.*

Prayer for the CCA

God,

We, Asians are different in races, cultures and traditions.

We are living in different parts of Asia and in the world.

However, together we offer our praise and thanksgiving to you for your guidance and accompaniment with all your people in Asia and the Christian Conference of Asia throughout the past sixty years of our ecumenical journey.

May your divine blessings continue to guide and lead the Christian Conference of Asia,

May the Holy Spirit be with us and also with the CCA,

So we may witness the Gospel, serve your people and heal the whole creation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray,

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer in mother tongue

Offertory

Hymn... In Great Thanksgiving



1. In great thanks-giv - ing, O Love Di - vine, who from our sor - row
2. In cel - e - bra - tion of power be - stowed, we who were sin - ners
3. In ded - i - ca - tion we give our lives, to heed your bid - ding

re - deemed us all, cleansed of re - gret - ting, re - lieved of fear,
are fol - lowers bold, for giv - ing ene - mies we sing your praise,
to seek the lost, to all the hun - gry bring food for feasts,

we come re - joic - ing for new life here.
with ju - bi - la - tion love's ban - ner raise.
to fear - bound peo - ple strength for life's tests.

Peace Greeting

Blessings

May God illuminate our hearts with lights, Our eyes with light and our ears with light;

And let there be light on our right and light on our left. Let there be light above us and light below us;

Let there be light in front of us and light behind us.

May God make us a light. Amen.



