Service of the Word

In Observance of
“World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel”

Joint action for a just peace
convened by the World Council of Churches

Monday 31 May 2010

Ecumenical Centre
World Council of Churches
Geneva, Switzerland
Psalm 34:1-8 (please rise)
1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
30 magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.
5 Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.
7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
80 taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Sing: Cantai ao Senhor verses 1-3 in Portuguese verses

Prayer of Confession
L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
P: Amen.
L: Aware of our own sinfulness, yet believing in the power of the Triune God to forgive and restore, let us now confess our sins, in the presence of God and of one another.
P: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Redeem us for those times when we have not chosen the path of peace, not given witness to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Words of Assurance
religions and fill the hearts of all who serve you here, of both peoples -
 Israeli and Palestinian - and of all religions.

In the land you made holy, free us all from the sin of indifference,
contempt and violence which only brings hatred and killing. Free the
souls and hearts of Israelis and Palestinians. Give liberation, freedom
and dignity, to the people of Gaza who live under trials, threats and
blockades. Guide the leaders in this land, purify their minds and
hearts, to become true servers of their peoples. Speak your word of
love for all to hear, guide us to justice in all lands, grant us power to
proclaim your reign, bridge the gaps that divide and unsettle us and let
your Kingdom come.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, barrier breaker and
sharer of our humanity, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who
prays in and with us all. Amen.

Sung response: Yaraba sсалами Thuma Mina 160

The Peace
   L: The peace of the Lord be with you.
   P: And also with you!

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit let us say each in our own
language the prayer taught to us by Jesus

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

   L: Go in peace to love and serve the Triune God: Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit.
   P: Thanks be to God!

Sing: Reamo leboga Thuma Mina 108

L: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.
   P: Amen.

Sing: Cantai ao Senhor verses 4-5 in English

First Lesson: Proverbs 8:22-31
22The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
   the first of his acts of long ago.
23Ages ago I was set up,
   at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
24When there were no depths I was brought forth,
   when there were no springs abounding with water.
25Before the mountains had been shaped,
   before the hills, I was brought forth—
26when he had not yet made earth and fields,*
   or the world’s first bits of soil.
27When he established the heavens, I was there,
   when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
28when he made firm the skies above,
   when he established the fountains of the deep,
29when he assigned to the sea its limit,
   so that the waters might not transgress his command,
30 then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
31rejoicing in his inhabited world
   and delighting in the human race.

Please rise to sing Wa wa wa emimimo Thuma Mina 12
remain standing for the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat
down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught
them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

L: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
P: Thanks be to God!

Sing: Wa wa wa emimimo Thuma Mina 12

Homily - Rev. John Calhoun

Sing: Jesus Christ is waiting, Thuma Mina 253
verse 1 and 2 English, verse 3 and 4 French, verse 5 English

Prayers of the People
Sung response: Yaraba ssalami Thuma Mina 160

Lord, you call us to love our neighbour without distinguishing between family or tribe or homeland; you show no partiality in bestowing your blessing.
Open our minds and hearts, that we may learn to live together and to cooperate in the spirit of love and freedom.
We pray today especially for all the people of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

Sung response: Yaraba ssalami Thuma Mina 160

Gracious God our Heavenly Father, Creator and sustainer of each human life, we give you thanks and praise for your gift to us of your only Son, Jesus Christ -- His birth in Bethlehem, His ministry throughout the Holy Land, His death on the Cross and His Resurrection and Ascension. He came to redeem this land and the world. He came as the Prince of Peace.
We give thanks to you for every church and parish around the world that is praying with us this week for peace. Our Holy City and our land are much in need of peace.

Sung response: Yaraba ssalami Thuma Mina 160

In your immeasurable mystery and love for all, let the power of your Redemption and your Peace transcend all barriers of cultures and