**United Society Partners in the Gospel – Conference 2022**

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE: 26 JULY 2022

Theme: Living Stones, Living Hope

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*As we listen to the prelude, let us prepare ourselves for the worship service.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Stand as able*)

Leader : As sharp stones to be shaped,

**Response: We come to this holy place, to become the household of God**

Leader: As shaped stones to be sharpened,

**Response: We come to this holy place, to become the household of God**

Leader: As living stones, with a living hope,

**Response: We come to this holy place, to become the household of God.**

**OPENING HYMN: God of the Poor (Beauty for Brokenness)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Beauty for brokenness Hope for despair Lord, in your suffering This is our prayer Bread for the children Justice, joy, peace Sunrise to sunset Your kingdom increase! | 2. Shelter for fragile lives Cures for their ills Work for the craftsman Trade for their skills Land for the dispossessed Rights for the weak Voices to plead the cause Of those who can't speak |
| *Refrain: God of the poor,  Friend of the weak Give us compassion we pray Melt our cold hearts Let tears fall like rain Come, change our love From a spark to a flame* | |
| 3. Refuge from cruel wars Havens from fear Cities for sanctuary Freedoms to share Peace to the killing-fields Scorched earth to green Christ for the bitterness His cross for the pain | 4. Rest for the ravaged earth Oceans and streams Plundered and poisoned Our future, our dreams Lord, end our madness Carelessness, greed Make us content with The things that we need |
| *Refrain* | |
| 5. Lighten our darkness Breathe on this flame Until your justice Burns brightly again Until the nations Learn of your ways Seek your salvation And bring you their praise | |
| *Refrain* | |

(Songwriter: Graham Kendrick, lyrics © Make Way Music)

**CONFESSION** (*All seated*)

Leader: In such a time as this, have we failed to be brave?

**Response: Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if you keep quiet, the stones will cry out’.**

Leader: In such a time as this, have we failed to love?

**Response: Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if you keep quiet, the stones will cry out’.**

Leader: In such a time as this, have we failed to care?

**Response: Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if you keep quiet, the stones will cry out’.**

Leader: In such a time as this, have we failed to share?

**Response: Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if you keep quiet, the stones will cry out’.**

Leader: In such a time as this, have we failed to trust?

**Response: Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if you keep quiet, the stones will cry out’.**

Leader: In such a time as this, have we failed to be just?

**Response: Jesus says, ‘I tell you, if you keep quiet, the stones will cry out’.**

*Silence*

**All** (*Sing*)**: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. (2)**

**Melt us, mould us, fill us, and use us.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us,**

Leader:Your faith has healed you. Go in peace,

**Response: Amen! Thanks be to God.**

Leader:Our communion with God is restored in Christ through the Spirit. May the triune God empower us to repair and restore ourrelationship with all God’s children and God’s creation, so that we can be rebuilt together into the household of God. **Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READING: I Peter 2:4-10**

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture:

‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’

7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner’,

8 and

‘A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

10 Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy

**HOMILY:** Rev. Dr Carlton Turner, (Trustee, USPG)

**AFFIRMATION OF THE LIVING HOPE:** (*All standing*)

Leader: It is not often in the great wind,

**Response: That we hear the still small voice of hope.**

Leader: It is not often in the earthquake,

**Response: That we hear the still small voice of hope.**

Leader: It is not often in the raging fire,

**Response: That we hear the still small voice of hope.**

Leader: But, it is in the sheer silence of openness to the other,

**Response: That we hear the still small voice of hope.**

Leader: It is in the gentle reviving of dwindling spirits,

**Response: That we hear the still small voice of hope.**

Leader: It is in the solace assured through solidarity,

**Response: That we hear the still small voice of hope.**

**In Unison: We believe in God, in each other, and in our future together.**

**We believe in the hope of resurrection, the life here, and the life eternal. Amen.**

**Intercession** (*All seated*)

Leader**:** Let us remember all those who are suffering due to war, discrimination, ecological destruction, economic injustice, political instability, sickness, poverty and hunger.

Leader**:** When people, like Elijah, sit under the solitary broom tree and pray, ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life’.

**Response: God says ‘Get up and eat’.**

Leader**:** When we suffer alone,

**Response: God says ‘Come to me, I will give you rest’.**

Leader**:** Like the disciples at the shore of Galilee, Christ invites us, sitting beside the charcoal fire, with fish on it, and bread in his hands,

**Response: God says ‘Come and have breakfast’.**

Leader: Confused, like the disciples we wait.

**Response: God says, ‘Come to me, I will give you rest’.**

Leader: Like Emmaus, Christ comes to our tables, sits with us, blesses the bread and breaks it saying,

**Response: ‘Take. Eat’.**

Leader: Shaken, like the disciples we grieve.

**Response: God says, ‘Come to me, I will give you rest’.**

**THE SHARING OF THE PEACE:**

Celebrant**:** As we prepare to be part in God’s table of forgives and love, hear now the words of Christ, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Let us offer one another a sign of God’s peace.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Celebrant**:** Lord, in a world, tossed and troubled due to war, death, hate and fight, where the bodies of many are broken, teach us, what it means to live Your words, (***lift the bread***) ‘This is my body, broken for You. Do this in remembrance of me’.

*Silence*

Celebrant**:** Lord, in a world, torn, divided and shattered, due to greed, anger and envy, where the blood of many are shed, teach us, what it means to live Your words, (***lift the cup***) ‘This is my blood shed for You. Do this in remembrance of me’.

**Response:**

**Through this body broken and blood poured out, we celebrate the self-offering and new covenant of our Saviour Christ. We restore to memory the broken and unremembered among us and pray that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. And so, we sing**

**Song of the Elements:** (Sung to the tune of The Church’s One Foundation)

(Last two stanzas of Richard Godfrey Parson’s We Hail Thy Glorious Presence)

**O Living bread from heaven,**

**Jesu, our Saviour good,**

**Who thine own self has given**

**To be our souls’ true food;**

**For thus thy body broken**

**Hung on the cross of shame:**

**This bread its hallowed token**

**We break in thy dear name.**

**O stream of love unending,**

**Poured from the one true Vine,**

**With our weak nature blending**

**The strength of life divine;**

**Our thankful faith confession**

**In thy life-blood outpoured,**

**We drink this Cup of blessing**

**And praise thy name, O Lord.**

Celebrant**:** Holy, and gracious God, accept our praises, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and when he had given you thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way after supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks he gave it to them saying, “Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”

Therefore, gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread and share in the life of the family of your children.

Make us, while many, united

Make us, though broken, whole

Make us, despite death, alive. So we cry:

**Response: Come Holy Spirit, restore the whole creation**

Celebrant: Now, as we share in these holy gifts, transform us into the body of Christ we share.

**Response: The body broken which restores wholeness. The life blood poured out that brings healing to our world.**

Celebrant**:** To this end we pray as our Lord taught us:

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Celebrant**:** Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ broken for us, and the blood of the new covenant shed for us. Eat and drink so that you may have life and life in all it abundance.

(People partake in the Holy Communion)

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Celebrant**:** Having partaken in this covenant of the new creation let us in communion with Christ commit ourselves to the mission entrusted upon us.

**Response: Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people.**

**Once we had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. As living stones, whose life and foundations are in Christ, we join together with other members of Christ’s body seeking the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life. Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG:**

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (Repeat)

Siyahamba, hamba, siyahamba, hamba,

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (Repeat)

We are marching in the light of God,

We are marching in the light of God. (Repeat)

We are marching, marching, We are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the love of God,

We are living in the love of God, (Repeat)

We are living, living, We are living, living,

We are living in the love of God, (Repeat)

We are moving in the power of God,

We are moving in the power of God, (Repeat)

We are moving, moving, We are moving, moving,

We are moving in the power of God. (Repeat)

**BENEDICTION:**

Celebrant**:** Let the mystery of God enfold us, the wisdom of God uphold us, the fragrance of God be around us, and the brightness of God surround us.

And, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, and make us living stones, called to share and serve God’s living hope, now and always. **Amen.**

Celebrant: God in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Order of service prepared by Rev Viji Varghese Eapen (CSI), modified for USPG use by Peniel Rajkumar