



20 JULY 2025



Rise to Life:
Together in
Transformation



LITURGICAL RESOURCES



2025



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Rise to life – Together in Transformation

CWM has collected worship resources to enable CWM member churches to share in worship which reflects on CWM Mission themes. The resource should be adapted to need and context, but we hope the words and images provide a stir to consider how God comes to us in woe and wonder to show the new worlds God creates amongst us.





Introduction

On Council for World Mission Sunday, we gather to celebrate and reflect on the great work of God's mission around the world. This year, our worship is enriched by the theme and elements of the CWM Assembly, during which we joined together to recommit ourselves to God's mission and to CWM's vision of building life-flourishing communities.

As part of today's worship, we will intentionally reflect on the subtheme: Transforming Power.

As we approach the CWM jubilee in 2027, we are reminded of our shared commitment to justice, peace, and the flourishing of all communities. This year, as part of exploring Transforming Power, we look at Strengthening Partnership by focusing on our common identity. We are together, CWM, a partnership of churches in mission. Our heartbeat is the worship and witness of our local churches, sharing in one global family.

This liturgy incorporates readings from the Revised Common Lectionary used by many of our member churches for Sunday, 20 July 2025. After each reading, we invite you to reflect on CWM mission projects or local mission projects. Let us come together in worship, inspired by the Spirit, to renew our dedication to God's transformative mission in the world.

Part 1 – Transforming Power

The Call to Share together in Worship as an act of Humble approach

Call to Worship:

One God of the vulnerable and the powerless,
You created something from nothing

Many **Bring Life in the places we do not look for it.**

One God of the humble and frail,
You turn our weakness into your building blocks

Many **Bring Strength to possibilities and Depth to transparent visions.**

One God of the margins and outcasts,
You are crucified with those who suffer

Many **Rise to Life in this, your world, your people, your creation.**

Hymn

CWM Assembly Theme Song: Rise to Life

(Kevin Nana Moses and Lester Lewis)

<https://youtu.be/AWcbHNUdBO4>

Chorus

Rise to life, more abundantly

Rise to life, life eternally

Rise to life, life everlasting

Let all God's children rise to life

1. Come on my brothers and sisters
Let us put faith in action
Let us break out of Babylon
Arise and bring transformation
2. Together we'll build safe spaces
and life-giving communities
Free from all human atrocities
and death-dealing systems
3. Christ Jesus calls the holy church
Go and make radical disciples
Who will preach and teach fearlessly
Right in the middle of Babylon

Excerpt From the 2024 Assembly Statement – On “Transforming Power”

Transforming Power (2 Voices)

It is not true that market forces hold supreme authority in the human community.

This is true: “You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24).

Rejecting the idolatry of wealth and power, disciples seek justice, compassion, and righteousness.

It is not true that the powerful are entitled to attack, subjugate, colonise or enslave their neighbours.

This is true: We are morally obliged to make reparation for historic wrongs and to actively resist and dismantle all forms of coloniality and enslavement.

It is not true that women must occupy a secondary and subordinate role in church and society.

This is true: God calls women to leadership in mission and calls everyone to practise gender justice and equity to effect transformative change in every aspect of life.

It is not true that migrants and refugees pose a threat and deserve hostility.

This is true: We are called to offer hospitality to strangers (Hebrews 13:2) as we work for justice and dignity with all who are marginalised and vulnerable.

We are called to be agents of transformation, resisting oppressive powers, and embodying alternative ways of living and being.

Celebration Message from CWM General Secretary

Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum

<https://youtu.be/S86FSeZFN4s>

Opening Litany - *Transforming the Powers of the World*

When bombs whistle through the air towards families

Let us offer our homes as shelters

When bullies target the defenceless

Let us stand in solidarity

When money buys acts of hate and terror

Let us share all our gifts

When we are told to be productive for reasons of greed

Let us spend our energies on building relationships of care.

God of all power and God who chose to give up all power

Teach us to be vulnerable for the sake of the world you love.

Grant us hearts of compassion for those in need.

Help us recognize our longings for stability and for power

And grant that we may grow in humility and compassion.

May we become clay in your hands, ready to be transformed by You!

Amen.

Youth Voice

(Youth are invited to make a Response or Reflection on the Statement from Youth Pre-Assembly, Durban 2024)

This is an excerpt from the Statement made to the CWM 2024 Assembly by the Youth Participants:

We have come to this Assembly to answer to this call and let our prophetic voice be heard.

Discerning the signs of the times as youths

We the youths, in discerning the signs of the times, observe many pressing issues, the biggest three being apathy towards religion in youth, inequality and the climate crisis.

Apathy for Religion

Instead of “believing in God” or not “believing in God”, most of our generation choose to not care either way, with apathy towards religion. Losing the meaning given through Jesus, the result is a rising mental health crisis amongst the youths of the world who have to deal with a completely new way of social life through the internet, leading to anxiety, loneliness and depression.

Inequalities

There are also worldwide inequalities that need to be addressed, There is an increase in the disparity between the rich and poor. This inequality manifests differently in each region, but worldwide injustice is seen with the treatment of the homeless, the refugee, the marginalised, the poor, and the oppressed. Also xenophobia, racism, sexism and other life-denying systems of oppressions have no place in our society or church, but they are nevertheless prevalent.

People abandoned by the church and wider society with no support are dying, yet all of us seem to be preoccupied with caring only for ourselves. Why do these issues remain in the church when we are taught that Jesus loves and we Christians should love? We are taught to love but not how to love; we are told to stand up for justice but not how to do so. Wider society is apathetic to the needs of others, preferring to please oneself or one’s personal community, consuming for themselves regardless of the harm it does to others.

Climate Change

This is at its clearest when observing the environmental degradation in the Pacific region and beyond. We are all taught to fight against climate change, most of the world knows that there is a climate crisis; however, is there anything significant being done to combat this? Not enough from powerful governments, but also not enough from our church. At current trajectories we youth will live to experience a refugee crisis as over a billion people will live in wetbulb zones where it is impossible to live, even in shade, without artificially cooled environments. When we are your age, the world will be completely different to how it is now. With no changes it will be worse but with your guidance we can build a world that can sustain future generations.

Call to action

We the youths call upon our churches to take actions in making the changes necessary in the face of the challenges of our time:

We call on our churches to act out of love and hospitality through sending missionaries to other parts of the world, and giving support generously wherever injustice and oppression occurs.

We call on our churches to open up themselves to be attentive and accommodating to the needs of our communities, and to encourage an open space and discussion for everyone through enhancing the church's presence and engagement with the youths in person and digitally.

We call on our churches to address the issues of self-interest and financial mismanagement that lead to economic injustice. We call on our churches to address the issues of environmental neglect that leads to unsustainability.

We call on our churches to reject harmful, anthropocentric, and authoritarian forms of theology that only serve to permeate life-denying systems.

We call on our churches to inspire and equip our youths to pursue the biblical calling for justice through sermons, social media, and various events and conferences, and support our youths to transform justice-seeking objectives into practises and actions.

We call on our churches to have more cross-regional gatherings to track the progress and changes that have been made, to solidify the relationships that are built, and to learn and encourage each other.

Part 2 – Fresh Visions of Mission

Our Churches are re-imagining the Kin-dom of Heaven

Song: Where The Wild God Is

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10628224/video/863875837>

Readings

Option 1: Luke 10:38-42

Option 2: Colossians 1:15-28

Sermon

(It is recognised that in different settings, the preacher may choose either of the two suggested lectionary readings. It is suggested that the sermon lead into a time of reflection about local mission examples and some reflective questions.)

Stories to Share

(insert examples from your local mission setting)

Questions for Reflection

When you hear the needs in our community, who do you pray for?

When you hear the stories of God at work in our community,
what do you pray for?

When you consider God's call to mission, what will you do?

Song: In Christ Alone (Adapted words for CWM Sunday)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veTtpY0hycQ>

In Christ alone, our hope is found
Christ is the light, the strength, the song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
Our Comforter, our All in All
Here in the love of Christ we stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones God chose to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The gift of grace was satisfied
For every sin on Christ was laid
Here through the death of Christ we live

There in the tomb Christ's body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave Christ rose again
And as Christ stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For belong to God alone
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in us
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands our life be just.
No power of hell, no human scheme
Can ever shake us from God's team
Till Christ comes and Heaven fulfilled
Here we will work for God's promised dream.

Special Offering

For Vanuatu's recovery from a devastating earthquake last December and subsequent aftershocks.

<https://youtu.be/4kmYY3aS7XA>

On 17 December, 2024, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake destroyed multiple buildings in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The earthquake claimed 12 lives, with more than 200 people injured. The Port Vila central business district was seriously affected, with the demolition of buildings required. Businesses and schools continue to face serious logistical challenges. Thousands of residents in and around Port Vila had to relocate, with some communities possibly facing permanent relocation to new, safer sites.

Offering Prayer

God of all creation.

When the earth was formed, you were there.

When the earth crumbles, you are there.

When all of creation is repaired and renewed, you will be there.

Comfort the people of Vanuatu, continuing to strive for recovery following earthquake.

When the shaking has ceased and images of destruction are replaced by signs of life,

Console those who continue to mourn and comfort those who live with trauma.

When the rumblings of life changes come our way,

may we be generous in offering your signs of love and blessing.

AMEN

Part 3 – Praying for Life-flourishing Communities

Commitment to Life-Affirmation

We believe the mission of God for this world
Is to bring forth life and cause it to flourish.

We believe the God of mission has a Church
To work for resurrection and restoration and the renewal of all things.

We believe this partnership of missional churches
is empowered by the Spirit of God for the work of transformation.

We believe that the seed of transformation is already planted
And we will see the fruits of God's love for the world.

We commit ourselves to working together
to transform the powers of this Kingdom
for the sake of the eternal Kin-dom!

Praise be to God – who lived, died and lives again!
May we offer a foretaste of life-flourishing in the world.
Alleluia! Amen!

Hymn (Tune: Lobe den Herren)

NEW WORDS – written for CWM Sunday 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zW6Vv5z8U8s>

Praise to the Christ, who has humbly come into creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is the means of salvation!
All we who hear, now to Messiah draw near;
join us in glad adoration!

Praise to the Spirit, who gives breath for our very sustaining.
Sharing our prayers, we commit to this Spirit's maintaining.
God's care enfolds those who true justice uphold.
Advocate for life's reframing!

Praise to the Shepherd, whose voice calls our names to the table
surely this goodness and mercy gives strength and enables.
Ponder anew what, as God's people, we do,
Bearing Christ's name as our label.

Witness to God – let us worship the God of transforming.
Human-Divine, God calls us to be always reforming.
Let the amen sound from God's people again;
gladly forever adoring.

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace and mercy,
We come before You with hearts full of hope and faith,
lifting up our prayers for the world.
We seek peace for all nations embroiled in war and conflict.
May Your peace prevail and put an end to violence and turmoil.
Grant wisdom and understanding to the leaders of the nations,
so they may govern with righteousness and justice.

By Your Spirit, let fairness and equity be the bedrock of all societies.
Strengthen the economies of nations grappling with poverty.
Provide opportunities for growth and economic stability.
Protect the poor and vulnerable in every country, O God.
Be their refuge and strength in times of need.
Bring an end to corruption and injustice in governments.
Raise up leaders who will govern with integrity and honour.

Let Your message of love reach every corner of the earth,
and may its transformative power bring fullness of life to all.
Grant protection to those spreading Your word in dangerous places.
Keep them safe, grant them resources and favour,
and empower their ministry.

We pray for spiritual revival across nations,
that people would turn to You and find hope and salvation.
Heal the divisions in nations torn apart by hatred and racism.
Bring reconciliation and unity among all people.

We pray for children worldwide,
that they may grow up in peace and safety,
with access to education and opportunities for their full liberty.
Bring healing to nations devastated by disease and famine.
Provide relief and restoration to those in need.
Restore the natural resources of countries that have been depleted,
and bring environmental healing to our world.

By Your Holy Spirit, may there be a revival in the care of Your earth.
God of Creation, send healing rains to nations suffering from drought.
Revive the land and provide for the needs of the people.
We trust in Your power and grace,
knowing that You hear our prayers and are at work in the world.
In Jesus' name, we pray.

Blessing Song: I Believe That One Fine Day... **(A simple and upbeat round)**

<https://aliburns.co.uk/shop/song/downloads/i-believe-that-one-fine-day/>

I believe that one fine day
I believe that one fine day
That the power of love
Will rise above the love of power

Benediction:

Let God's Love Transform Us

to become good news for the whole created order.

Let us go into the world to love, to serve, to affirm, to empower,
to enhance justice and liberation.

May Jesus Christ our Saviour and the Holy Spirit our guide
be with us all now and forever more.

Amen

APPENDIX 1 - Optional Communion Liturgy

One: Holy God, you are life itself,
and we offer you from your own gifts to us.
Please accept our offerings and symbols of life (bread and wine).
We remember those who struggle with resources.
Let what we bring be an expression of solidarity
with all those who suffer.

The empowering presence of the Lord is with us
Many: God's life affirming Spirit is amidst us.
Let us look to the God of Transformation.
**We turn to Jesus who, from the margins,
transformed the location of power.**
Let us give thanks to God for choosing vulnerability in incarnation.
Let us thank and praise God.

Holy God, all creation reflects your image,
with humanity privileged tasked to care for your created order.
Despite our failings and weaknesses,
through life, work, death and resurrection of Jesus,
you remind us that we can trust in the work of transformation.
Through the Holy Spirit you inspire our churches
to respond prophetically
to challenge the threats against the flourishing of life.

**All: We reject greed and dehumanization
that comes with the powers and principalities of Empire.
We turn instead to proclaim God's Glory.**

**Blessed is the Healer, Maker of all,
Who restores and repairs, renews and resurrects.
Blessed is the Liberator, Jesus Christ,
whose holiness was shown in solidarity with the oppressed.
Blessed be the Advocate, who enlivens us
in our acts of defiance against injustice.**

Come, Holy Spirit, Bless these gifts,
that represent for us the body and blood of Jesus,
as signs of new life shared in Christ's body.
Let God's love spread all over the earth.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed,
he washed the feet of his disciples,
expressing solidarity with the weak
and reminding the disciples of their own vulnerability.

In a time of uncertainty,
Jesus' gift of sacrament promised us nourishment for the mission:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this to remember me."

In the broken body, seen in the breaking of the bread,
we are assured of God's presence amongst us
in working for transformation.

This assurance was repeated when Jesus took the cup,
and having given thanks to God, he gave it to disciples by saying:

"Drink this all of you, for 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, to remember me."

Let us celebrate God's transformative power.
Let us proclaim his resurrection and affirm life in its fullness.
Let us prepare ourselves for Christ's coming again
by establishing God's reign here on this earth.

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ shall come again.

Come Holy Spirit,
pour your holiness upon us and these gifts of Bread and wine,
bonding us in love,
so the we rise together in transformation.

Breaking of Bread and Pouring of Wine

**God of love, we come to your table
trusting that you offer us your love your mercy.
We confess our own vulnerability to you,
for we are subject to temptations of greed and power.
Protect your church from neo-imperialism and neo-colonialism.
Let the body and blood of Jesus Christ always remind us
about the sanctity of humility and your heart for the margins.
As we share in this feast,
may our hearts be opened to your missional calling
and focus on life affirming power of God. Amen.**

Sharing

Come with humility and faith,
receive the gifts of God, here for the people of God:
Remember that Christ is the essence of the missional God,
the Sent One,
the Sign of all righteousness,
present with us through resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This is the banquet of Life!

The elements are shared according to local custom.

Appendix 2 – Additional Music Resources

*This hymn, to a choice of well known tunes,
may be substituted for one of the songs if needed.*

CWM Hymn - Undivided

Tune: Cwm Rhondda OR Regent's Square © CWM, 2023

Down they fall - no walls divide us.
Love must now replace all hate.
Teach us wisdom to revive us.
Give us hands to re-create.
God of all, our hearts adore you.
Open wide your heaven's gate.

Break the chains of past oppression.
Let us claim our liberty.
Cast out greed and self-obsession,
Sharing life o'er land and sea.
God of all, our voices praise you,
Worship now the One-in-Three.

Take the hand of friend and neighbour.
Share a meal and pass the plate.* [Alt: Call to account affairs of state]
Do the work to share God's favour.
Learn God's ways and stimulate.
Flourish then in life abundant.
Heaven's foretaste will not wait.

- Communion version

Appendix 3 – Music Learning Links

CWM Theme Song: Rise to Life

<https://youtu.be/jqM94MdMxhI>

Song: Where the Wild God Is

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10628224/video/863875837>

Blessing Song: Beatitude Blessing / Blessing of the Children of God

<https://youtu.be/X93zjY0eiT8>



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