

International Day of Prayer for Peace 21st September 2008

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace
(James 3:18).

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Talofa! Kiora! Ia ora na! Bula Vinaka! Malo e lelei! Hafa dai! Halo Olgeta! Aloha!
Greetings in a few of the many tongues of the Pacific!

~ **Sound the Conch Shell** ~

Cultural Presentation (Kava Ceremony)

It is customary in Pacific cultures to greet and welcome people through a traditional kava ceremony. No important occasion or event takes place without this tradition.

It is important to understand that when serving the kava, the guest (a chief from the visiting group) will drink first and then a host village chief (of equal status) will drink. This process will continue to all visiting chiefs present during the ceremony.

The kava ceremony for the International Day of Prayer for Peace will serve only one (1) kava. It will be served to God.

(You are invited to clap when the ceremony begins until the kava has been delivered to its place.)

~ **Sound the Conch Shell** ~

Our Vigil of Peace

*Our vigil of peace occurs in 3 stages: **Reading the Tides** (a time of thanksgiving) **Against the Currents** (a time to listen) and; **Making New Waves** (a time to act).*

I. Reading the Tides

Welcome to a time of reflection, transformation and celebration, as we halt canoes and raise our paddles in unity for the International Day of Prayer for Peace.

We rowed and paddled hard for many years. We were caught in storms, rough tides with broken paddles and no hope; we burned in the day and froze by night; with blistered hands and sore feet; we hungered; we thirst; we lost; we yearned; we grieved; and **we prayed**.

We rowed and paddled harder for more years. Then we remembered the calm seas; the pleasant breeze; the beautiful sunsets and clear skies; we ate and were full; we smiled; we laughed; and **we prayed**.

Today, we dock to *read the tides* in thanksgiving for the abundant richness they have brought to our shores, to acknowledge that we too swim in the currents of violence, pain and injustice, and finally to make new waves to guide our canoes in the way of justice and peace.

(Please rise)

We will row; we will paddle; and we will pray.

Sing ~ Peace My People (3rd verse twice)

Peace, my people peace and love / Peace, my people, peace and love / For He is with us here, dispels our fear, is always near / So peace, my people, peace and love.

(Let us pray)

Atua, Chief of Chiefs, God

Allow us to drink from the tanoa of your peace,
Right the course of our canoes to overcome the currents of violence
Give us peace of being at rest, so that peace prevails over any winds that gust
through our islands,
Tattoo in our hearts your righteousness and purity
Through all cultures and walks of life, we gather as instruments of peace. Amen.*

- Atua of Peace by M. Aunoa, Am. Samoa submitted for IDPP 2008

*tanoa: kava bowl

Sing ~ Peace My People (Last line only)

So peace, my people, peace and love

Sing ~ To God Be the Glory (1st and 3rd verses only)

To God be the glory, great things He has done / So loved He the world that He gave us His Son / Who yielded His life an atonement for sin / And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord / Let the earth hear His voice! / Praise the Lord, praise the Lord / Let the people rejoice! / O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son / And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done / And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son / But purer, and higher, and greater will be / Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Please be seated)

~ Sound the Pate ~

II. Against the Currents

(Cultural Presentation of artwork for Annual Focus from Pacific)

(Gift giving is a celebrated part of many cultures and the Pacific is no different. To commemorate the IDPP 2008 and the annual Pacific focus, I present these pieces of artwork, these pieces of tapa, an item of value and of wealth in Pacific cultures with a story of hope and a story of peace to the 4 main in house ecumenical organizations: World Student Christian Federation, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

These pieces are not just any random pieces selected for its patterns, beauty, value or age; these pieces put together make 1 cloth, cut into 4 to signify that although we are 4 different organizations, we have gathered today to celebrate peace as the children of God...)

As we present this artwork of the logo of the World Council of Churches from the Pacific Islands, we are reminded of its history, its story and its voyage. The boat represents a journey. The cross symbolizes Christianity. The waves signify rough seas and even storms. Conflicts, violence, death and negativity have affected the churches and the ecumenical movement, sometimes threatening the fellowship, but one thing remains constant, the cross which forms the mast of our ship, embodying faith and unity.

Scriptural Journey

As we read the Word of God and meditate to a musical selection, think about the colors of life, the faces of joy and hope, and the cries of helplessness, violence and war in the world. Acknowledge that we too swim in the currents of violence, pain and suffering.

(An adaptation of Proverbs 16: 1-7)

The plans of the mind belong to us,
But the answer of the tongue belong to God
All our ways may be pure in our own eyes
But God weighs the spirit
Commit your work to the Lord
And your plan will be established
All things were made with a purpose
Even the wicked for the day of trouble
The arrogant is an abomination to God
By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for
***When the ways of the people please the Lord,
Even their enemies will be at peace***

(Musical Selection)

The Beatitudes (Matthew: 5 3-12)

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 those who are reviled, persecuted and falsely accused because of God.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you

(Musical Selection)

(An adaptation of Ephesians 2: 14-18)

For God is our peace who has made us all *one*,

For God has broken down the diving wall of hostility

To create a new man in place of two,

Make peace and reconcile in one body through the cross

Peace is preached to those who are far

Peace is preached to those who are near

For through the Son, we are in one Spirit to the Father

Sing ~ E toru nga mea from New Zealand (Agape 21 – in Maori twice)

III. Making New Waves

We are modest and humble as we commit ourselves through our prayers and our pledges to make new waves of peace beginning with ourselves, our families, communities and the world.

(Based on Pslams 40)

God desires no offerings from us,

But give open arms to heal

God desires no sacrifice from us,

But give open eyes to see

God desires no gifts from us,

But give open ears to listen

God requires no words from us,

But give a new song to sing

God will call and we will answer

'Here I am Lord'

I come to do you will

(Please rise)

Sing ~ Here I am Lord (1st and 3rd verses in English and 2nd verse in Spanish)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, / I have heard my people cry / All who dwell in dark and sin /
My hand will save. / I, who made the stars of night / I will make their darkness bright. /
Who will bear my light to them / Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? / I have heard you calling in the night. /
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. / I will hold your people in my heart.

Yo, Señor de lluvia y sol, / las angustias y el dolor / de mi pueblo he de sanar sin
condición. / Ese duro corazón / con mi amor transformaré / Quién mi Nombre anunciará?

Refrain: Aquí estoy, Señor. / Heme aquí, Señor / En la noche escuché tu voz. / Guíame,
Señor / Yo te seguiré / En mi corazón a tu pueblo guardaré.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, / I will send the poor and lame. / I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save. / Finest bread I will provide / 'Til their hearts be satisfied / I will give
my life to them / Whom shall I send?

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

E to matou Metua i te ao ro (*Tahitian*), we humbly come before you as we read the tides,
swim against the currents and make new waves. We praise and give thanks for all that
you have done in our churches. We give thanks for the focus on the Pacific region as
they continue to struggle against all types of violence. Continue to be with us as we
work to make our world a reflection of your grace and love.

Sing ~ Kyrie Eleison from Ukraine (Thuma Mina 35) ~

Tamamai (*Papuan*), we humbly pray for those who still hunger and thirst for bread and
water; for those who live under the shadow of military threats and political bullying; for
those who walk in the shadow of loneliness and have seen no great light. We ask for
your mercy and peace upon them. Continue to be with us as we work to make our
world a reflection of your grace and love.

Sing ~ Kyrie Eleison from Ukraine (Thuma Mina 35) ~

Jemamwojilan (*Marshallese*), we humbly put forth your creation earth as it stands
against pillage, destruction and greed. Help us become better stewards and to treat
each other and the rest of your creation with respect and dignity. Continue to be with us
as we work to make our world a reflection of your grace and love.

Sing ~ Kyrie Eleison from Ukraine (Thuma Mina 35) ~

Almighty God, we humbly ask for your guidance and direction as we pray for the
churches, communities and people of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. We pray
especially for the unrest and conflict between Russia and Georgia and may your Holy
Spirit grant compassion as they strive for stability and peace. Continue to be with us as
we work to make our world a reflection of your grace and love.

Sing ~ Kyrie Eleison from Ukraine (Thuma Mina 35) ~

(Please rise)

The Lord's Prayer

Sing ~ Pasifika from *Pacific Islands* (3 verses)

Blessing

Together, we row to the East, paddle to the West, steer to the North and sail to the South with God at the rudder of our canoes. Amene

H. Gingerlei Porter for Annual Focus 2008

Sing ~ Papauta (*Sing in Samoan*)

Fa'atasi mai Le Atua / Ia tumau ai e fa'avavau. / Amene.

(Translation: Be with us God / Now and Forever / Amen)

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Please join us for some refreshments after the service.

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Note on chapel décor:

Fine mats and tapa or bark cloths are prized possessions in Pacific cultures. They are referred to as the 'diamond and gold' of Pacific societies. Large distributions are essential in public ceremonies, family gatherings, and importantly, part of the process of reconciliation and peace between islands, families, villages, chiefs, etc...

Ula fala or paono: The dried pandanus fruit garland or necklace is only worn by high chiefs and high talking chiefs, usually one with a rich knowledge of the family, village or islands, on special occasions. It signifies someone gifted with the tongue to speak the chiefly language and serves as the voice of the high chief. We are Gods talking chiefs and voice as peacemakers.

A garland, necklace, lei or ula (as like the one distributed to attendees of service) is a gift of welcoming and farewell.