

Ecumenical Pre-Assembly

Worship 4 - The Rock on which we stand

Needed : A large Rock, sand, someone to do liturgical movements

Musical Preparation

Silence

Greetings

The promise of the One who calls us into partnership:

**“Look! I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,
Those who believe will not be put to shame** 1 Peter 2:3-4

Song We will trace the footprints one more time.

God’s hope is like an anchor for the soul, firm and secure Hebrews 6:19

We find the rock on which we stand.

*We do the song with instruments and we have someone or a couple of people move,
tracing the footprints,
walking the circle,
turning over the stone
finding the rock*

Prayer

Rock on which we stand,
hold us firm to your claim on our lives,
keep us steady in doing your will,
grace us with the joy that you make all things new
Jesus, Christ, Saviour, Strength, Steadfast Love. Amen.

Alleluia

Reading I Peter 2:4-6, 9-10

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 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. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it will not be put to shame.”

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 marvelous light. 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.

Alleluia

Response to the Word

Standing on the Rock, the cornerstone, chosen and precious
we are called to become living stones,
stones remembering the promises of God,
angry stones against the injustices which keep HIV spreading,
vigilant stones watching to see that promises are kept.
We are God's own people. We have received mercy.
We have promises to keep.

You are invited to take a stone in your hand.
What promises are you being called to make
as you go into the World AIDS Conference?
What promises take hold of you as you think of the people back home?
We take a moment to let the Spirit speak to us.

Silence

Now you are invited to turn to a neighbor and in a sentence or two speak about one of the promises. You may speak this in your own language. Even if your neighbor doesn't understand, God does.

Prayer

The best promises are those the most difficult to fulfill. So we need to pray for one another. In your own way, in your own language, you are invited to pray for your neighbor and your neighbor for you.

Response Thuma Mina

Prayer of Commitment

God, Keeper of Covenants,
it is time to deliver on the promises:
time for nurses, doctors and scientists to deliver;
time for bankers and drug companies to deliver;
time for the G-8 countries to deliver;
time for pastors and teachers to deliver;
time for administrators and legislators to deliver;
time for youth workers and community leaders to deliver.
It is time for us to deliver on the promises,
and do all we can to provide medicine for the sick,
to find a vaccine for HIV and a cure for AIDS,
to take away discrimination and shame,
to make our churches safe places for those
who need our support,
to care for the orphans and the weak,
to pray for one another and hold one another,
so that living stones break forth in praise of your deeds
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Lord's Prayer

You are invited now to take the stone with all your neighbor's promise. Hold it for a moment and surround it with all your strongest encouragement, then give it back with the words, "Keep the promise."

The people do this.

If you wish, you make take the stone with you to remind you of the promise during the days ahead. When we keep the promise we become living stones.

Sending forth

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you *not* to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking

so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

Its not just in some of us; it's in everyone!

And as we let our own light shine,

We unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,

Our presence automatically liberates others. Nelson Mandela

Song

Before we sing, we need to make a little bit of space so we can move. Those at tables, maybe you can carefully put your chairs on the table. Those in the back you can use the side aisles.

We will sing We walk the circle one more time. As we sing you are invited to move in a circle around the table, or around the hall. If you forget the words it doesn't matter. We can sing la la and God will understand.

Song We walk the circle

Benediction

Song Siyahamba We are marching to the light of God