

Christian Pre-Conference

Worship Friday morning

We gather up the fragments of clay pots and the stones and put them on the tables and on stations in front of the people at the back.

Musical Preparation

Greeting

Watcher and Guard, All-seeing One,
building altars of stone to witness the promises made,
you, we worship
and upon you, we call
in the name of the Blessed Trinity, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Song

Romania

Sfin - te Dum - ne - ze - u - le, Sfin - te ta - ra,
Ho - ly and Al - migh - ty God. Ho - ly Migh - ty.

Sfin - te făr' de moar - - - te,
Ho - ly and Im - mor - - - tal,

mi - lu - ies - te - ne pe - noi.
God, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us.

Call to Confession

And I will make justice the line
and righteousness the plummet;
hail will sweep away the refuge of lies
and waters will overwhelm the shelter.
Then your covenant with death will be annulled
and your agreement will Sheol will not stand.
For God will rise up to do God's deed

strange is God's deed!
and to work God's work
alien is God's work! adapted from Isaiah 28:17-18a, 21

We confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie

When we become part of the covenant with death,
and fail to keep watch,
when we become content with the lies of the powerful
and disregard the claims of justice
God, forgive us.

Kyrie

When our dreams are dull,
our names for others demeaning,
our words deceptive,
our work without spirit,
and we see no way out of the broken systems which kill,
God forgive us.

Kyrie

Words of forgiveness

The three different readers of the prayers of confession can each read one section of the words of forgiveness.

The Lord says, "You will be like a child that is nursed by its mother, carried in her arms and treated with love. I will comfort you as a mother comforts her child.

Isaiah 66:12b-13

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:1b-3a

God is always watching for us to return home. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. **Amen.**

Song Alleluia

Reading Genesis 31:43-46, 48-52

Introduction

Jacob and Laban had a troubled history with much deceit between them, Hear the account of their farewell:

Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about their children whom they have borne? Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I; and let it be a witness between you and me." So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar.

The reader takes some stones and begins to make the heap of stones

And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, "Gather stones," and they took stones, and made a heap; and they ate there by the heap. Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he called it Galeed, and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, "The Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other.

The reader takes more stones and adds to the heap.

If you ill-treat my daughters, or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me." Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this heap and see the pillar, which I have set between you and me. This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

The reader finishes making the heap of stones.

Response to the Word

With a pile of stones as witness, an uneasy covenant was sealed. God is summoned to watch, to see that promises are not broken. The sign is a heap of stones, a sign to be on guard. Our world needs many heaps of stone as reminders of promises made.

On your table or on the stands in front of those in the back are pieces of the clay pots and stones. You are invited to make together a witnessing heap of stones. While you are placing a stone or a piece of clay on the heap you might say aloud who or what you and others are called to watch in the days ahead so that they deliver on their promises. With whom or what do we need to be on guard, to be the eyes and the ears of the One who watches all.

We leave time for this.

Song

Prayer

We praise you, Eternal God, for the gift of life,
a gift, valuable, difficult, fragile and beautiful.

We give you thanks.

For those departed from us due to the devastation of AIDS,
whose stories teach us to live more fully,

We give you thanks.

For couples, friends, supporters, and families who persist in their love;
for all the people who have dedicated their lives with passion and commitment
to work for the prevention and treatment of HIV.

We give you thanks.

For scientific advances, innovative ideas and the light of hope that new treatments give us,
for the leaders who act efficiently to provide people with the necessary medical care
so they can live with HIV,

We give you thanks.

Give us the strength to fight against prejudice, unjust laws, repression, puritanism, stigma

and the fear that allows HIV to continue spreading.

We place in your care and protection the souls of 40 million people who have been infected by HIV.

We lift to you our dreams of a world where all are taken care of .

Our dreams of fullness.

Our dreams of a world without AIDS

dreams that we know you share.

Prayer adapted from the closing celebration of the Third Forum for the Prevention of AIDS, La Ciba, Honduras, November 2005

taken from the Liturgy network of the Latin American Council of Churches
www.selah.com.ar/red

Hymn God beyond all names

Passing the Peace

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord watch between you and me.

The Lord watch between us and those making promises.

The Lord watch between those making promises and those fighting for life.

The Lord watch,

so we watch.

The Lord bless us and keep us, today, tomorrow, forever. Amen.

Song Truth is our call