



Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

Worship Resources

Prepared by MWC member churches in Asia for 24 January 2021 or at any time convenient for your congregation.

Theme and texts

a. Theme:
Following Jesus together across barriers

b. Why this theme was chosen:
This is the theme chosen for the Indonesia 2022 Assembly. As a global Anabaptist faith community our priorities are summarized in these words.

- We follow Jesus:**
- Together, not alone.
 - Across barriers that try to keep us divided.

c. Biblical texts:
Old Testament:
Isaiah 55:1-6
Psalm: 27
Gospel:
John 4:1-42
New Testament:
Philippians 2:1-11

d. Relationship between the theme and the biblical texts:
We read about people crossing barriers to follow God's commands.

- The prophet Isaiah writes that we are a witness to all nations when we reflect the glory of God.
- The Psalmist writes our courage comes from God even when we are afraid.
- In the Gospel of John, Jesus reaches across religious, racial/ethnic, and gender boundaries to connect with the Samaritan woman, who then witnesses to her community that Jesus is the Messiah.
- In Philippians, Paul tells us how to follow Jesus in obedience, with concern for other people's needs and interests more than our own. We too are all called to follow Jesus together by crossing barriers.

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Prayer Requests



Hoi Thanh Mennonite Church

a. From MWC members in Asia

- Pray for the 23 member and associate member churches/conferences in Asia (Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam). Christianity is a minority in many of these countries. Pray that MWC member churches who are suffering persecution and hardship may have courage and hope to persevere.
- Praise God for the Asian churches: members of the Body of Christ. May they always be united and connected to us and to each other through the bonds of the love of Jesus and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. May they care for one another, accept one another and equip one another to witness to God's glory in this world.

b. From MWC

- Give thanks that Anabaptists around the world are united in faith in God's kingdom across language and cultural differences.
- Give thanks for the growing networks in the MWC family: mission, service, health, peace and education.
- Pray for sisters and brothers everywhere who are struggling with weakness due to illness, violence, disaster or injustice. May we embrace them. May God's power change everything for us all.
- Pray for MWC General Secretary César García, and MWC Asian Representatives Agus Mayanto (Southeast Asia), Cynthia Peacock (South Asia) and Jeremiah Choi (Northeast Asia) as they lead and minister to the churches in Asia and around the world.
- Pray for the upcoming Assembly in Indonesia. Pray for the planners as they adjust to a new gathering date and create protocols for a safe and enjoyable event that welcomes thousands of people to Semarang. Pray that the Spirit will be at work in the hearts and minds of all participants bringing unity in the Spirit.



3

Song Suggestions

From the MWC International Songbook 2015:

- #7 Som'landela/We will follow
- #15 [Make us one and make us holy](#)
- #20 [Sari srishti ke malik tumhi ho](#)
/All praise to the God of Creation
- #22 May the peace of Christ be with you
- #30 Abre mis ojos/Open my eyes

I have decided to follow Jesus



Jhoriadih Church, BJCPM, India

Vikal Rao

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Visual resources

- a. In India, colourful decorations are common to all faiths, bringing joy and a spirit of festivity to everyone. Many Christian churches use an abundance of flowers, coloured paper decorations, balloons and tinsels to decorate churches, homes and streets during Christmas and the New Year, often staying decorated through January and February.
 - Children and adults can make paper chains from colourful scrap paper (and sparkly fragments), with the interlocking loops representing togetherness, and the chains stretching across barriers.
 - Decorate the front of your meeting area and your entryway with an abundance of flowers and flower garlands.
- b. Javanese art is at the front of the church in Jepara, Indonesia, linking the cross to traditional Javanese themes. See this story: t2m.io/66iipq00



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Offering (One Lunch)

- MWC invites congregations to take a special offering for our global Anabaptist church community on Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday. Invite every member to contribute the cost of at least *one lunch* in their community in order to support the networks and resources in our global faith community of MWC.
- Sacrificing *one lunch* is our humble way of giving thanks to God and supporting the ongoing ministry of God through MWC.



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Additional Resources

www.mwc-cmm.org/awfs

- a. In this package
 - Suggested liturgies for gathering and for benediction (p. 3)
 - Prayers (p. 6)
 - Biblical texts for sermon content (p. 7)
 - Testimonies from Asia (p. 14)
 - Cultural contributions from Asia (p. 19)
- b. Online:
 - Pictures
 - Song videos
 - Posters
 - Sample bulletin covers



The biblical texts, prayers, song suggestions, sermon ideas, testimonies and other resources in this package have been prepared by members of MWC out of their experience in their local context. The teaching does not necessary represent an official MWC position.

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