

**Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin**

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[www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)

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March 3, 2023

**World Day of Prayer**

***I Have Heard About  
Your Faith***

9:30 am

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
601 South Segoe Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

World Day of Prayer will be in person at First Church of Christ,  
Scientist and virtual via  
Zoom <https://www.christiansciencemadison.com/wdop2023>

**World Day of Prayer** is a Church Women United service prepared by different organizations from around the world. This year's program comes from Taiwan, including music from their own women.

Come join your Madison sisters in a worship service that sings praise to the Lord, where love overflows, Jehovah's blessings abound, asks Lord, have mercy on us, and prays, O Lord, hear our prayer. We celebrate with women all over the world as we learn together to become good stewards of God's creation.

World Day of Prayer will be in person at First Church of Christ, Scientist and virtual via  
Zoom <https://www.christiansciencemadison.com/wdop2023>  
Attached is the program for the service.

Thank you  
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# Worship Service

**Leader 1:** Let us begin the 2023 World Day of Prayer worship service.

**Prelude:** "Give praise to the Lord"

(The five women walk toward the Taiwan map puzzle. One of them sings the hymn "Give praise to the Lord"; the other four women lead the congregation's response with the hymn "Give praise to the Lord." The five women put the puzzle pieces on the map.)

## Give Praise to the Lord

Arr. V. Crescenz

*Worship Leader*                      *Congregation*

(♩ = 92)

*Worship Leader*                      1                      2

Give praise to the Lord, we give praise to our God! Give praise to our God!

*All*

*Dm*                      *Dm*                      *Gm*                      *Dm*                      *Gm*

Bro - thers, Sis - ters, let us come, of - fer God our hearts and minds;

*Dm*                      *Dm*                      *Gm*                      *Dm*

Bro - thers, Sis - ters, raise our voice. Glo - ry to the One True God!

*Small "scoops" ~ or ~ indicate the voice should slide like a stringed instrument.*

Words and music by Mayaw Kumud Amis, 1990s.  
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**Leader 1:** “Pîng-an.” This phrase in Taiwanese means “May God grant you peace, a peaceful relationship with God and with one another.”

**Leader 2:** Welcome! On behalf of the sisters in Taiwan, we would like to welcome all of you to join us today in worship.

**Leader 1:** Dear sisters and brothers, through this celebration, we would like to share our experiences with you, and witness God’s wonderful grace and mighty works.

## Love Overflows

Sandy Yu  
arr. V. Crescenz

♩ = 115

G Bm

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 115. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into four systems, each with a key signature change indicated above the staff.

System 1: Key signature G. Chords: G, Bm. Lyrics: "Though there's sorrow and many tears, hands up, let faith arise."

System 2: Key signature C. Chords: C, Am, D. Lyrics: "let hope and courage be re-stored a gain. Let ev'ry spirit"

System 3: Key signature Am. Chords: Am, D7. Lyrics: "Lift your be-re-vised a-gain Love o-ver"

System 4: Key signature G. Chords: G, G7/F, C/E, G/D. Lyrics: "flows. and that love is the seed of hope in our hearts. The spir-it"

Words and music by Sandy Yu 2003 Stream of Praise Music CCLI Song #3978045.  
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16 *A m* *A* *D* *D7*  
flows, giv - ing life to your dreams. Love o - ver -

20 *G* *G7/F* *C/E* *Cm/Eb*  
flows, let your love be a warm and ten - der em - brace. His love will

24 *A m* *Cm/D* *G*  
show like the sun - shine up - on your face.

*After singing the song, share the peace of Christ with each other.*

**Call to Worship**

**Leader 1:** Praise to the Lord, we thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon Taiwan.

**Leader 2:** Praise God, the Creator, who created this beautiful island covered with mountain forests and nurtured by the ocean. Taiwan is rich in natural resources.

**All:** *Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.*

**Leader 1:** More than one hundred years ago, missionaries came to Taiwan to spread the good news. People heard the gospel and received the grace of salvation.

**All:** *Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.*

**Leader 2:** Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Taiwan has been colonized by different foreign forces; and experienced ethnic, cultural, social, political conflict and integration. By the Grace of God, the people on this island can live in peace. Taiwan shows great hospitality and is willing to help and become a blessing to others.

**All:** *Gracious God, we thank you and praise you. May your glory be with us.*

# Jehovah's Blessings Abound

Arr. V. Crescenz

(♩ = 68)

C Am Dm G C Am Dm G

One spar-roe in the air al-ways fly-ing free. Wild lil-ies of the field fra-grant ev'-ry Spring. For I

Am Em F C Em Am Dm G7

know Al-migh-ty God has gi-ven us this land. Ev'-ry rain-fall, ev'-ry sun-rise, ev'-ry har-vest from His

C C Em F G

Hand. God has bless-ings all a-round, as ma-n-y as the sand His fa-vor and love ne-ver

C C Em F G7 C

end. I will trust in Gos a-lone to lead us with His love. I will praise You, my God, for-ev-er-more.

Words by Jessica Lee, music by Sandy Yu.  
 1997 Stream of Paradise Music/CCLI Song #3518931.  
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## Prayer of Confession

**Reader 1:** Forgiving God, we confess our sins to you. We sin against you. We have failed to take care of the land you entrusted to us and have used it in unrighteous ways causing pollution and the extinction of various species.

**All:** *Oh Lord, have mercy on us.*

**Reader 2:** Gracious God, we are selfish and arrogant. We have overlooked human dignity; we ignore the needs of minorities, migrants, and immigrants. We hear the cries of the land, women, children, and young people, but we have not done enough to respond to the grace that we have received. These actions have caused some people to suffer and experience oppression.

**All:** *Oh Lord, have mercy on us.*

# Lord, Have Mercy On Us

Arr. V. Crescenz

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lord, Have Mercy On Us'. It is arranged in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and contains the melody with lyrics: 'Lord, have mer - cy on us, Christ, have mer - cy on us, Lord, have mer - cy on us.' The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with lyrics: 'Christ, have mer - cy on us, Lord, have mer - cy on us.' The music features a simple, melodic line with some grace notes and a steady bass accompaniment.

Saisiat melody, Taiwan. Transcribed and adapted by I-to Loh, 1984  
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## Assurance of Pardon

**Leader 1:** O God, you are faithful and righteous. May you forgive us, cleanse away our sins, and help us live in the light. May you provide us with a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know you and be filled with love and faith. May you reveal yourself to us so that we may know the immeasurable greatness of your power. Amen.

**All:** *Amen.*

# O Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Arr. V. Crescenz

(♩ = 60-65)

Dm Dm F/C C

O Lord, hear our prayer. O Lord, hear our prayer.

F B<sup>b</sup> C Am Dm

5  
Lord, hear our earnest cry. Grant us your peace.

The musical score is for a 4/4 piece in D minor. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system covers the first two lines of the lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. A fermata is placed over the final note of the second system.

Words: Tayal Hymn #288, para. 1-to Loh. Music: Yokay Watan, Tayal, Taiwan, 2017  
Composed especially for the 2023 WDP TAIWAN program, ©WDPIC. Used with permission.

## The Word of God and the Witness of Life

**Reader 1:** Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-19 (NRSV)

*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.*

**Meditation:** Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith. He prayed that they would receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation, and would “come to know [God]” through the light and inspiration of the Holy Spirit!

Often we are frustrated by difficulties and obstacles, and may even lose our hope and faith, or rely on our weak human nature. However, we are called to keep our “hope and faith” in God’s kingdom and promises. Through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we come to see the faithful, loving, and gracious God.

In the letter, the author shares their prayers to the saints trusting they would grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:18). Are we willing to respond to that love by living not for ourselves, but for God? The love of Christ is revealed through our actions, which will point to God’s glorious and abundant inheritance!

In the eyes of God, we are not pieces of confetti that go with the wind without a specific direction, but irreplaceable pieces of a puzzle. Despite our different social backgrounds, regional contexts, and diverse cultures, we come to unity in Jesus Christ.



*Silence for meditation.*

Leader 2: We have heard the stories of women and girls in Taiwan, and we are sending them a letter of encouragement.

Woman 1 : Dear Sister Pao-Chu,

Last time we met at the gathering I heard your stories about the urgency of protecting the environment. Your story of faith impacted me, and I have followed in your footsteps ever since. I have recycled resources, joined a beach cleaning, and sorted waste at home. I carry my own cutlery and cup to mitigate the plastic crisis. Most importantly, I teach our next generations to protect the environment. We hope that Taiwan can be a nuclear-free homeland in the future. Let us learn together to become good stewards of God's creation.

*(Silence)*

## I have heard about your faith...

Arr. V. Crescenz

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "I have heard a - bout your faith in the Lord Je - sus Christ, I have heard a - bout your love toward all the saints. I have not stopped giv - ing thanks for you, and re - mem - ber - ing you in my prayers." The score includes various chords such as Cm, G, G7, C, and Fm. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Words: Ephesians 1:15-16. Music: Lai, Yin-ting.  
Composed especially for the 2023 WDP TAIWAN program, ©WDPIC. Used with permission.

## Woman 2

Dear Sister Fen-Jiau,

I have heard of your faith. You, a middle-aged, indigenous woman, have become a wonderful blessing to women of a similar age. As a homemaker, for decades, you dedicated yourself to your family. When you tried to find a job to support your family, you were challenged at the workplace. You faced discrimination because of your age and felt pressured to accept social rules discriminating against women. You felt like you were neglecting your family, while taking care of your family was the reason you were looking for a job. Facing this dilemma, you trusted God's guidance and found a path supporting your family by teaching traditional weaving. Your creativity and strength thrived. Your testimony is a wonderful blessing that inspires many sisters. *(Silence)*

**Response hymn:** "I Have Heard About Your Faith"

## Woman 3:

Dear Sister Jojo,

When you were young, your father asked you to get a job rather than pursue your education. From his perspective, girls did not need an education, marriage was more important. However, you insisted on continuing your studies. You asked God to give you wisdom to have a conversation with your father to change his mind. You prayed that he would understand that daughters and sons have the same right to an education. Gradually, your father understood that girls are not inferior to boys. After graduation, you went to work. Your superiors looked down on educated, professional women. Again, you sought God's wisdom to resist the pressure and communicate with your superiors to measure the performance of women and men without gender bias. You realize it is a long path until gender discrimination is over; still, you do not give up and continue to try your best to show women and men have equal rights. *(Silence)*

**Response hymn:** "I Have Heard About Your Faith"

## Woman 4:

Dear Sister Pearl,

As a hospital cleaner on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic, you risked your life to clean and sanitize patient rooms in the hospital. You could not go home after work, for you did not want to risk infecting your three young children. Struggling on a meager income, you needed to rent a room to minimize contamination. During self-isolation, you could not take care of your family, making you frustrated and lonely. I am so impressed by the sacrifices you made and pray for you earnestly, hoping that the Lord of my life will also be your strength. *(Silence)*

**Response hymn:** "I Have Heard About Your Faith"

## Woman 5:

Dear Sister Daiken,

I constantly thank God for your recovery from the pain caused by the verbal and sexual abuse you suffered when you were little. The unendurable suffering led you to question yourself - *Do I deserve love?* When you were 14 a teacher came to your rescue. You found support from social workers and people who cared about you. Through them, you experienced God's love; you became a follower of Christ.

Despite suffering a painful past, you refused to be silent. You revealed your stories by writing and painting. You want to encourage women who have suffered mental and physical abuse to trust in Our Savior, to defy all negative labels, and create new images. Now you are a mother of two, and you have become a blessing to them and other people. *(Silence)*

**Response hymn: "I Have Heard About Your Faith"**

**Response Prayer: All:** Merciful God, we come to you in our prayers like the faithful women in the letters who told you of their struggles and hopes. They were not defeated by the difficulties, but empowered by your wisdom. We are not alone, for you are listening. We thank you for your presence, guidance, and protection as we walk through the valley of shadows. May we glorify you and become a living testimony of Christ.

*(Silence)*

**Response hymn: "I Have Heard About Your Faith"**

**Offering**

**Leader 2:** The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement led by women. The offering is part of our common vision to improve the lives of women and children around the world. We dedicate the offering to this ministry of prayerful action.

**The congregation stands and sings:**

## Offering to You

Ephesians 1: 15-16

Music by Lai, Yin-ting  
Arr. V. Crescenzo

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time, with a tempo of 86. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures with lyrics: "Thank you for your love and grace with all my heart and soul." The second system has five measures with lyrics: "I bring a simple offering, may it please you, Lord." The score includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Chord symbols G, C, Am, and D are placed above the first system, and G, C, Am, D7, and G are placed above the second system.

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## **Intercessory Prayer**

### **Leader 1:**

Merciful God, Taiwan is trapped in a superpower struggle. It has been isolated internationally for decades. Though not officially recognized by the international community, Taiwan has tried its best to help the world through agriculture, technology, medicine, and humanitarian assistance.

O Holy Spirit, may you grant people in Taiwan strength and wisdom to cope with an uncertain future. We trust in you for Taiwan to be a blessing in the world. Divine Consoler, you are the Lord of the world; we cling to you, we give ourselves and Taiwan to you, and ask you to watch over us in our weakness. You are our fortress and place of safety.

### **Leader 2:**

Dear God of Creation, we thank you for entrusting us with this amazing world rich in natural resources. However, we ignore the cry of Mother Earth, and we are facing ecological problems, such as air and water pollution, a waste disposal crisis, over-utilization of hillsides, habitat destruction, and climate change. God of life, may your kindness fill our hearts; guide us to protect Mother Earth.

### **Reader 1:**

Loving God, you created us in your own image and blessed us. You saw that it was good. We pray for women and girls who bring love and justice into the world. Holy Spirit, please give us the wisdom to fight for the marginalized and the oppressed, the poor and helpless; give us courage to speak up for them and inspire leaders to create a safe place for women and girls.

### **Reader 2:**

Gracious God, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a great challenge. We pray for the ones who lost their loved ones, and the ones who did not find relief for their suffering. There are so many victims of the pandemic. God, empower us to help and bring comfort in a post-COVID-19 pandemic world.

Gracious God, we thank you for your good guidance during the pandemic outbreak in 2020, when under severe circumstances, WDP Taiwan prepared this worship service we are celebrating now in 2023.

Caring God, we thank you for granting World Day of Prayer the grace to stay together in your presence and have faith in you.

We are grateful for the effort of WDP women in Taiwan to overcome their differences and seek unity and consensus through God's grace. O Lord, may you guide us toward the path of unity in Christ.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Sending and Benediction**

**ALL:** May God hear our stories and keep us in faith. May Jesus grant us wisdom to truly know the meaning of redemption. May the Holy Spirit open our hearts so that we can be a blessing to others. Amen!

**Closing Hymn:** "Christ, Our Lord, Your Yoke We Will Take."

# Christ, Our Lord, It's Your Yoke We Will Take

Arr. V. Crescenz

(♩ = 84)

G C G C G G C/G

Christ, our Lord, it's your yoke we will take. Thank - ful for Your  
 Christ, our Lord, our home - land You have giv'n. so we love this  
 Christ, our Lord, it's Your love that drives us on.. Make us dare to  
 Christ, our Lord, come and break our hard shells. Teach us how to

G G C/G G G C/G G G C/G G

love, for Your love, for Your love, for Your pow'r that  
 land, love this land, love this land, filled with jus - tice,  
 dream, dare to dream, dare to dream, dream of sow - ing  
 love, how to love, how to love. May all ra - ces

G C G C G G C/G G

in us a - bides. You we'll fol - low all our lives. For Your pow'r that  
 called to peace, pre - cious care it must re - ceive. Filled with jus - tice,  
 seeds a - round, they will sprout in fer - tile ground. Dream of sow - ing  
 find in You, u - ni - ty and love that's true. May all ra - ces

Words by Ong Cheng-bun, 2005. Music: Tsou's traditional melody, Taiwan.  
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G B7 Em C G C G

in us a - bides, You we'll fol low all our lives.  
 called to peace, pre cious care it must re ceive.  
 seeds a round, they will sprout in fer tile ground,  
 find in You, u ni ty and love that's true.



## Looking Ahead to World Day of Prayer 2024

### ***I Beg You . . . Bear with One Another in Love***

World Day of Prayer Palestine 2024

This worship service calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The liturgy was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7.

We reflected collectively on this theme from the context of our suffering as Palestinian Christian women. We hope to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times.

*Artist: Halima Aziz*