

Prayers from the worship for  
Canadian Delegate Assembly July 6-7, 2008  
Prepared by Lois Siemens

Opening worship, Monday afternoon

Please pray with me:

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you,  
O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

OUR God, who gives life with open hand and heart.

It is you, the Living God, that we seek this afternoon.

We are like Bartimaeus, sitting at the roadside  
and when we hear that it is Jesus we cry out:

Congr. Sung Refrain:

“Jesus, Son of David,  
Have mercy on me...”

We have arrived in this place a little confused, arriving with our  
hearts and minds full of many things, wondering when will Jesus  
walk by, and when he does, what will we shout? How will we get  
his attention? How will we name our fears and hopes, our  
darkness and faith?

Congr. Sung Refrain:

“Jesus, Son of David,  
Have mercy on me...”

So for this moment O God we can only open our hands,  
and open our hearts, and open our voices,  
and declare with the psalmist that all our longing is known to  
you, our sighing is not hidden from you. (Psalm 38:9)

We acknowledge that we long for healing,  
for light and love;

for wholeness to come from brokenness;  
for justice and peace.

We acknowledge that we long for good and productive  
conversation at these meetings,  
for a growing together in unity so with one strong heart we may  
join your healing work in our hurting world with all the wonderful  
and diverse gifts you have given us.

Congr. Sung Refrain

“Jesus, Son of David,

Have mercy on me..."

Living God, be present with us as we confess we cannot heal ourselves or the world, we cannot save it from destruction with our understanding or power. Forgive our arrogance and self-sufficiency. Teach us to lean, not on our own understanding, but on your grace, on your mercy and on your deep and faithful covenant love. In the strong name of Jesus we pray, amen.

Congr. Sung refrain  
"Jesus, Son of David,  
Have mercy on me..."

## Monday Evening

Leader: To you who are tired in body or soul

Sung Refrain – *all sing*:

Take heart, get up, He is calling you

Leader: To you who feel excluded and alone

Refrain: Take heart, get up, He is calling you

Leader: To you whose passion for Jesus  
grows day by day

Refrain: Take heart, get up, He is calling you

Leader: To you who have felt called,  
but the church has not acknowledged it

Refrain: Take heart, get up, He is calling you

Leader: To you who search for wholeness

Refrain : Take heart, get up, He is calling you

Take heart, get up, He is calling you

## Tuesday morning

This prayer has three hand actions.

I invite you to imagine that you hold the contents of your prayer. At particular points in the prayer we will CUP our hands to hold different ways we might answer this question, what do you want me to do?

we will LIFT it into God's light

And RELEASE it into God's love and mercy as Bartimaeus threw off his cloak

God of creation wholeness

We sit at the roadside this morning grateful for the many ways you have passed by us yesterday and this morning. We have heard you in the music and prayers, we have heard you in the questions we've discussed and the wisdom of our peers. You are present and you love us. As we come toward you longing for your voice and touch we become aware that what you want us to do is confess our failing.

We confess we have been blinded by many things:

sometimes we are blinded by the fantasies of our own greatness as James and John were

We are blinded by our fear of failure which often comes out as a desire and drive to be right. We are blinded by our desire to impress with great knowledge or self-sacrifice that undermines the balance of loving the Lord, our neighbor and ourselves.

We are blinded by the values and glitz of the world and we confess that it has taken us off our course, and shifted our gaze from Jesus.

Forgiving God, as we CUP OUR HANDS and hold in them all the failure as individuals and as a group we become aware that we want us to believe in your forgiveness.

We LIFT UP the cup of our confession into God's faithful cleansing light

(pause)

we OPEN OUR HANDS AND RELEASE this failure into God's abundant mercy.

Strengthening God

What you want us to do is pray for others. Let your spirit who helps us pray join with our spirits now

as we CUP our hands and hold in them our pastoral leaders, and those who work for peace in your Name around the world. May we be

granted the wisdom of Moses, the passion of Miriam, the excitement of Bartimaeus who followed Jesus on the way.

We LIFT ourselves and each other to you Lord, into the light of your truth.

We RELEASE our lives and those who work for peace to your Spirit's continuing activity.

Merciful God

What you want us to do is lift up those who are suffering. We CUP OUR HANDS and hold in them our loved ones and others that come to mind who are in pain both mental and physical, who are struggling with difficult decisions, for those who are grieving or afraid.

We hold them in our hands and LIFT them into the healing light of Jesus who stopped and healed Bartimaeus  
And we RELEASE them into your faithful love.

As we continue through this day of conversation and discernment  
We pray that we would pray with boldness and cry out all that we need for you to do. We trust that you will answer us according to our need.

With thankfulness and in the strong name of Jesus we pray, amen.

NOTE:

This action of cupping hands, lifting, releasing, comes out of the book: *Praying with Body and Soul*: Jane Vennard. Other books that inspired prayer images and words are: *Awed to Heaven, rooted in Earth*. Walter Brueggemann; *In Wisdom's Path*. Jan Richardson. *Celebrating Women*, eds Hannah Ward, Jennifer Wild Janet Morley; *All Desires Known*. Janet Morley.

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