Participants:

Message: Mark

Prayer: Mark

Liturgist: Gera

Pianist: Pearl

**KINGDOM | *CULTURE*: WORK MATTERS*-* Our Busyness, God’s Business**

**WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP**

**Welcome**

**God’s Greeting**

**All: Amen**

**Song: Come, Just as You Are to Worship, LU 526**

**Come, now is the time to worship;**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship;**

**Come, just as you are before your God. Come.**

**One day every once will confess you are God.**

**One day every knee will bow,**

**Still the greatest treasure remains**

**For those you gladly choose you now.**

**Come, now is the time to worship;**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship;**

**Come, just as you are before your God. Come. Come.**

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**Call to Worship**

Come all who are weary

of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

Come all who are heavy-laden

with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

Come all who have hope

for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom.

Hear these words:

“My kingdom come on earth as in heaven—See, I am making all things new**.”**

*~ adapted from I Am Making All Things New, written by Rosie Venner***.**

**Song: Lord of All Hopefulness, LU 378: 1, 2**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:

be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,

whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:

be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,

your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

*Text: 'Lord of all hopefulness' by Jan Struther, 1901-1953; fr. Enlarged Songs of Praise, 1931. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Music: Trad. Irish melody; adapt. fr. The Church Hymnary, 1927 Used by permission of OneLicence # A-734795*

**Opening Prayer**

Worker God,

whose hands built the earth,

molded our bodies,

and sowed the stars across the sky,

we gather in your presence this morning

with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds.

Meet us, wherever we are, Worker God;

strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you

in the building of a world filled with justice and peace. Amen

**Song: Father, Help Your People, PsH 607: 1, 2 (tune LU 220)**

**Father, help your people in this world to build**

**something of your kingdom and to do your will.**

**Lead us to discover partnerships in love;**

**bless our ways of sharing, and our pride remove.**

**Lord of desk and altar, bind our lives in one,**

**That in work and worship love may set the tone.**

**Give us grace to listen, clarity of speech;**

**make us truly thankful for the gifts of each.**

*Contributors: Fred Kaan*

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**WE CONFESS OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS**

**Prayer of Confession**

We are workers, God, just like you.

But we confess that our actions

do not always affirm and honor each other.

Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you.

We confess that, on some occasions,

we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little

or work in unsafe conditions.

We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system

in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits

while others may have no job,

or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

Creator God,

help us to be your people,

working for a world where all workers are valued.

A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.

A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill.

And one where those who serve and care for others –

in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places –are, themselves, also served and cared for.

A world where all workers everywhere

share in the abundance that you have given us**.**

**Words of Assurance**

Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength

to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace,

as well as in our daily lives**.**

*~ written by Edie Rasell*

**Song: As Stewards of a Vineyard, PsH 611: 1, 2**

**As stewards of vineyard**

**and keepers of the land,**

**We wish to serve our Maker**

**and follow his command:**

**to ever love our neighbor**

**and justice to maintain.**

**If in the Lord we labor,**

**our work is not in vain.**

**We search in new directions**

**for justice and for peace,**

**rejoicing in out labors:**

**God’s blessings will not cease.**

**We wish to heal what’s broken:**

**we seek to ease the pain.**

**If in the Lord we labor,**

**our work is not in vain.**

Text: Frank De Vries, 1970. *©* 1970, Christian Labor Association of Canada

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD ABOUT DAILY BREAD**

**Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:9-15**

**The God-Given Task**

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

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**Prayers of the People**

**Concluded with “Our Father” LU 914**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,

and forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil,

for the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Forever. Amen.

*Words: Matthew 6:9-13, traditional, Swee Hong Lim © 2010 Swee Hong Lim, admin.*

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**OUR WORSHIP ENDS WITH BLESSING AND SONG**

**God Blesses Us**

**All: Alleluia! Amen**

**Song: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, LU 876: 1, 2**

God, whose giving knows no ending,

from your rich and endless store:

nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom,

costly cross, grave’s shattered door;

gifted by you, we turn to you,

offering up ourselves in praise;

thankful songs shall rise forever,

gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing

toward the goals of Christ, your Son:

all at peace in health and freedom,

races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,

lest we strive for self alone;

born with talents, make us servants

fit to answer at your throne.

*Robert L. Edwards Text: © 1961, Ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Company*

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