

# **CWM SUNDAY 2023**

## **Break Down the Walls of Division**

**16 JULY 2023**





# General Secretary's Message FOR CWM SUNDAY 2023

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Every year, the global CWM community commemorates CWM Sunday, on a Sunday close to July 18. This day marks the inauguration of the Council for World Mission (CWM) with its renewed missional ethos based on partnership. The Council was an attempt to de-colonising the former ways of doing mission, equalising the participation of all the members, and ensuring a mutual sharing of people, knowledge, and resources in God's mission. Although the history of the CWM goes back to 1795 with its roots in the London Missionary Society (LMS), we commemorate the day of CWM's rebirth on 18 July 1977, beginning a new era of CWM mission. When the members stood at the communion table in City Temple in London and said, "We have agreed to participate in this new Council and commit ourselves to the work together," they promised to share their resources of money, people, skills, and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally.

From then, every year, we commemorate the CWM Sunday celebrating the restructured CWM as a community of churches in mission where equal partners empower one another as authentic, creative, and interdependent missional churches. This year, we celebrate the 46th Anniversary with the Theme: "Break down the Walls of Division."

In the midst of a deeply divided world, the theme is a missional calling that we need to set our differences aside, overcome the enmities, destroy the hostilities, and "rise to life" together against the systems and structures that destroy peace and life in our communities. The vision of Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:14, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility," is that God called us as a new reconciled humanity. We are called to be the community of peace and reconciliation, healing the wounds and transcending the earthly barriers of hostilities and divisions. The power of love, reconciliation, and unity in Christ can overcome hatred and division.

Like every year, this year also, we would like to assist the member churches with the liturgy prepared by our management team and other relevant material to celebrate the CWM Sunday. We welcome you to translate this short liturgy into your languages and use it for the glory of God.

May you be richly blessed as you celebrate together the CWM Sunday.

**Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum**  
**General Secretary of CWM**





# **CWM Sunday 16th July 2023**

## **BREAK DOWN THE WALLS OF DIVISION**

Ephesians 2:14

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### **GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE**

*Leader: Introduction to CWM Sunday*

It is right that we give thanks to God for our personal salvation and also for what God is doing in the world. CWM Sunday is an opportunity for us to pray for the world God loves. God's love gave us all the gift of Jesus Christ and God's love continues to give the gift of all those who follow Christ to serve in Christ's mission.

Take a moment to give thanks - not just for yourselves, but for the miracles God works every day through the hands and feet of the CWM Member Churches around the world.

**CWM Sunday - VIDEO CLIP - Greeting** (<https://youtu.be/Yz8Sp-VOD64>)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, People of God, why have you come together today?

**We come, seeking the Way of Jesus Christ!**

Jesus Christ calls you to follow Him, to find the Way for a flourishing life.

**Yet, the Way is not easy. We stumble and fall.**

So, get up and come together, encouraging one another on the journey,

Let us sing with people from around the world:

### **CWM HYMN UNDIVIDED**

*(Tune: Cwm Rhondda OR Regent's Square)*

© *Amelia Kok-Butler*

Down they fall - no walls divide us

Love must now replace all hate

Teach us wisdom to revive us

Give us hands to re-create

God of all, our hearts adore you

Open wide your heaven's gate



## **CWM HYMN UNDIVIDED (continued)**

Break the chains of past oppression  
Let us claim our liberty  
Cast out greed and self-obsession  
Sharing life o'er land and sea  
God of all, our voices praise you  
Worship now the One-in-Three

Take the hand of friend and neighbour  
Share a meal and pass the plate  
Do the work to share God's favour  
Learn God's ways and stimulate  
Flourish then in life abundant  
Heaven's foretaste will not wait

## **MEDITATION IN THE CONTEXT OF MISSION**

Voice 1      They walk past me.  
                  They avoid me. Stepping around me, averting their eyes.  
                  I am the invisible poor and lonely and unloved.

Voice 2      They do not respond.  
                  I call out, asking for just a meal or even an acknowledgement.  
                  They listen to their pods, blocking out my hopelessness.

Voice 3      My voice is weak. My words are disjointed.  
                  I long for the chorus of encouragement and comfort.  
                  I long for the songs of lament I cannot even sing.

## **ACT OF CONFESSION**

*We place our hands over our eyes.*  
Forgive our blindness to the needs of the world.

*We place our hands over our ears.*  
Forgive our deafness to the voices of the oppressed.

*We place our hands over our mouths.*  
Forgive our silence in the face of suffering.  
Holy God, you see our faults and failings,  
Forgive us we pray. Restore us, so we may rise to life to serve you all our days.



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Apostle Paul said, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.” [Romans 8:1-2]

People of God, you are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING [Two voices]

- Voice 1      We TELL of the glory of God!  
Thanks for the Gospel and the passion to share it around the world -  
the people who make the sacrifice to make Christ known...
- Voice 2      Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for good news shared by  
missionaries past and present, especially the Partners in Mission,  
and the relationships grown between churches and communities.  
Thank you for their service and commitment.
- Voice 1      We TEACH and develop disciples to follow the Way of Christ!  
Thanks for teachers and learners, mentors and places of nurture -  
the knowledge of your ways that lead to Life and flourishing...
- Voice 2      Jesus the teacher, we thank you for giving us models of nurture and  
learning. We give thanks for those who taught us and those whose  
commitment to others around the world have led to schools,  
colleges, universities and libraries. We thank you for the many  
scholars and programmes of learning and growth (DARE, TIM,  
Face2Face, A New Face). Thank you for the spiritual gift of Wisdom.
- Voice 1      Healing God, we thank you for your mission to TEND to the needs  
of the world.
- Voice 2      We give thanks for those who hear the cries of the needy and do  
something about it. We are thankful for our nurses and health  
workers, for technicians and helpers, for those who comfort in  
times of crisis. We give thanks for the Gifts of Grace that enabled  
churches to provide comfort during the worst of the pandemic.



- Voice 1      Messiah - Our Lord - thank you for challenging the unrighteous and giving voice to the poor and oppressed. Thank you for showing us the way of repentance.
- Voice 2      We thank you, God, for the prophetic voices and people of action who work to TRANSFORM the unjust structures of the societies we live in. We thank you for the vision of the Kingdom of Heaven that shows us a better way for the economy of life. We thank you for those who work for justice and wellbeing in your name.
- Voice 1      Creator of All we hon our you and give you thanks for the works of your mighty hand.
- Voice 2      We give thanks for day and night, for light and dark, for earth and water, for creatures of the sea and air. We give you thanks for our very lives. We thank you for CWM actions to care for your creations - for the planting of coral and mangrove, for reforestation and improvements in land management, for the day-to-day acts of creation care taken by our member churches.

**Voices 1&2 Thanks and praise to God! Amen**

## **BIBLE READINGS**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  
Ephesians 2:11-22



## HYMN: WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR

© Sydney Bertram Carter

1. When I Needed A Neighbour  
Were You There, Were You There?  
When I Needed A Neighbour  
Were You There?  
And The Creed And The Colour  
And The Name Won't Matter  
Were You There?
2. I Was Hungry And Thirsty  
Were You There, Were You There?  
I Was Hungry And Thirsty  
Were You There?  
And The Creed And The Colour  
And The Name Won't Matter  
Were You There?
3. I Was Cold, I Was Naked  
Were You There, Were You There?  
I Was Cold, I Was Naked  
Were You There?  
And The Creed And The Colour  
And The Name Won't Matter  
Were You There?
4. When I Needed A Shelter  
Were You There, Were You There?  
When I Needed A Shelter  
Were You There?  
And The Creed And The Colour  
And The Name Won't Matter  
Were You There?
5. When I Needed A Healer  
Were You There, Were You  
There?  
When I Needed A Healer  
Were You There?  
And The Creed And The Colour  
And The Name Won't Matter  
Were You There?
6. Wherever You Travel  
I'll Be There, I'll Be There.  
Wherever You Travel  
I'll Be There.  
And The Creed And The Colour  
And The Name Won't Matter  
I'll Be There



## **SERMON: BREAK DOWN THE WALLS OF DIVISION**

*PSALM An Affirmation of Praise and Commitment [Ps.119:105-112]*

Now I know your word is a lamp for my steps, for the path just ahead of me.  
I resolve and swear to keep your ordinances of justice.  
I have suffered much, YHWH—give me life as you have promised.  
Please accept my heartfelt praises, YHWH, and teach me your decrees.  
Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I never forgot your Law.  
The corrupt laid their traps for me, but I haven't strayed from your precepts.  
Your decrees are all the inheritance I'll ever want—they're the joy of my heart.  
I set my heart to keep your statutes, forever and to the letter. [The Inclusive Bible]

## **CWM SUNDAY - AGAPE HOSPITAL - VIDEO CLIP**

(<https://tinyurl.com/yvtv5n2a>)

## **OFFERING**

*[including special collection for Myanmar]*



## HYMN: BEAUTY FOR BROKENNESS

© Graham Kendrick

1. Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in Your suffering world  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
Your kingdom increase!

2. Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen,  
trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

3. Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
His cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned –  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.

*God of the poor . . .*

5. Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until Your justice  
burns brightly again;  
until the nations  
learn of Your ways,  
seek Your salvation  
and bring You their praise.

*God of the poor . . .*



## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

- Voice 1      O God, who sees all, bless these gifts of money  
and use them in your mission among those at the margins.
- Voice 2      O God, who hears every word of prayer, take our time and health  
and use us to be signs of your Gospel in the world.
- Voice 3      O God, who gives us breath, give us prophetic voices  
so that we might speak your comfort and words of healing.  
And so we pray...

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray first for the plans for the Agape Hospital in Myanmar,  
for the architects and construction workers, for the project managers,  
and those who run clinics, patiently waiting the building of the new facility.  
In all places of hardship, where people have experienced the breakdown of social  
systems and economic challenges.

We pray for healthcare workers, who have been exhausted  
from the ravages of COVID and from the impacts of tensions and conflicts.  
We pray for those who educate and their students.  
We pray for those who sow the seeds of learning and ask for good soil,  
so that flourishing may take place.

We pray for those who struggle with anxiety and depression,  
which acts like thorns to choke off life – bless the needy with signs of hope,  
so they may rejoice in faith.

We pray for evangelists, who share good news in dark places.  
May they be contagious in their love, spreading peace wherever they go.

We pray for your beautiful creation,  
broken and hurting from depletion of resources and impacts of greed.  
Heal your oceans and countries, by the breath of your Spirit, we pray.  
Amen



## HYMN: HERE I AM, LORD

© Dan Schutte

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart*

2. I, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

3. I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them  
They turn away

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

4. I will break their hearts of stone  
Give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my words to them  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

5. I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save  
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

6. Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

## WORD OF MISSION AND BLESSING (based on Acts 10-11)

May the God of all creation pour out the Holy Spirit upon you,  
So that you may glorify God and rejoice.  
Remember your baptism and the blessings  
you have received from God – Creator, Redeemer and Spirit.  
Show no partiality, but share the good news with everyone you encounter.  
be God's missionary people in this world that God loves.

May the blessing of God be upon you!  
**May we go to bless all the world. Amen!**



# Agape Hospital Project

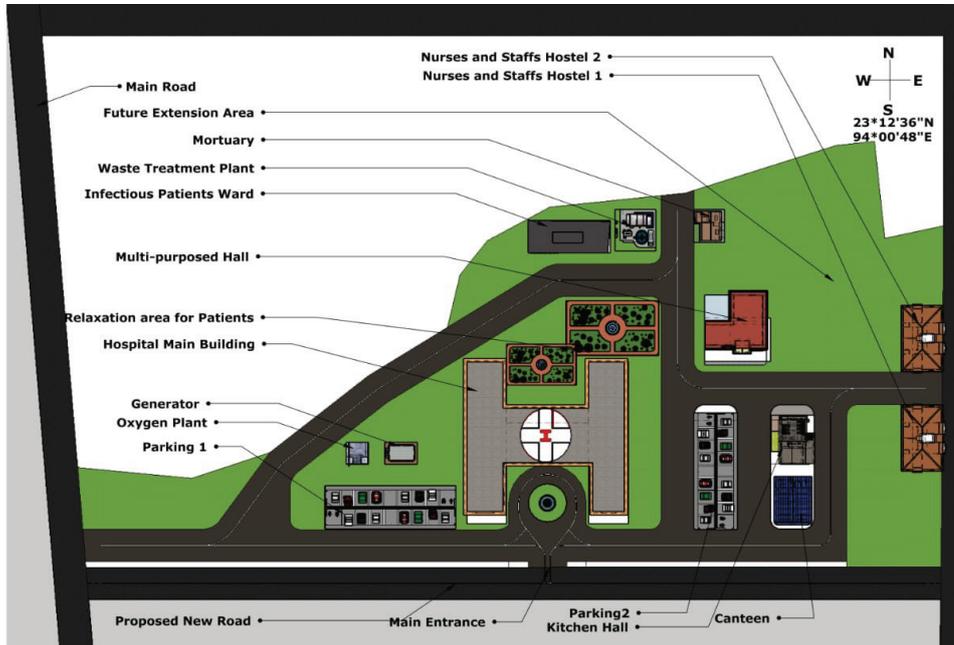


As we celebrate CWM Sunday, we plan to send the offerings collected from all the CWM communities to the PCM for its Agape Hospital Project.

Established by the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar (PCM), Agape Hospital's mission is to provide basic healthcare and make health services more accessible to the community in Chin State, which is under-served by medical facilities. On top of mobile clinics, it also provides scholarships to produce quality medical personnel. To date, over 10,000 out-patients, and over 1,000 inpatients have received healthcare from May to August this year, and it is now in need of a relocation due to the growing number of patients and lack of infrastructure for providing medical care to the patients.

This long-awaited project of PCM involves a 6-acre plot at the Children Development Centre compound allocated by the PCM General Assembly, and the re-location is necessary as the hospital faces space constraints at its current location. In addition, further development and upgrading of hospital staff through degree courses and internships is necessary, as well as the acquiring of new medical and hospital equipment. The construction of the new hospital will also require layout planning, blueprinting, and funding.

# Agape Hospital Relocation Layout



As we celebrate CWM Sunday, we plan to send the offerings collected from all the CWM communities to the PCM for its Agape Hospital Project. We would like to invite all the member churches to unite and join hands in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Myanmar.

## CWM bank account details for CWM Sunday (Agape Hospital Project)

Beneficiary Name	Council for World Mission Ltd
<b>Beneficiary Account Number (MULTICURR)</b>	<b>0728755261</b>
Name of Beneficiary Bank	DBS Bank
Address of Beneficiary Bank	12 Marina Boulevard, DBS Asia Central, Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3, Singapore 018982
Country	Singapore
SWIFT Address/Code	DBSSSGSG



**Council for World Mission Ltd**  
 114 Lavender Street, #12-01 CT Hub 2, Singapore 338729  
 Phone: +65 6887 3400 Fax: +65 6235 7760 [www.cwmmission.org](http://www.cwmmission.org)









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