

**WORSHIP ORDER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2010**  
*We are created in God's Image*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Sisters and brothers;  
We are gathered here to celebrate the presence  
of the Divine Wisdom among us;  
Let us arise and lift up our hearts;  
lift up our eyes and ;  
lift up our voices  
The living and moving spirit of God  
has called us together in witness, in struggle and in celebration  
let's open our hearts and minds as we reach out towards each other,  
as God reaches out toward us.

**ALL: God incarnate come to us now  
Empower us to liberate, ourselves  
To journey from bondage to freedom  
From discrimination to equality  
From darkness to light  
From falsehood to truth  
From death to life  
God the energizing spirit  
Come bind us together  
In solidarity and love  
In hope and faith  
Prod us into action God  
To be energizers in this world  
So that your reign encompasses  
The whole wide world**

**L:** Come, let us worship the Redeemer God, for we are God's people  
called to be God's fellow workers for the redemption of the whole  
Creation.

**\* HYMN/SONG**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**L:** Dear sisters and brothers  
Consciously and unconsciously  
we have committed sins  
If we say, "we have no sin",  
We are deceiving ourselves,  
And the truth has no place in us  
If we acknowledge our sins,  
God is trustworthy and upright,  
God will forgive our sins,  
And will cleanse us from all evil.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL: Our parent God;  
In your image we have been created, male and female;  
But we have not always seen ourselves and each other as  
created in your image;  
You blessed us and bestowed us responsibility  
to be the co creator of your creation;  
But we failed to work as partners and have treated one  
another as less than who you created us to be;  
We have allowed discrimination, violence and injustice  
against women, your creation;  
We remained silent and did not speak up for the suffering  
women who cannot speak for themselves;  
We confess that we have sinned against you in thoughts,  
words and deeds, and have failed to build an inclusive  
community where everyone can experience life in abundance;  
God we seek your forgiveness for what we have done to each  
other; help us to uphold the women who are invisible,  
silenced, and forgotten;  
Transform us to restore and reconcile our relationships to  
ourselves to each other and with you so that they reflect your  
love, peace and justice.  
Amen**

**ALL RESPOND** “Kyrie Eleison” (Lord, have mercy)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

**\* HYMN / SONG**

**BIBLE READING:** Genesis 1:26, 27 &31

**REFLECTION/ MEDITATION**

**\* HYMN/SONG**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**ALL: I believe in God  
who created woman and man  
in God's own image  
who created the world  
and gave both sexes  
the care of the earth.**

**I believe in Jesus  
who discussed theology  
with a woman at a well  
and first confided in her  
his messiahship  
who motivated her to go and tell  
her great news to the city.**

**I believe in Jesus who received anointing  
from a woman at Simon's house  
who rebuked the men guests who scorned her  
I believe in Jesus  
who said this woman will be remembered  
for what she did -  
minister to Jesus.**

**I believe in Jesus who appeared  
first to Mary Magdalene  
who sent her with the bursting message  
GO AND TELL...**

**I believe in the wholeness  
of the Savior  
in whom there is neither  
Jew nor Greek  
slave nor free  
male nor female  
for we are all one  
in salvation.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit  
the woman spirit of God  
who like a hen  
created us  
and gave us birth  
and covers us  
with her wings.**

*(Excerpt from the book "Jesus and the Freed Woman"  
By Rachel Conrad Wahlberg)*

**INTERCESSION**

*(During the intercessory prayers please remember the women in  
your country experiencing violence and pray for a violence-free  
environment within our homes, churches and society)*

## ALL RESPOND

The king-dom of God is jus-tice and peace and joy in the Ho-ly Spi-rit.

Come, Lord, and o-pen in us the gates of your king-dom. The

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains the lyrics 'The king-dom of God is jus-tice and peace and joy in the Ho-ly Spi-rit.' The second system contains the lyrics 'Come, Lord, and o-pen in us the gates of your king-dom. The'. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

## \* SIGN OF PEACE

After listening to the whole truth from the suffering woman, Jesus said unto her, “Daughter, your faith has made you whole; go in PEACE and be freed from your suffering.” (Mark 5:34)

*Share this sign of peace and reconciliation with each other by tying the white ribbon to the person next to you as a symbolic action to say NO to violence against women and a sign to demonstrate our solidarity to end all forms of discrimination against women.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Parent God who is within us,  
We celebrate your many names.  
Your wisdom come,  
Your will be done  
Unfolding from the depths within us.  
Each day you give us all that we need.  
You remind us of our limits,  
And we let go.

You support us in our power,  
And we act with courage,  
For you are the dwelling place within us,  
The empowerment around us,  
And the celebration among us,  
Now and forever. Amen. (Source: ELCA)

## \*CLOSING SONG SCM Solidarity Song

The song we sing not for ourselves  
For those who are oppressed and chained  
Build up a new society;  
Let's share and feel with them

*Come SCM's unite be one,  
Pull out injustice from this world,  
Live with people, build together,  
One day we'll reach a new just world*

The way we work not for ourselves,  
For those who are oppressed and poor,  
Suffer with them and let us know;  
That our struggle will win

The life we owe not for ourselves  
Women and men work hand in hand  
The unity will triumph;  
We share the vision and hope.

## World Student Christian Federation – AP Region Worship Order for the International Women’s Day March 2010



*SCM Women in the WDT workshop 2009*

*(WSCF affirms and advocates gender justice within the Federation, Church and Society. It has been always an endeavor of WSCF to create an inclusive community where every one can experience a dignified life in abundance)*

### **Background of the International Women’s Day**

International Women’s Day (8th March) is an occasion marked by women’s groups around the world. This is a day of hope, a day of courage, of celebration for women who fought for equality, justice, peace and development. International Women’s Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries –old struggle for women to participate in society on an equal footing with men calling for “liberty, equality, fraternity”.

*Here are some of the landmarks that led to the evolving of March 8, as the International Women’s Day:*

**March the 8th, 1857:** That was the day when one of the first organized actions by working women anywhere in the world took place, where hundreds of women garment and textile workers went on strike in New York City protesting against low wages, long working hours and inhumane working conditions. The event ended in violent struggles with police.

**1908: On 8 March,** 15,000 women marched through New York city demanding shorter hours, better pay, voting rights and an end to child labour. They adopted the slogan “Bread and roses” with bread symbolizing economic security and roses a better quality of life.

**1910:** Clara Zetkin, a German Socialist, proposed that an International Women’s Day be observed to mark the strike of garment workers in the USA. The proposal was accepted by the Women’s Socialist International, but no specific day was fixed.

**1911: On 25th March** more than 140 working girls mostly Italian and Jewish immigrants died in the tragic Triangle fire accident, an event that had a far-reaching effect on labour legislation in the USA.

**1917:** Russian women called for a strike on 23 February for “bread and peace”, protesting against poor living conditions and food shortages. This date, the last Sunday of the month according to the Julian calendar then in use in Russia fell on **8 March** on the Georgian calendar, widely used in most European countries.

**1975:** the United Nations began celebrating **8th March as International Women’s Day**. In adopting its resolution on the observance of Women’s Day, the General Assembly of the United Nations cited two reasons:

- a. To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom require the active participation, equality and development of women.
- b. To acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.