

**WORSHIP ORDER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY, 8TH 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.**

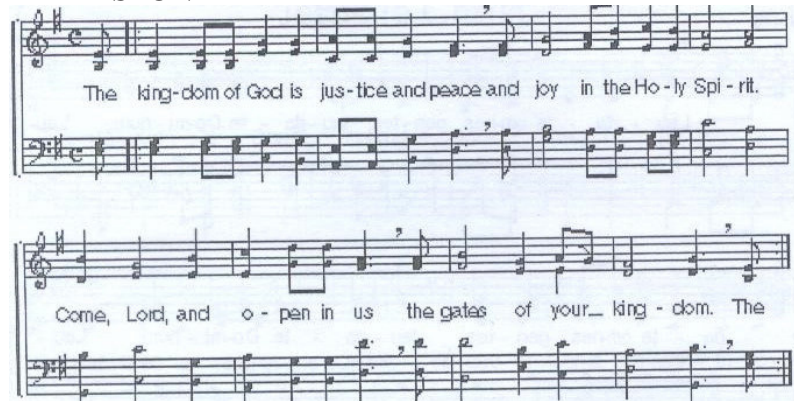
**I believe in the Holy Spirit
the woman spirit of God
who like a hen
created us
and gave us birth
and covers us
with her wings.**

*(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

* 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.

