

A banquet for all

Living God,
We believe in a world made new,
Where mourning is turned into dancing,
And slaves are set free.

We believe in a world where all are heard
And rivers flow where each may drink,
A world where
The harvest becomes
A banquet for all.

God of all creation,
You have blessed us
With a world of beauty.
You have gifted us a place of plenty
Where no one stands outside
Your loving care.

Open our hearts and
Teach us your compassion.
Open our minds and
Grant us the courage
To stay true to your will.

Give us the strength
To cast off the shackles
that bind us
To wealth and possessions.

Guide us as we work for your kingdom,
Lead us and move us
to become a people
Clothed with joy.

Linda Jones/CAFOD

A creed of liberation

We believe in God, who created us free and walks with us in the struggle for liberation.

We believe in Christ, crucified again in the suffering of the poor, a suffering, which calls out to the conscience of people and nations, a suffering, which ends in resurrection.

We believe in the power of the Spirit, capable of inspiring the same compassion, which has led our best brothers and sisters to martyrdom.

We believe in the Church, called forth by Jesus and by the Holy Spirit

We believe that when we gather, Jesus is with us, Mary our Mother is at our side, a sign of faithfulness to the Lord

We believe in the Christian community where we proclaim our ideals, through which we practise our Christian faith.

We believe in building a Church where we pray and reflect on our reality, and share in the prophetic, priestly and pastoral mission of Jesus. In this way we make the Kingdom of God present on earth

We believe in unity in the midst of differences.

We believe that Christ calls us to communion and to live as sisters and brothers.

We believe that we need to love one another, to correct one another compassionately, to forgive each other's errors and weaknesses.

We believe that we need to help one another to recognise our limitations, to support each other in the faith.

We believe that the poor, the illiterate and the sick, the persecuted and tortured, are closest to the Gospel of Jesus. Through them, Christ challenges us to work for justice and peace. Their cause is our cause.

We believe that Christ is also present in those who are slaves to their passions, to vices, lies and injustice, to power and money.

We commit ourselves to never give up hope in the possibility of their conversion; to love them even though they slander, persecute and kill us; to pray for them and to help them so that one day they may live simply and humbly in the way that the Gospel calls all of us to live.

Amen

Community of Zacamil, El Salvador/CAFOD

A healing touch

Who touched me? Somebody touched me
With the needs, the dreams and the hopes of the world
Who touched me? Somebody touched me

And I turned and saw the people
And I turned and listened to their story

Who touched me? Somebody touched me
And I turned and saw two worlds where God created one
And the gates of the rich were closed
And I dreamed of the world you created
A garden with plenty for everyone
With a stream of clean flowing water
For all to drink

And I believe in life
I believe in hope
I believe in a future
where there is one world
we build together.

Who touched me? Somebody touched me
And I pray
Stay with us, Lord, as we work for a better world.

Linda Jones/CAFOD

Enfold us in your love

God of all ages and peoples,
God of all time and beyond time,
Hear our prayers.

Forgive us, O most loving Creator,
For turning out your voice
As it weaves its sparkling poetry
through the fabric of our life on earth.

Forgive us the evil we have wrought, the corrosion
We have brought
to the intricate and awesome sculpturing
Of your creation.

Enfold us in your love as a mother embraces her child.
Sing to us gently as a father murmurs a lullaby.
You know our every deed, each inclination of our hearts.

Hear our prayers.

Filipino prayer adapted from Celebrating One World, CAFOD/HarperCollins, 1998

Realising our tomorrow

God of peace,
Where there was only fear,
Today we hope

Where once our children suffered,
Now they laugh

Where all the land was empty,
Now the rice grows tall

And people who were scattered
Build their homes

Together in your love
We will realise our tomorrow

In place of cries of war, we
Sing your praise

In farms, in fields and cities
We will celebrate your justice

Raise our voice against oppression,
Reap a harvest full of hope.

Linda Jones/CAFOD