

■ Prayers for Liberation and Justice

For all the times I have moved against your will;
For all the ways I have been destructive;
For all the people I have manipulated;
For all the truth I have denied;
For all the deeds I have done in ignorance;
That which I have done that has harmed others,
Thereby harming myself,
These acts and thoughts I confess before God.
I acknowledge and I am sorry.
I pray for the strength to change those actions, thoughts
and words so that I can follow your path more faithfully.
God have mercy, Christ have mercy, God have mercy.

(Occasions of Prayer – Lisa Withrow)

The following are from: Celebrate Life: 24th General Council World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Accra, 2004

Blessing

O Lord Christ, who became poor that we might be rich,
Deliver us from a comfortable conscience if we believe or intend that others should be poor that we might be rich; for in God's economy,
No one is expendable;
Grant us instead that we may be rich in love.
In the name of the trinity of love, we pray. Amen.

Confession

Follow each petition with: **We come with penitent hearts to ask for your forgiveness.**

Lord, we and our sisters and brothers throughout the world have sinned against you and have harmed our fellow human beings.

We have disrespected and mishandled creation, the work of your hands.

Our love for material things has carried us away from your love and as a result we have not loved our neighbors.

We have adulterated our faith with wrong values and have not worshipped you in spirit and in truth.

Lord forgive us and lead us to genuine repentance

God love you and have mercy upon you; through the cross of Christ, pardon you and set you free. God forgives you; forgive others. Forgive yourself; in the name of the Source, the Word, and the Spirit. Amen.

The Creed

We believe in Jesus Christ
 Our Savior and liberator,
 The expression of God's redeeming and restoring love,
 The mark of humanness,
 Source of courage, power, and love,
 God of God,
 Light of light
 Ground of our humanity

We believe that God resides in slums,
 Lives in homes and hearts that are hurting,
 Suffers with us in our loneliness,
 rejection and powerlessness.

But through death and resurrection
 God gives life, pride, and dignity,
 Provides the content of our vision,
 Offers the context of our struggle
 Promises liberation
 to the oppressor and the oppressed
 Hope to those in despair,
 Vision to the blind.

We believe in the activity of the Holy Spirit
 Who revives our decaying souls,
 Resurrects our defeated spirits,
 Renews our hope of wholeness and reminds us of our responsibility
 To usher in God's new order here and now. Amen.