



***“The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed...”***

***Mark 4***

*Artist: Jean-François Millet (1814–1875) - Title: The Sower - Date: 1850  
Basis of a painting by Van Gogh, on the same theme, in 1889.*



**Hyattstown-Clarksburg United Methodist Parish**  
**Pastor: Dave Hodsdon , [revdwhodsdon@verizon.net](mailto:revdwhodsdon@verizon.net)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPzJQEVdc60apduOgx0Jm3Q>

**Clarksburg United Methodist Church**  
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>  
<https://clarksburgmdumc.org/>  
23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland  
CUMC Accompanist: Rick Beede  
CUMC Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

**Hyattstown United Methodist Church**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Hyattstown-United-Methodist-Church-146846181999711/>  
26121 Frederick Rd, Clarksburg, Maryland  
HUMC Accompanist: Tim Bossler

### On YouTube this Week

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY5iZ1NS28HTiZRfyrzqqmMD8rlcivF1>

Several Hymn Videos, including those from last week.

Lectionary / Scripture Lessons for the week.

Weekly Announcements

Sunday Worship 2 - Responding to the Word - 9:30 am

Also Links to "Anthem" selection suggestion from Cathy.

All Previous Videos remain available for viewing, in other play lists.



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**JUNE 13, 2021**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP I**

**9:00AM**

***SMALL GROUP / IN HOME - PRAYERS & PRAISE***

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### PREFACE

*not all was shared previously.*

*While we are working toward being able to gather again in our facilities and even for the weeks beyond, we will continue to offer faith support materials in this way, to facilitate **small group** worship. We see **small groups** ("in home gatherings") both as a stepping stone toward eventually regathering as a larger group, and as a means to support faith both for those not yet comfortable with larger gatherings, and for those who have not yet joined, or cannot join yet with us in our facilities. Therefore, our YouTube presence will continue, though somewhat modified in format.*



*So, I hope you have gathered, and will continue to gather, **at home**, with a few friends, this week and for the next several weeks. Prayerfully gather, and begin at your agreed upon time. The liturgy offered here is not to constrain your small group experience, but to facilitate it. Use it, adapt it, modify it as works best for you.*

***In your group, delegate the various liturgy parts to the various participants, as they are comfortable.***

***Start with some prelude music to set the atmosphere.*** You may have cds or mp3s you would like to use. Or maybe someone in your group is a musician and can provide some prelude music. Either are GREAT options. But, if not, you will find some possibilities linked in our current week playlist. There are over 60 other hymns that have been placed in playlists "**Hymns for Worship**", and "**Hymns by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**". So there are a number of alternatives for you to use beyond the suggestions you will find here. There is also an anthem suggestion from Cathy, which may be used when you wish. You may already have listened to it, and may wish to listen again. Or maybe listen the first time this morning, or even later... your choice. The first part of the liturgy will probably last less than 30 minutes. Anything uncompleted may be returned to after the second part, again as you see fit. Even though you will see me managing graphics, etc, I will be on in "live-stream" format at 9:30, rather than a pre-recorded video. At 11:00 we will gather via Zoom.

*I will be praying for each and all of you as you gather for the first part of the liturgy. Estimating participation during the pandemic continues to be strictly a guess. You can help by letting me know the real numbers from your groups.*

*As mentioned previously we do have a "Re-Entering Well Task Force" working on the preparations which will allow us to meet together again in our facilities, and we will keep you posted on the progress.*

***~Pastor Dave***

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**JUNE 13, 2021**

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## PRELUDE

*Select some prelude music to set the atmosphere for your group.  
As mentioned above, you have options.*

## OPENING WORDS

*At your starting time greet one another in the name of Christ.*

*Perhaps In Unison: **May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us,  
and with the rest of our church family, this very day.***

*Do Not Be Afraid*

*(Based on Mark 4:25-31)*

*via GBoD*

*Junius Dotson, The Africana Worship Book, For Year B,  
Valerie Bridgeman Davis, PhD and Safiyah Fosua, eds., (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 33  
adapted.*

*(W=Women, M=Men, A=All)*

*W* You who are weary  
*M* Sleepless  
*W* Tired  
*M* Depressed  
*W* Discouraged

**A - Do not be afraid!**

*M* You who are fed up  
*W* Hopeless  
*M* Vision-less  
*W* Fearful  
*M* Tearful

**A - Do not be afraid!**

**A - God is present in our suffering.**

**A - God will calm the winds and waves of our souls!**

## PRAY TOGETHER,

*or have one person offer prayer for the group  
using these or other words.*

*JG-PO*

**Loving God, we come today  
yearning for that which is trustworthy.  
We come as those needing to be surprised  
by your unexpected answers.  
We come remembering how you, O Lord,  
work through things we dismiss and overlook.  
Grant us new eyes to see your works, Gracious God,  
And new hearts to love the world as you love us.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*(W=Women, M=Men, A=All)*

*FotW*

**M** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praise to God Most High;  
to declare God's steadfast love in the morning  
and God's faithfulness at nighttime.  
**W** Those who are planted in the house of the Lord flourish;  
no matter their age, they bear fruit  
and remain lush and fresh, proclaiming:  
**A** The Lord is righteous! God is my rock!

## HYMN

Use one of the hymns in the playlist, or another, (cd/mp3/ etc) if that appeals to you.  
Perhaps We Gather Together, or maybe He Leadeth Me

## CALL TO CONFESSION

(assigned part)

2 Cor. 5:17 - FotW

When we gather to worship God,  
we remember that we are God's people,  
but we have often preferred our way instead of God's.  
Trusting God's power to make us new persons in Christ,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

unison

via GBoD

(inspired by Mark 4:26-34, Matthew 13:31-32) Written by Moira Laidlaw,  
and posted on Liturgies Online, <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au>.

Re-posted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/05/prayer-of-confession-mark-4-26-34.html>.

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
we remember with gratitude those people  
who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.**

*Pause for a time of reflection*

**Above all. we recognize how you have blessed our lives  
with the gift of the Holy Spirit  
so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.  
We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves  
in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others;  
the times when our personal agendas  
become more important than yours;  
the times when we have denied others  
the opportunity to expand their faith  
through our lack of interest or involvement;  
the times when our lives  
become so entangled with the values of the world  
that we forget what you have said  
and done  
and promised.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we know that  
when we become disconnected from you,  
our lives becomes parched and unfruitful  
and our faith becomes stunted and dry.**

**Bless and renew our lives, we pray,  
so that we remain connected to you  
at all times and in all places,  
strengthening our faith  
to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously,  
to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. Amen.**

*<silent prayers>*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(assigned parts)

2 Cor. 5 - FotW

*We who walk by faith and not by sight  
believe the good news—*

**If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:**

*Everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!*

**Praise be to God for the mercy and grace  
that forgives our sins. Alleluia. Amen!**

## **HYMN** (Optional)

*Use one of the hymns in the playlist, or another, (cd/mp3/ etc) if that appeals to you.  
perhaps O Come and Dwell in Me, or perhaps Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.  
OR... There is an 60's Gospel Song, a performance of which is linked in the playlist.  
You might enjoy it: We've Come This Far by Faith*

## INTERCESSIONS

(assigned parts)

FotW & JG/PO (adapted and supplemented)

*Using these words or others, pray as a group  
for the needs of friends, family, the church, our community, and the larger world.  
This is an aid to worship. Spontaneous prayers are a good way to pray as well!  
One approach may be to assign each area of prayer to a different participant.*

*God of all times, places and peoples,  
we came today so full of concerns, confessions, hopes, dreams and questions.  
You are a God who hears all prayers and  
You are also a God who invites our prayers and petitions.  
So we lift up the prayers you already know are on our hearts,  
the concerns you know that keep us up at night,  
the worries and anxieties that ground us in our need for you.*

***We pray for the international community ...***

*We pray for a wayward world that loves violence  
and abides inequality that breaks your heart;  
We pray for peace.*

*[silence] Specific Concerns may be named... such as Palestine... etc*

*Eternal God, you sent us a Savior, Jesus Christ,  
to break down the walls of hostility that divide us.  
Send peace to the places where greed, pride, and anger  
turn nation against nation, race against race, church against church.*

*[silence] Specific Concerns may be named... such as race relations, election concerns,  
the events of Jan 6, voter suppression efforts, progress in vaccination, ... etc*

*Mighty God, sovereign over all, give the leaders  
of the church and of nations the vision of your kingdom,  
that they may lead us with justice and goodwill.*

**We pray for the Body of Christ, the Church...**

*We pray for our parish as we begin our work to re-enter well.  
Guide those working behind the scenes to make the needed preparations.  
Grant all in the parish willing spirits, so that we may work together  
to keep the most vulnerable as safe as we can.  
Continue to guide our bishops and cabinets, and the annual conferences  
in the work they are doing on behalf of our denomination.  
Other specific Concerns may be named... such as New Appointments ...  
things that have been in the news, etc*

**We pray for those in our congregation and families ...**

*those who wait for news of a diagnosis, ...  
those who are living with health challenges, ...  
those who care for the sick and dying. ...  
We pray for anyone living with depression,  
chronic pain, or long-term illness,  
seeking for your healing and tender care.  
We pray for those who have lost employment or  
the opportunity to be engaged with others in meaningful service,  
we pray for new opportunities to spring up.  
May each of these feel your Spirit surround, embrace and encourage them.  
Other specific Concerns may be named... special needs of which you are aware...*

**We pray for the natural world ...**

*[silence] Specific Concerns may be named, such as the rainforests,  
species in danger of extinction, or specific environment pollution concerns...  
God of creation, you made all things in your wisdom and love.  
Grant us all a reverence for the earth  
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others  
and to your honor and glory.*

**We pray for those who are suffering, where-ever they may be ...**

*[silence] Specific Concerns may be named...  
Merciful God, you bear the pain of the world.  
Look with compassion on those who are sick.  
Stand with those who sorrow.  
Show them hope by your Word;  
bring healing as a sign of your grace.*

**We pray for ourselves, as the hands and feet of Christ ...**

*[silence]  
God of love, we pray that you will give us good growth in our discipleship to you  
so that we may be faithful ambassadors of Christ,  
sharing his love and working for the reconciliation of the world.  
Bless us and those we love, our friends and families,  
so that by drawing close to you we may be drawn closer to each other.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
we now pray the words Jesus taught us:*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**UNISON**

***Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.***

**ANTHEM** *Optional - this time or another - as your situation permits*

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee,*

*The anthem this week, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" has always been a special song to our family. This beautiful rendition of this song brings the message to us through the special music and scenery. If we let our dear Lord Jesus walk close with us, our burdens and troubled days will be lightened, and tomorrow we will be stronger and the sun will shine again. Blessings to all, Cathy and Clark*

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***ADDITIONAL WORSHIP RESOURCES - TIME/SITUATION PERMITTING***

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**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

*Listen to the Scripture video, in the playlist,  
or have members of the group read them for the group... translations of your choosing.*

*Ezekiel 17:22–24 or 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13*

*2 Corinthians 5:6–10*

*Psalms 92*

*or*

*Psalms 20*

*Mark 4:26–34*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*If there is one, listen to the Announcements video.  
In your group, take note of any other announcements that also should be shared  
and inform the pastor as soon as may be practical. (Zoom, Email, Text, Phone...)*

**HYMN**

*Use one of the hymns in the playlist,  
such as perhaps Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart, or Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

*or use another, (cd/mp3/ etc) if that appeals to you.*

***Get some coffee or other refreshments, as time and opportunity present.***

*Remember that, while for vaccinated individuals the CDC says we can do this again,  
that does not mean we should or must.*

*Handle this sensitively and wisely within your particular group.*

***Then, at 9:30 - Start the YouTube - Live Stream***

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**JUNE 13, 2021**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP II**

**9:30AM**

***LIVE-STREAM - RESPONDING TO THE WORD***

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**INTERLUDE/PRELUDE**

***Bringing in the Sheaves***

Dean McIntyre - <http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/CH165.mp3>

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Mark 4:27, 31-32; Ezek. 17:22-24b*

*FotW*

*Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:*

**The kingdom of God is growing.**

*While we sleep and rise night and day:*

**The kingdom of God is growing.**

*The low are brought high; the high are brought low:*

**The kingdom of God is growing,**

**its large branches are home to all kinds of people!**

**PRAYER**

*(UNISON)*

*FotW*

**God, you are the gardener of all creation.**

**You planted this world with the seeds of your love  
and grow them with your faithfulness.**

**We are your harvest;**

**we find our meaning and sustenance in you.**

**May our minds listen to you calling,**

**may our hearts be attuned to your will,**

**may our feet follow you in the world,**

**through Jesus, the Word become flesh. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**MARK 4:26-34**

**PRAYER**

*FotW*

**Holy Spirit, by your mysterious power**

**speak to us your truth and show us your wisdom,**

**that we may know you more deeply**

**and serve you more faithfully,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SERMON**

**Sovereign God,  
Quiet all the voices within our heads, hearts and spirits.  
Open our ears that we may receive your truth  
above the din of the world.  
And open us anew to how you work  
through the smallest, least likely things, even us,  
to advance your kingdom on earth. Amen.**

**HYMN OF AFFIRMATION**

*(UNISON) Alternate tune NETTLETON, 400.mp3  
Using the familiar Hymn Tune "CONVERSE"  
Rick-Hymnal 526-rick-20Jun14.mp4*

*Tune Title: CONVERSE (Converse)  
Composer: Charles C. Converse (1868)  
Meter: 8.7.8.7 D - Key: F Major  
Copyright: Public Domain*

**1 He that goeth forth with weeping,  
Sowing precious seed in love,  
Never tiring, never sleeping,  
Findeth blessing from above.  
Soft descend the dews of heaven,  
Bright the rays celestial shine;  
Precious fruits will thus be given  
Through an influence all divine.**

**2 Sow thy seed, be never weary,  
Let no fears thy soul annoy;  
Be the prospect ne'er so dreary,  
Thou shalt reap the fruits in joy.  
God but uses thee as sower,  
Puts the seed into thy hand;  
Sow thou then, let Him be Mower,  
Till thou reap in fatherland**

*Text Information  
First Line: He that goeth forth with weeping  
Author: Thomas Hastings, Mus. Doc. (1836)  
Meter: 8s. 7s.  
Publication Date: 1908 (Public Domain)*

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*FOTW (ALT)*

*God has provided us with all that we need.*

*It is our privilege to give back to God.*

*We give thanks in word and song to God, because of all that God has done.*

*We enact our thanksgiving through our tithes and offerings,  
in support of the ministries of the church.*

*We enact our thanksgiving in word and deed throughout the week,  
as good stewards, seeking to bring grace to all we may meet  
through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.*

*May we give joyfully, and may God put to good use all we give.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Unison)*

*(Mark 4:26-34)*

*via GBoD*

**Lord of all bounty and blessing,**

**the gifts we offer to you are like seeds.**

**Some will take root nearby, and**

**we will see them grow and bear fruit.**

**Some will be carried far beyond where we can see,**

**and we have faith that they will find good soil and thrive.**

**We thank you for the privilege of being called to sow.**

**Bless with the joy of good fruit**

**the seed we will see and the seed we will never see.**

**We pray this in the loving name of Jesus,**

**gardener and savior. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Re-entering Well Task Force announcement**

**Psalm Study**

**Zoom Fellowship at 11am**

**Time off ...**

**Others**

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

x

JG-PO (alt)

Now go forth into the coming week,  
knowing that God sees within you  
the promise of the boy-king David  
and the potential of the mustard seed.  
And hear these words from the Apostle Paul  
to the new Christians at Philippi:  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.  
Do not worry about anything, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

Share the peace of Christ with one another  
and I hope to see you in Zoom

## POSTLUDE

### Jesus Loves Me

191

*Rick-Hymnal 191-21Mar14-no lyrics-Jazz Improv.mp4*

*If you have not already had opportunity,  
you may wish to view the other materials uploaded for today  
The other scripture lessons (we only used one of them in this worship segment)  
There may be an announcements video  
Other Music Videos, including the link for one recommended by Cathy,  
and one Gospel Song that I am recommending.*

## Zoom Fellowship at 11am

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### Credits

**Art:** Van Gogh, and Millet images

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including all related and neighboring rights. ~**Wikimedia, in loc.***

**via GBoD**

*<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>  
Discipleship Ministries offers, weekly, liturgy resources, hymn suggestions  
and other helps for worship planners.*

**JG/PO**

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Liturgy written by John Cleghorn, pastor of Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina,  
and provided for free distribution.  
For more resources, visit [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org).*

**FotW**

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# *Reflecting on and Praying with the Lectionary*

## *Week of June 13, 2021*

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### **LECTIONARY**

Ezekiel 17:22–24  
Psalm 92

or 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13  
or Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6–10  
Mark 4:26–34

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

The passage from 2 Corinthians urges us to be reconciled, to engage in the ministry of reconciliation, and to be ambassadors for Christ.

How can you join in a ministry of reconciliation as an ambassador of Christ?

How can you practice walking by faith and not by sight?

### **MORNING PRAYERS:**

New every morning are your mercies, Lord.

And new also is this day, full of promise and possibility.

Give me eyes to see your new creation that is already coming into being,  
even as I come and go among familiar places.

I pray that you will help me to see others not from a human point of view,  
but to see them through your eyes of love, grace, and second chances.

I will try to walk by faith and not by sight alone.

And I will look for ways that I can be a part of Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The sunlight greets me in morning,

reminding me that I begin this day in your presence.

The air I breathe instructs me that I live by your constant love.

Lord, I acknowledge you are my God!

I will seek your face in those I meet

and make my aim to please and serve you alone, Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

### **EVENING PRAYERS:**

Gracious God, with the psalmist I say: It is good to declare

your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.

For all the ways you loved me through the day that is past, I give you thanks.

For your faithful watching over me tonight, I also give thanks.

Like a bird asleep in its nest, secure on a sturdy branch,

I—and all the world—rest in your wide embrace.

Despite all evidence to the contrary, headlined in the news of this day,

I trust that your kingdom is growing;

that all of us are becoming a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The numerous stars shine the wonder of God whose grace is beyond measure;

whisper to me your abundant grace, which sustains me.

As I lay down my head, I recall Jesus saying that the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

I imagine Jesus being with those who look for a place to lay their heads.

O God, I ask for your mercy and pray for the day when we all can sleep in shalom,

trusting in your mysterious work through Jesus Christ, the Savior for all. Amen.

# **The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

## **Botswana, Zimbabwe**

**13-19 June 2021**

More may be found here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>

### **Give thanks for:**

- ✓ *the prophetic witness of churches to protest injustices and advocate good governance*
- ✓ *efforts that have been made to stem the spread of HIV and AIDS and to treat those affected*
- ✓ *economic progress that improves the lives of all*
- ✓ *the iconic animals and minerals in these lands and measures to protect them from being exploited.*

### **Pray for:**

- ✓ *fair election of democratic governments to counter instability, violence and human rights abuses*
- ✓ *stable economies that enable all people to prosper and live in justice and peace*
- ✓ *effective measures to improve the health and life expectancy of all*
- ✓ *the biodiversity and animals present in these lands, and measures to preserve them*
- ✓ *the herders and farmers who continue to raise cattle and food, despite droughts and desertification.*

### **Prayers**

*By Rev. Cheryl Dibeela, Gaborone, Botswana.*

*Africa Praying: A Handbook on HIV/AIDS Sensitive Sermon Guidelines and Liturgy, ed. Musa W. Dube, WCC, 2003, pp.57, 175, 187-88.*

#### **Prayer from Botswana**

Dear God, our builder,  
you have all the building materials needed to construct our societies.  
You have all the strength to put wisdom on all that has fallen apart in our lives.  
You have the wisdom to reshape our world.  
Inspire us with all your wisdom, strength and love,  
to rebuild the broken walls in our community.

*By Rev. Farai Chirisa, Zimbabwe. [www.ctal.org.uk/zimbabwe.htm](http://www.ctal.org.uk/zimbabwe.htm)*

#### **Prayer from Zimbabwe**

Lord God,  
we give you thanks for sending your only Son to give us life.  
In the midst of wealth we are crushed by poverty,  
and while we are offered Christ-life in all its fullness,  
we are surrounded by disease, death and destruction.  
We are tempted to despair, and yet keep hoping,  
knowing that you care.  
At times we weep silent tears, and cry out with deep emotion.  
We come to you, our only hope and refuge.  
Thank you for the gift of laughter,  
even when the going is tough.  
With you, O Lord, we may be troubled but not destroyed.

Leader: Loving Father, on this day we remember Botswana and Zimbabwe.  
Grant that your love that endures forever will strengthen and encourage  
all the churches and peoples in your beautiful lands. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Jehovah-Jireh, you know the needs of your children, even before they plead their case.  
We pray for all who toil in the fields – the farmers, the mothers, the old and young.  
Grant that their crops and livestock find nourishment. Where hunger and misery stalks families,  
may your children not want but find fulfillment. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy Father, we pray for the leaders of Botswana and Zimbabwe.  
In their service to your people, may they be anointed with courage, integrity  
and wisdom to strive for welfare and prosperity for all, not just a few.  
As they lead the whole community of Southern African states, may all their plans  
and actions help bring enduring transformation for the entire region. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure,  
making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean,  
enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
Gracious God, we pray that your statutes and your judgments be established.  
We pray for healing and justice where there has been conflict and pain.  
Grant your holy protection to the prisoner, the widow and the orphan. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Faithful God, the same yesterday, today and forever,  
we pray especially for the women and girls of Botswana and Zimbabwe.  
As they rise with the morning African sun in villages and towns  
as care-givers, providers and workers, bless them;  
as they teach and learn, guide them;  
as they walk, drive and fly to find sustenance for their families, protect them. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Almighty God, we commit all creatures, large and small, into your hands.  
After you saw the work of your hands, you called it good.  
Let it be so forever, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN**