

OPENING WORSHIP

Ann: Welcome! Welcome! Welcome to the Opening Service of the 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Choir: "Let us build a house" © 1994 Martie Haugen; GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Entry of Bible and World Banner; Candle is lit: *during the choir's singing of verse 1.*

ALL: *(Stand)*

2. **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace:
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***
3. **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***
4. **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***
5. **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and voices heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.***

Entry of Area Banners – *during the singing of verses 2 – 5.*

Ann: Federation women from the West Africa Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We are here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the East & Southern Africa Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We too are here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We're here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the Europe: Continental Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We're also here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the South Asia Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We are here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the East Asia Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We too are here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the South Pacific Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We're here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the Latin America Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We're also here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

Ann: Federation women from the North America Area, please stand.
Why are you here?

Response:

We are here to bring the light of Christ from our nations to share with other Federation women.

(Area members sit). Area President lights candle.

ALL STAND

World Federation's Prayer

**Creator God, rooted in your loving care
nurtured through your Son Jesus,
challenged by your Holy Spirit
we are in this world to bring peace with justice,
reconciliation in love, and hope for all people.
May our lives extend as the branches of our Tree of Life,
bearing fruit of Unity and Love.
We offer praise and thanksgiving
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

The Federation Song

**"To know Christ and to make him known":
this we believe and shall proclaim.
We are Federation women here,
all daughters in God's family.**

**From high mountains and oceans wide
we'll praise our one Creator God.
We will sing our song of liberty,
we'll sing our song of unity.**

**To love Christ and to spread his love:
this we believe and shall proclaim.
We are Federation women here
from scattered isles and mighty plains.**

**East and west, from north and south,
we'll praise our one redeemer Lord.
We will sing our song of love and hope,
we'll sing our song of peace and joy.**

Welcome & Introductions

Mayor of Houston – *invited to speak*

Bishop of Texas Conference of United Methodist Church

Former Bishop – Bishop Huey – *invited to speak*
 Congresswoman – Sheila Jackson Lee
 Gillian Kingston – WMC Vice President
 Bishop Mildred B. Hines
 Bishop Paulo Lockmann – WMC President
 AME Bishop Vashti Murphy
 Other denominational Heads of Churches
 National Council of Negro Women CEO/President Ingrid Saunders Jones
 YWCA
 Church Women United
 Governor’s Office
 Local Area Committee – stand
 Helen Kim Scholars (on stage) – stand as name and area is announced
 Ushers / Police

President’s Report for 2011 – 2016

Song

<i>Photos</i>	2012	<i>February</i>	<i>Lake Junaluska</i>	
		<i>April</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>Put up fees; learnt of \$100M investment</i>
			<i>UN Geneva</i>	
		<i>November</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Bank visits; 4 USA Churches; MCCAs</i>
	2013		<i>UMW PAG</i>	
			<i>Rio</i>	
			<i>Banjul</i>	
			<i>Santiago</i>	
			<i>WMC London</i>	
	2014		<i>Singapore</i>	
			<i>Rome x 2</i>	
			<i>Melbourne</i>	
			<i>Brisbane</i>	
			<i>Atlanta</i>	
			<i>Cape Town</i>	
	2015		<i>Planning for Assembly</i>	
			<i>Solomon Islands</i>	
			<i>Belize</i>	
			<i>Antigua</i>	
			<i>Houston</i>	
	<i>Difficulties</i>		<i>No money</i>	
			<i>Missing Money</i>	
	<i>Joys</i>		<i>Communications better: website; Tree of Life</i>	
			<i>UN involvement</i>	

Hymn: “We have a gospel to proclaim” *Public domain*

**1. We have a gospel to proclaim,
 good news for all throughout the earth;**

**the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem –
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**3. Tell of his death at Calvary:
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the cross,
for all he loved his life he gave.**

**4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**

**5. Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends His Spirit on His Church
to live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**6. Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

Choir: "Praise we now the word of grace" *Public Domain*

Praise we now the word of grace;
may our hearts its truth embrace:
from its pages may we hear
Christ our teacher, speaking clear.

May the gospel of the Lord
everywhere be spread abroad,
that the world around may own
Christ as King, and Christ alone.

The Good News: 1 Peter 2: 4-10 Good News Translation

Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by people as worthless but chosen by God as valuable. Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. For the scripture says:

"I chose a valuable stone,
which I am placing as the cornerstone in Zion;
and whoever believes in him will never be disappointed."

7This stone is of great value for you that believe; but for those who do not believe:

"The stone which the builders rejected as worthless
turned out to be the most important of all."

8And another scripture says:

"This is the stone that will make people stumble,
the rock that will make them fall."

They stumbled because they did not believe in the word; such was God's will for them.

But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvellous light.

At one time you were not God's people, but now you are his people; at one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received his mercy.

[verses 9 & 10 repeated in: French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Korean, Tamil, Samoan]

Well I Declare!

Launch of New Theme



Ann

Choir: "Who will speak?" © 1993 Martie Haugen, GIA Publications, Inc.

Who will speak for the poor and the broken?
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?
Who will speak so that voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless?
Speak the truth in the places of power?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak for the children of violence?
Who will speak for the women abused?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak for the shunned and outcasts?
Who will speak for all people with AIDS?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will work for the thousands of homeless?
Who will work in the ghettos and streets?
Who will work so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will work if you don't?

Who will work if you don't?
Who will work if you don't?
Who will work so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will work if you don't?

Who will care for the plants and the creatures?
Who will care for the land and sea?
Who will work so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will work if you don't?

Offering (Video)

Dedication

Hymn: "Beauty for Brokenness" © 1993 Graham Kendrick, Make Way Music

**1. Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
this is our prayer,
bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
your kingdom increase.**

We pray for those who believe they are lesser human beings because of the way others treat them;



*those trafficked for sex;
those violated in their own homes;
those sold into slavery.*



**2. Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsman,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak;
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.**

We pray for those living all around us who are in a bad way;



*those who cannot be sure where they will sleep tonight;
those suffering from physical and mental illness;
those feeling betrayed by family and friends.*



**3. Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share,
peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.**

We pray for those forced from their homelands for a variety of reasons;



those fleeing violence, terrorism or warfare;
those persecuted because of their clan, race, religion or political views;
those seeking a more stable and prosperous future for their children.



**4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
Carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.**

We pray for the victims of the developed world's – and the developing world's – disrespect for Creation;



*those whose island nations are disappearing under rising sea levels;
for those whose lands are polluted by fumes, toxic waste and smog;
those suffering from extreme weather conditions caused by climate change.*



**5. Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice
burns brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.**

We pray for those without peace or security in their lives because of the power of others;



*those whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed by bombs;
those who have no say in their country;
those who mourn the deaths of family and friends in senseless killings.*



***God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.***



Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn: "Christ be our Light" © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.
3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
*Shine in your church gathered today.***

**5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
*Shine in your church gathered today.***

Benediction