Offering
L: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8) We commit ourselves to acts of justice.
(At this point the ushers collect the second card and bring them forward to be put at the foot of the cross.)

L: Gracious God, you have shown us your compassion and care for all creation. Your love inspires us to offer these commitments to act justly by loving others wholeheartedly regardless of their cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Accept now our offerings and transform them into action for the unity of your church. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, who live with you as one God forever and ever.
A: Amen.

Sharing Peace
(The leader invites the assembly to exchange a sign of peace, so that together we can proclaim our faith.)

The Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of the People
L: Let us raise to the Lord our common prayer for the Church and for the needs of all humanity.

Reader 1: From the islands and the oceans, we worship you, O God, the Creator of life. Throughout the mountains and the valleys, we praise you, O God, the Savior of the world. With the tongues of all nations, we thank you, O God, the Comforter of bodies and souls. We come before you bearing our burdens and hopes. Today we ask you:
A: O God, hear our prayer and grant us your love.

Reader 2: We pray for those who live in the midst of injustice. Encourage us to lift up their voices and strengthen their hope. We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice. May your kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace. We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice. Let us act justly according to your words. Today we ask you:
A: O God, hear our prayer and grant us your justice.

Reader 1: We pray for the visible unity of the Church. Lead us to fulfill Jesus’ prayer that we may be one and work together to manifest your Kingdom. Today we ask you:
A: O God, hear our prayer and grant us passion for unity.

Reader 2: We thank you for the many colors, cultures, and customs that we share in this world. In our differences, unite us by your love. Enable us to act together to uphold life and to make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity. Today we ask you:
A: O God, hear our prayer and grant us your peace.

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn/Song

Dismissal
L: As you leave this gathering you will be given one of the commitment cards. We invite you to pray for the commitment written on the card.

Blessing
L: May God embrace you with love and make kindness flow out from you. May God ignite courage within you and transform you into agents of his justice and peace. May God grant you humility and give you perseverance to nurture unity.
A: Amen!

(As the congregants leave, the ministers distribute the commitment cards)
An Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019
Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue (Deuteronomy 16:20)

“L” refers to the leader(s) of worship and is chosen from those churches present at worship.
“A” refers to the assembly gathered for worship.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

OPENING
L: Let us worship the Triune God.
A: We come to worship you.
L: Jesus Christ, your cross brings new life and justice.
A: We come to worship you.
L: Holy Spirit, you inspire our hearts to act justly.
A: We come to worship you.
L: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A: And also with you.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS
L: As Christians from separated communities, we gather here to pray for unity. This year, the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity chosen by the churches in Indonesia is “Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue.” (Deuteronomy 16:20) This theme is imperative due to the recurring situations that bring divisions and conflicts. As we pray together, we are reminded that our calling as members of the body of Christ is to pursue and embody justice. Our unity in Christ empowers us to take part in the wider struggle for justice and to promote the dignity of life.

HYMN OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE
L: Beloved sisters and brothers let us confess before the Lord that we have sinned and ask for forgiveness so that our worship will be pleasing to God.

READER 1: Compassionate God, you have chosen us to shepherd your flock. Jesus, your Son, taught us to act justly. We are aware that in our ministry, we sometimes behave unjustly towards the people whom you have entrusted to us by: prioritizing those who are close to us or those who have higher social status; ignoring strangers, the poor and the least in society; fearing to defend the oppressed; misusing church resources. These deeds have caused some people to turn away from your church.
L: Lord, have mercy.
A: Lord, have mercy.

READER 2: Loving God, you have gathered us as members of your flock. Jesus, your Son, taught us to love one another as a sign of being his disciples. We confess that we have failed to live his commandment of love by: regarding those of other churches as rivals; being hostile to each other and slow to forgive; focusing only on our personal interest; ignoring the needs of sisters and brothers; excluding those who do not share our point of view. In these ways, our attitudes strengthen the dividing walls between us.
L: Lord, have mercy.
A: Lord, have mercy.

READER 1: Gracious God, You have commissioned us to make our common home a place of justice for all. In your generous love, you send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous and, in Jesus, teach us to love without discrimination. We confess that we have failed to follow this teaching by: disrespecting our neighbors; spreading falsehoods through various social media; participating in the disruption of social harmony. Our conduct risks making the world a barren field that no longer brings forth your justice for all of creation.
L: Lord, have mercy.
A: Lord, have mercy.

L: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and lead us to eternal life.
A: Amen.

HYMN/SONG/MENTATIVE MUSIC

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 16:11-20
RESPONSORIAL: PSALM: 82:1-8 (read or sung)
RESPONSE: RISE UP, O GOD, JUDGE THE EARTH.
God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?"
RESPONSE: RISE UP, O GOD, JUDGE THE EARTH.
Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
RESPONSE: RISE UP, O GOD, JUDGE THE EARTH.
They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
RESPONSE: RISE UP, O GOD, JUDGE THE EARTH.
I say, "You are God's, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince." Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!
RESPONSE: RISE UP, O GOD, JUDGE THE EARTH.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-13

ALLELUIA

GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:14-21

SERMON

COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER
L: To make concrete our individual commitment to work together for justice, you are invited to write your commitment on two separate cards. We invite you to keep one of these cards close to your heart. The second one will be collected and brought forward as an offering.

(A song for unity and/or justice may be sung as the congregants write their commitments.)
Day 8. The Lord is my light and my salvation
Scripture
Isaiah 42:6, I will appoint you as a covenant to the people.
Psalms 27:1-4, The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
John 8:12-20, You judge by human standards; I judge no one.

Meditation
Throughout the eight days of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the daily reflections have considered many difficult situations facing the world today, including greed, violence, exclusion, exploitation, poverty, pollution, hunger and trafficking. Christians in Indonesia are conscious of these issues as challenges facing all Christians. They recognize and confess that some of these sins have tainted the lives of their churches too, wounding their unity and diminishing their witness to the world. At the same time, they recognize as well the many promising instances of churches coming together to witness to their unity in Christ. Christians in other parts of the world can name many other examples from their own situations.

Day by day, year by year, and especially during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians join together for common prayer, professing their common baptismal faith, listening for God's voice in the Scriptures and praying together for unity in Christ's body. In doing so, they recognize that the Holy Trinity is the source of all unity and that Jesus is the light of the world, who promises the light of life to those who follow him. The many injustices in the world frequently sadden or anger them. But they do not lose hope, they move to action. Because the Lord is their light and their salvation and the stronghold of their lives, they do not fear.

Prayer
God our Sustainer, we praise you for your loving kindness, for upholding us in times of trial, and showing us your light in times of darkness. Transform our lives so that we may be a blessing for others. Help us to live in unity in diversity as a witness to your communion. We ask this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.
Day 3, The Lord is gracious and merciful to all
Scripture
Ephesians 4:22-25. Let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors.
Psalm 145, The Lord is gracious and merciful.
Matthew 1:1-17, The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah.

Meditation
“The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made,” said the psalmist, proclaiming that the love of God is beyond boundaries of ethnicity, culture, race, and even religion. The account of the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew’s gospel reflects this expansive vision. While ancient cultures often saw women as inferior, or as the property of their fathers or husbands, Matthew names four women among the ancestors of Jesus, two of whom, Ruth and Rahab, were Gentiles. Three other ancestors in the list were known for their sinfulness, including the adulterous King David. Naming these in the genealogy of Jesus and making them part of God’s human history, proclaims that God includes everyone, male and female, sinner and righteous, in his plan of salvation, regardless of their backgrounds.

Amidst escalating ethnic and religious fanaticism and a growing spirit of intolerance throughout the world today, Christians can serve the human family by joining together to bear witness to the all-embracing love of God, proclaiming with the psalmist that “the Lord is gracious and merciful” to all.

Prayer
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, we give praise to you for your great glory made manifest in all of creation. Give us an open heart to embrace all who experience discrimination. Help us to grow in love beyond prejudice and injustice. Grant us the grace to respect the uniqueness of each person, so that in our diversity we may experience unity. This prayer we make in your Holy Name. Amen.

Day 4, Be content with what you have
Scripture
Hebrews 13:1-5, Be content with what you have.
Psalm 103:6, The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
Matthew 6:25-34, Do not worry about tomorrow.

Meditation
The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews warns against excessive love of money and material things. In the face of our tendency to think we never have enough, the text reminds us of God’s providence and assures us that God will never forsake creation. Through the fruitfulness of earth, rivers and seas, God’s goodness has provided ample food and fresh water to sustain all living beings, and yet many people lack these basic necessities. Human weakness and greed frequently lead to corruption, injustice, poverty and hunger. It can be tempting, instead of caring about others and sharing our goods with them, to gather and accumulate money, food and natural resources for ourselves, or our own nation or ethnic group.

Yet, Jesus teaches us that material things should not be our main concern. Rather, we should strive first for the Reign of God and its values, trusting that our heavenly Father will provide for us. In recent years, some churches in Indonesia have been providing various kinds of financial, human and educational support to small churches in rural areas. In this simple and practical example of mutual love they are demonstrating the unity with their fellow Christians which is God’s gift to his Church. Living more simply, not preoccupied with earning money beyond our needs or with hoarding resources for the future, can enable us to make the earth, our common home, a more just place.

Prayer
Compassionate God, we thank you for your bountiful gifts. Give us the grace to accept all blessings in simplicity and with humble gratitude. Enable us to be content and ready to share with others who are in need, so that all may experience unity in the love that flows from you, our Triune God, who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Day 5, To bring good news to the poor
Scripture
Amos 8:4-8, I will never forget any of their deeds.
Psalm 89:14, Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Meditation
The prophet Amos criticized traders who practiced deceit and exploited the poor in order to gain maximum profit. Amos also underlined how God observes their wrongdoing and will never forget it. God listens to the cries of victims of injustice and never forsakes those who are exploited and treated unjustly.

We live in a globalized world where marginalization, exploitation and injustice are rampant. The gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider. Economic achievement becomes a deciding factor in relationships between peoples, nations and communities. Economic issues often trigger tensions and conflicts between them. It is hard to enjoy peace when justice is absent.

By virtue of our common Baptism, all Christians share in the prophetic mission of Jesus to proclaim good news to the poor and the weak, in both words and deeds. When we recognize this mission, the Spirit of the Lord will be upon us too, empowering us to work for justice. Our dignity as Christians calls us to speak and act in such a way that the words from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah which Jesus proclaimed in Nazareth are fulfilled each day in the hearing of those around us.

Prayer
God our Father, forgive our lust for power and free us from the temptation to oppress others. By your Holy Spirit of communion, help us to live in solidarity with our neighbor, and so share together with your Son Jesus in fulfilling your promise of freedom from poverty and oppression. We pray in His name. Amen.

Day 6, The Lord of Hosts is His name
Scripture
Jeremiah 10:12-16, He is the one who formed all things.
Psalm 69, Zeal for your house has consumed me.
Mark 16:14-15, Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Meditation
Eli misjudges Hannah’s deep and fervent prayer and condemns her, dismissing her supplications as drunken ramblings. Yet the words of her reply, calling on him not to dismiss her as