



### **Invocation**

*We Have Come Into His House  
We have come into His house  
Gathered in His name to worship Him,  
We have come into His house  
Gathered in His name to worship Him,  
We have come into His house  
Gathered in His name to worship Christ, the Lord  
Worship Him, Jesus Christ, the Lord.*

*He is all my righteousness  
I stand complete in Him and worship Him,  
He is all my righteousness  
I stand complete in Him and worship Him,  
He is all my righteousness  
I stand complete in Him and worship Christ, the Lord  
Worship Him, Jesus Christ, the Lord.*

### **P: Opening Prayer**

Creating One,  
here we are, a gathering of your people;  
evidence of Creation's unfolding,  
we come, in all shapes and all sizes  
all ages and life stages.  
We come on dancing feet  
or carefully walking.  
We come hesitant and unsure,  
or filled with conviction and knowing our way.  
However we come,  
we are here to join with all of creation in praise and thanksgiving.  
Accept our gift of worship  
as with one voice,  
one hope, one love,  
we gather into praise.

### **Opening Hymn**

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing  
Praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight  
Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
Gods recreation of the new day.

Author Eleanor Farjeon

### **Kauma**

P. Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.  
C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.  
C. Holy art thou, Almighty God.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.  
C. O Lord, the Messiah, who was crucified for us have mercy on us

P. O Lord have mercy on us.  
C. O Lord have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.  
C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.  
C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah, who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.  
(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

**(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)**  
**All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,**  
**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**  
**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.**

**(Cong. to be seated)**

*Lesson 1 Isaiah 65:17-25*

*Lesson 2 Hebrews 4:1-13*

### **L: Interesting facts about Maramon convention and its creation**

As the Maramon Convention begins this week we pray that it will be a blessing to many this year also. Some of the unusual facts over the years are:-

**The first Maramon Convention** was a ten day event held at the Parapuzha Manalpuram of the River Pamba (the location fell between the Famous Aranmula Temple and the Maramon Church) about one kilometre away from the present venue. The pandal could accommodate about 7000 people.

### **February, 1918: Sadhu Sunder Singh preaches at Maramon Convention.**

Sadhu Sunder Singh the renowned Indian Christian missionary was one of the speakers of the Maramon Convention in 1918. He spoke in Hindi and the translation was done by Mr. M. O.

Oommen, Chief Conservator of Travancore. Sadhu Sunder Singh drew crowds greater than any previous conventions, so much so that before the end of the week the pandal had to be enlarged.

### **9 March 1936: C. V. Kunjiraman (1871-1949) speaks at Maramon Convention.**

At times, even Non-Christian leaders are invited to speak occasionally to express their views. On 9th March 1936, Mr. C. V. Kunjiraman, (founder of Kerala Kaumudi newspaper) one of the prominent Ezhava (SNDP) leaders was given the privilege to speak at the convention. This was an example of the religious harmony that exists in Kerala.

### **1940: Land Tax for the Convention Plot**

The Government authorities were always helpful in the organizing and running of the Maramon Convention. With the help of C. K. Mathen Peshkar, (District Collector), the venue of the convention was registered in the name of the Mar Thoma Church and a yearly tax of Rs.100/- is being paid every year as registration renewal fee.

### **1936: Loudspeaker and microphone introduced at the Maramon convention.**

Until 1936, messages of the main speaker were repeated in relay by designated people standing in between the participants at the convention. It was a time consuming process for the message from the front to pass through thousands of participants to reach those at the back.

In 1936, a loudspeaker and microphone set was donated by one of the Churches in USA and brought to Maramon by Rev. Dr. Stanley Jones.

### **Ban of Tobacco and Paan**

The use of tobacco and paan was a way of life in Kerala during the first half of the 20th Century. It was an essential item at social events such as marriages and functions and even Convention meetings.

Through his messages, Dr. Stanley Jones urged people to refrain from the use of tobacco products. During one meeting, he asked the convention participants to bury their tobacco (which they were carrying) in the sand on the Pandal floor. Only then did the people stop using it.

### **1953: Use of the Piano Accordion**

The musical instrument Piano Accordion was first introduced at the Maramon Convention by a Methodist Missionary, Dr. John T. Seamands a gifted singer who could even sing in Malayalam and Tamil.

### **1895: Unchanged Final Hymn from the first Convention .**

The Hymn "Sthuthippin sthuthippin Yesudevane, Halleluyah paadi sthuthippeen sthuthippen yesudevane" written by Rev. Yustus Joseph (Vidhuwan Kutty Achen (1835-1887) is sung by the complete congregation at the close of the final meeting of each year's convention. This may be a world record for the same hymn being sung every year at the same time.

<https://nalloorlibrary.files.wordpress.com/2017/02/maramon-convention-history-english-2017.pdf>

Visit our website: [www.nalloorlibrary.com](http://www.nalloorlibrary.com)

### **Hymn**

Sthuthippin sthuthippin Yesudhevane  
Halleluyah paadi Sthuthippin Sthuthippin Yesudevane  
Sthuthippin lokathin - paapathey neekkuvaan  
Adhipanai vanna - Daiva kunjadine ....sthuthi

Karuna niranja kannullonavan- than  
Janathin karechil Karalalinju kelkum kaathullon-  
Loka paapa chumadine  
Shirassu kondum chumanno zhippathinu  
Kuriseduthu gol - gothaavil poyone ....sthuthi

Vazhiyum sathyavum jeevanumivane  
Avanarukil varuvin Vazhiyum aaswaasam ekumey, avan  
Paapa chumadozhichaven  
Mazhayum manjum peyyumpo lullilkrupa  
Pozhiyume megha - thunil-ninnu paadi ....sthuthi

Halleluyah paadi sthuthippin Yeshuve  
Yeshu namathinu jayam Allalella mavan akale kalayume  
Yeshu raajavi-nosanna  
Nallavanam Yeshu naadhan varum sarva  
Vallabha Yeshuve vegam varenhame ....sthuthi

## **Meditation**

### **L: Appreciating God's Incredible Creation**

by Michelle Cox

This morning I opened the curtains to let in the sunshine and noticed something new outside one of our windows. Overnight, a large spider had woven a web that stretched across the window. The intricate design captured my attention and brought home a reminder that I don't have to look far to see the creative genius of an incredible God.

Nothing shows that more beautifully than the perfection of an infant. Whenever I've held one of my brand-new grandbabies, I've been struck by the thought that this long-awaited little one came fresh from God's hands to ours. I've sat and counted 10 tiny toes and fingers. I've stroked my hand across baby-soft skin and downy hair. I'm in awe of a God who could design all of that, who knit that child together while he or she was still in the womb.

I see His craftsmanship in the bright colors of flowers, every blossom different and unique. I enjoy His love of texture in the rough bark of trees, and in the soft fur of a kitten or dog. And I soak in the sheer beauty of an orange sky as the sun sets over the ocean, casting shadows on the surface of the water. Nobody paints the sky better than God.

What an amazing God—and how even more amazing that He cares about me...and you.

That makes me think of those verses in Psalm 8:3-4;

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?

I'm so grateful for a God who—in the midst of creating all this perfection—still has us on His mind. He has commanded us to take rest and reflect. The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his work, both in creation and redemption. It was a day set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on our behalf.

<https://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/inspiring-stories/stories-of-faith/appreciating-gods-incredible-creation>

## **L: Seven Whole Days**

### **Day I**

Let there be light as I begin this day  
To draw me from the darkness and the night,  
To bless my flesh, to clear and show my way

Let there be light

Strong in the depth and shining from the height,  
Evening and morning's interplay,  
Blessing and enabling my sight.

Lighten my soul and teach me how to pray,  
Lighten my mind and teach me wrong from right,  
In all I do and think and see and say  
Let there be light.

#### **Day VI**

You made us new and beautiful today  
Your Spirit softened us like morning dew,  
Your Image shining from us through the clay,  
You made us new.

You woke us and we knew ourselves in you  
We walked together at the close of day  
You trusted us and called us to be true.

When we forsook your love, and turned away  
You came and sought us, where we hid from you  
And on the cross, in darkness, on this day  
You made us new.

#### **Day VII**

Blessing and rest, delight in everything  
Sustained by your strong love and richly blest  
This is the gift you give, the day you bring  
Blessing and rest.

This is indeed 'the gladness of the best',  
From first lines in the east where linnets sing,  
To where the last light lingers in the west,

You lift the cares to which I used to cling,  
As you yourself descend to be my guest  
And show me how to find in everything  
Blessing and rest.

#### **By Malcolm Guite**

#### **To read the complete poem about the seven days of creation -**

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2015/08/23/seven-whole-days-the-complete-set/>

#### **Hymn**

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world, and birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world. God shines in all that's fair,  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass,

He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong. God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: The battle is not done  
Let voices sing, O let the heavens ring!  
And earth and heaven be one

Malbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901, alt.

## **Cong to stand**

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

#### **Psalm 8**

**P:** <sup>1</sup> Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens.  
Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

**C:** <sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

**P:** <sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**C:** <sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:  
all flocks and herds,  
and the animals of the wild,

**P:** The birds in the sky,  
and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

**C:** <sup>9</sup> Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

**P:** Holy Lord,  
Breath of Creation, stir in us.  
Open our hearts that we may see,  
all of creation's glory.  
Open our hearts that we may know,

life is holy.  
Open our hearts that we may love  
with wonder and awe and reverence.

**C:** Creating Lord

We understand that we live within creation,  
all woven together by the sacred breath of life.  
We confess the times we have chosen to forget;  
we bring to you our careless greed  
when habitat has been denied,  
when thoughtless destruction has been allowed,  
even encouraged. Forgive us.

**P:** Help us to discover the second chance  
of a growing awareness,  
a deepened understanding, an active love.

**C:** May we live wisely, with reverence for Creation.

May we live gently on this earth,  
giving room, sharing space,  
providing for all.  
To you we give our praise and thanksgiving  
for all that delights, for all that teaches,  
for all that is wondrous, for all of creation.  
Thank you. Amen.

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

from What Is Creation Saying to Us? written by Pat Milliken.  
<https://www.united-church.ca/> © 2011 The United Church of Canada

**Gospel Reading**

**P:** †Peace be with you all.

**C:** May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

**P:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Mark 2:23-28

**C:** Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

**P:** In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

**C:** So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

**C:** We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day

He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

### **Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving**

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

*O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light.

And all ye men of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Francis of Assisi, ca.1225 tr. by William H. Draper, pub.1919

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### **Offertory**

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

*Lord of all to thee we raise*

*this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

For Thy Church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love.

Author: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint (1864)

## **MESSAGE**

### **Cong to stand**

### **Closing Prayer**

P: Loving God,  
We pray for your church.  
Continue to guide us in our discipleship.  
Challenge us to serve; sustain us by your love.  
Be with those who suffer in body, mind and spirit.  
Strengthen them.  
Help us to live more wholly as the Body of Christ in the world.

C: Generous God,  
We look at how you sustain and nurture the world,  
and we are awed at the beauty.  
With loving hearts,  
and hands willing to serve,  
we go into this world  
singing with creation  
and respecting the earth ever more deeply. Amen

## **Benediction**

**P:** We have seen the grace God offers to all people.  
Go into the world knowing your faith of ordinary acts works to  
transform God's extraordinary world.  
Go into the world waiting longingly to see God moving and growing.  
Go into the world ready to be sustained and eager to offer the treasure within you.

May the grace of God's abundance surround you,  
the gift of Jesus' service inspire you,  
and the movement of the Spirit stir within you. Amen.

## **Doxology and Kiss of Peace**

Chorus

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flow'r that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

Cecil F. Alexander, pub.1848  
by Martin F. Shaw, 1915

.....  
**Heaven**

God carefully dusted colour on the butterflies.  
He let the rivers dance through the mountains  
And hand painted every sunset and sunrise.

Into the mouth of the bird he placed a song.  
Shaped out every creature small, tall and long,  
With eyes to see the wonders of the earth they belong.

He flung stars across the skies to light up the darkness.  
Bent the back of the rainbow with coloured droplets.  
Gave breath to the wind and planted the great forests.

Seeing that it was all good, he finally created man and woman.  
They then looked around at this wonderful intricate magic woven  
And said " This is all very well, but we'd still need a heaven"  
Dann Thomas

Let us learn to first observe and enjoy this wonderful world God gave us and look after it for the many generations to come.

"Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord".  
Psalm 102:18

Primrose Mar Thoma Church, Bangalore  
February 2020