



FAITH IN A CONNECTED AGE

And Praying for the 130th Maramon Convention

10am, Sunday, 9th February 2025
Primrose Mar Thoma Church

Answering the Call in a Mobile World

And praying for the 130th Maramon Convention
February 2025

P: Loving God, we come together today to celebrate you in a world full of human advancements. Give us humble hearts to see your mercy and love in those advancements humankind make. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to gather in your name in this holy sanctuary. May we look inward when the outside world gets too loud and may the noise of life never overshadow your call from within, all this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn

All the way my Savior leads me
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy?
Who through life has been my guide
Heavenly peace divinest comfort
Here by faith in Him to dwell
For I know whate'er befall me
Jesus doeth all things well....2

All the way my Savior leads me
Cheers each winding path I tread
Gives me grace for every trial
Feeds me with the living bread
Though my weary steps may falter
And my soul a-thirst may be
Gushing from the rock before me
Lo, a spring of joy I see...2

All the way my Savior leads me:
Oh the fullness of His love.

Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit clothed immortal
Wings it's flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages
Jesus led me all the way...2

Fanny J Crosby (1820-1915) Rev R Lowry

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

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 Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us.

(To be repeated thrice)

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)

**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)

1st Lesson: Isaiah 40:12-26

2nd Lesson: Romans 8:19-25

-Meditation

L: Another Call Over the Sands of Time

Another Call Over the Sands of Time

Aleyamma woke up well before dawn. This was going to be a long day, and she needed to prepare for the family. She swept the outside of her house, a little hut adorned with small intricate patterns that she had drawn around the door and windows. It was the first day of the Maramon Convention and the family planned to attend together. After a quick kanji meal, she made small packs of pothichoru for lunch. They set out on their journey from Ayroor holding plantain leaves to shade them from the sun. Through sandy roads and across paddy fields they walked till they reached the Pamba River where they washed away their sweat and dusty feet before entering the Pandal. The children were eager to see the balloon seller nearby, but Aleyamma pulled them away and led them into the Kutti-Pandal.

For the next couple of hours, she immersed herself in song and prayer. The children had found others to play with and were busy piling up sand and knocking it down, rays of light through the thatch of coconut leaves, dancing on their faces. Aleyamma listened intently, not disturbed by anything, occasionally drawing patterns in the sand next to her while expanding her understanding of God.

Many years ago, Aleyamma walked along the banks of the Pamba. We now journey through time to the current day. Not much has changed on the banks, except that the river has meandered ever so slightly. The people, however, have changed progressively - bare feet now covered with designer slippers and shoes, colourful umbrellas have replaced the shade of leaves and travel has become motorised. Yet, the sandbank and the Pandal have not changed much, aside from a few more stalls offering food and literature, an essential combination.

But has not anything else really changed? It certainly has. The sands have changed people and the world. Today, every member in the Pandal or in a Church is ruled by a different conscience- a pocket-sized, silicon-powered, hand-held device that rules our thoughts. Our minds are now tuned not to a higher calling, or conscience or even gut instinct, but that gadget that holds our attention over anything else- a call of a different kind. We are now ruled by the mobile phone, which draws us into its endless reels and forwards, where fulfilment is measured in likes and responses. This indulgence which has shredded books, radio and even television is in your palm and has got us in its grip; every few seconds checking notifications, faithfully drawing the cross- swiping left and right, up and down, for our dose of indulgence.

How do we break free of this call? How do we get back to our true self and mind? Which is the key to finding #God? Aleyamma's only distraction was her art doodles, while we are overburdened by a flood of information, entertaining distraction and instant gratification.

How do we move back from the complexity of silicon to the simplicity of plain sand? Think- the answer is in your hand.

(Fact- The Silicon that powers our phones is derived from a type of sand.)

Hymn

How sweet, my Saviour, to repose
On Thine almighty power.
To feel Thy strength upholding me
Through every trying hour!

*Casting all your care upon him,
Casting all your care upon him,
Casting all your, care upon him,
For He careth, He careth for you.*

It is Thy will that I should cast
My every care on Thee;
To Thee refer each rising grief,
Each new perplexity.

That I should trust Thy loving care,
And look to thee alone,
To calm each troubled thought to rest,
In prayer before Thy throne.

Why should my heart then be distressed,
By dread of future ill?
Or why should unbelieving fear
My trembling spirit fill?

Cesar Malan, Jane E. Arnold

L: My Phone

My phone has tons of gadgets,
A hundred-fifty rings,
Can store a thousand numbers
And other nifty things.

My phone can send me e-mail
And news from far away,
Predict tomorrow's weather,
And tell the time of day.

My phone can download music,
Take photos in a flash,
Make videos and movies,
And really make a splash.

I heard that in the old days
(I'm not sure what this means)
That people used their phones to talk
To other human beings.

Neal Levin

(Cong to stand)

Psalm 139

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P: You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

C: ³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.

P: You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

C: ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

P: ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

C: ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

P: ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

C: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

P: ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

C: ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunities you present us with to stay close to you, but confess that a world of attractions or distractions pulls us apart. Thank you for your steadfastness and solace that are ever present through life's ups and downs.

C: Dear Lord, as we navigate this world increasingly shaped by technology, forgive us for giving in to its temporary gratification. Guide us to use the gifts of innovation and connection responsibly, ensuring that our reliance on technology never overshadows our reliance on you. May our hearts remain grounded in your love, even as we embrace the advancements around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Intercessory Prayers – Technology can help our Faith

L: Everywhere we go, we now hear about the travesty that is technology and social media. We hear how these things are destroying our lives and preventing us from listening to God properly. But what is it about these things that is so detrimental to our faith? Why are we allowing them so much power over us and our faith? If faith in the God who created the universe can be quashed by a simple computer or telephone, then that's an 'us' problem; not a 'technology' problem. Why are we so focused upon the negatives when these new developments can bring us so many new opportunities: new ways to share our faith, new ways to engage in God's word, new ways to connect with people.

THE BIBLE

I love the Bible. In my mind, anything that helps us read the Bible more is a good thing. Being able to access scripture from our phones and online is so great because it allows us to draw upon the word whenever and wherever we are.

Dear Lord, help us to find the right technology resources to grow in our understanding of you. Amen.

C: To be Sung

**Once again the Gospel message
From the Savior you have heard;
Will you heed the invitation?
Will you turn and seek the Lord?**

***Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!
Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!***

L: Prayers and Order of worship

The internet helps us to put together our matins services every month. It helps us find meditations suitable for the theme as given in our Church lectionary, it helps us in finding suitable hymns and poems, readings and prayers. Technology also helps speakers to find relevant stories and explanations to help them speak from the Word.

Dear Lord, help us to use technology for sourcing and sharing of right thoughts which will help us come closer to you, rather than wasting it on frivolous forwards. Amen.

C: To be Sung

**Many summers you have wasted,
Ripened harvests you have seen;
Winter snows by spring have melted,
Yet you linger in your sin.**

***Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!
Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!***

L: SOCIAL MEDIA

We are constantly being told of the dangers of social media; how it is destroying our confidence and causing all sorts of problems. But this depends upon how social media is used. Social media can be hugely beneficial rather than detrimental for a number of reasons. Firstly, it allows us to connect with like-minded people. We can build relationships with other Christians from around the world, pray for each other, share experiences and support each other in our faith. Secondly, we can choose to fill our social media timelines with positive Christian role models and people who bring us joy. If someone you follow makes you feel sad, jealous or negatively about yourself – choose to remove them.

Dear Lord, help us to find the people that encourage us in your faith and choose the right media to help us grow closer to you and share your joy with others. Amen.

***C: To be Sung
Jesus for your choice is waiting;
Tarry not: at once decide!
While the Spirit now is striving,
Yield, and seek the Savior's side.***

***Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!
Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!***

L: Triune God, we are aware that the environment we have built for ourselves are full of things that are both beneficial and harmful to our relationship with you. May we draw from the faith of our ancestors who walked along the sands of the Pamba River to commune with each other and celebrate you and apply the same belief they had in our lives today. We pray for the 130th Maramon Convention this year that it continues to bring your word to the people directly and through the technology that broadcasts it to the rest of the world.

Loving Lord, may we be Christians that use the technology to foster communities grounded in hope, bounded by love and led by unchanging faith. Through it all, may we always be ready to answer your call, whether it comes through a cell phone, or through a quiet voice at night. Amen.

***C: To be Sung
Let your will to God be given,
Trust in Christ's atoning blood;
Look to Jesus now in Heaven,
Rest on His unchanging Word.***

***Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!
Come believing! come believing!
Come to Jesus! look and live!***

Words and Music: El Nathan, J. McGranahan

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 the Apostle Matthew.

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.

Matthew 6:26-30

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

C: And with you also. 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

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

C: 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

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend his cause,
Maintain the honor of his Word,
The glory of his cross.

At the cross! at the cross! where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away;
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

Jesus, my God! I know his name,
His name is all my trust;
Nor will he put my soul to shame,
Nor let my hope be lost.

Firm as his throne his promise stands,
And he can well secure
What I've committed to his hands
Till the decisive hour.

Then will he own my worthless name
Before his Father's face,
And in the new Jerusalem
Appoint my soul a place.

Author: Isaac Watts (1709) Tune- R. E. Hudson

Announcements

Offertory

There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save,
Send the light!
Send the light!

*Send the light, the blessed gospel light;
Let it shine from shore to shore!
Send the light the blessed gospel light;
Let it shine forevermore!*

We have heard the Macedonian call today,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
And our grateful offerings at the cross we lay,
Send the light!
Send the light!

Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
And a Christ-like spirit everywhere be found,
Send the light!
Send the light!

Chas H. Gabriel (1890)

Message

Closing Prayer

P: May we always embrace our responsibility in this life - to serve you and those we come into contact with each day, as we seek a balance in our use of technology. May we use technology to seek you and use our time wisely, to enjoy your creations and as a means to communicate your message of love to the world. Amen.

