

## Bible Reading—Mark 10:13–16

### Meditation

#### Prayer of Intercession

*After each prayer/refrain, you will be invited to respond as follows:*

All: Hear our prayers, O Lord.

### Offering

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader 1: God of joy, from you we receive the gift of joy to share with others.

All: Thank you for being a God that brings childlike joy to our midst!

Leader 2: Jubilant Spirit, who is present in simplicity, in our relationships and in our daily routines,

All: thank you, because we can receive the spirit of eternal joy!

### Commitment Prayer

All: We trust in the truth of being God's beloved creation and community, sharing a place in the heart of God. We commit to

- speaking kindly and being a forgiving community, accepting every human being as special and worthy to God,
- remaining steadfast in hope for a future of justice and peace, and to
- receiving children as Jesus did, so they may freely dream, laugh, dance and love without discrimination.

We commit ourselves to the one who taught us to pray the Lord's Prayer:

(You are invited to recite the Lord's Prayer.)

### Benediction, Sending and Blessing

### Announcements

#### World Day of Prayer USA

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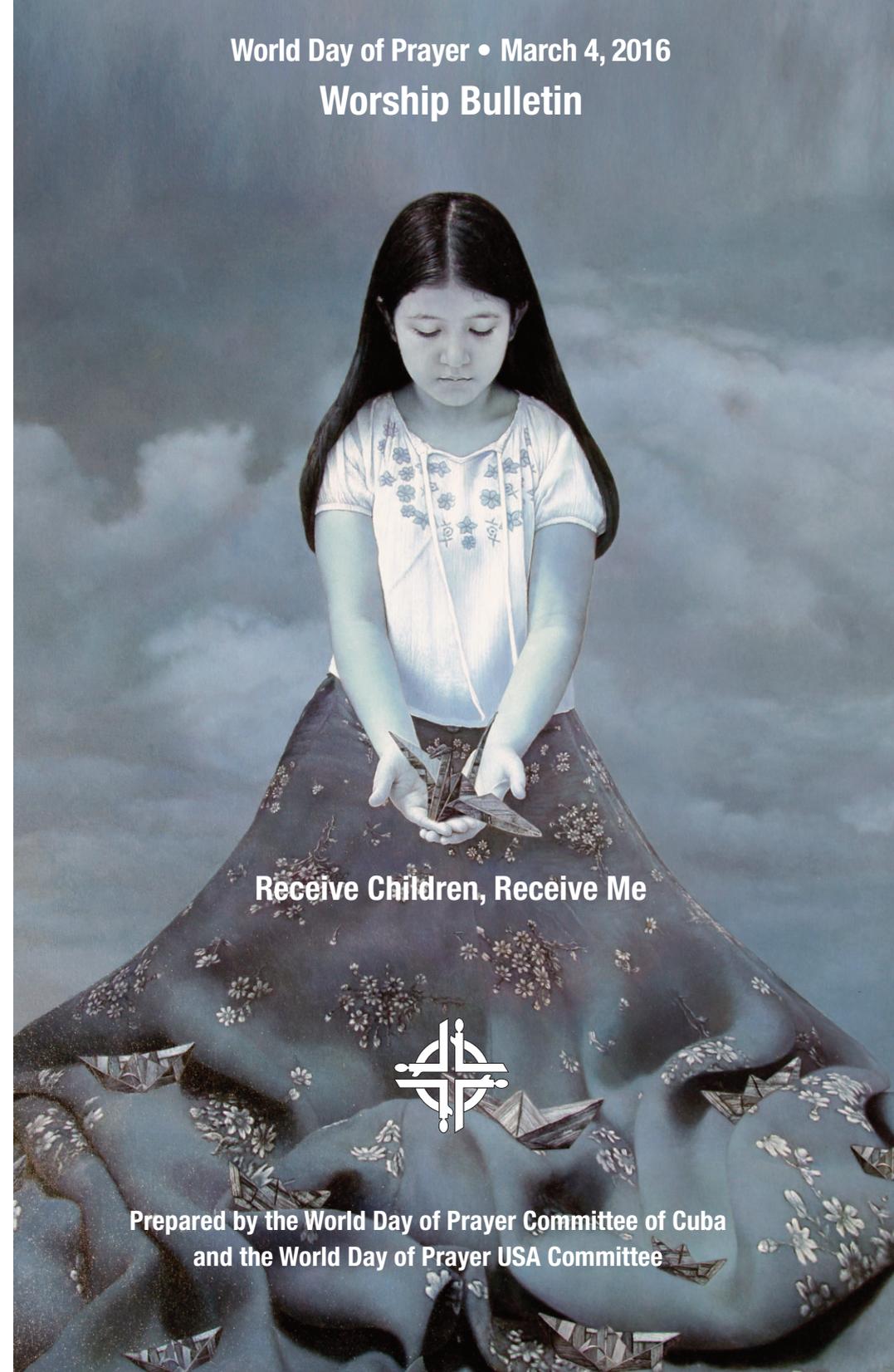
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World Day of Prayer • March 4, 2016

## Worship Bulletin



Receive Children, Receive Me



Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cuba  
and the World Day of Prayer USA Committee

**Prelude**      **“Aclamemos al Señor”**

**Processional** **“Vengan, vengan, todos”**

### **Call to Worship**

Leader 1:      Lord of history, all generations have praised your name.

**All:**            We joyfully praise your presence and join the singing of the mockingbird, the palm trees, the rivers and all of creation.

Leader 2:      Jesus, Wise Master, the source of eternal values, where we drink love,

**All:**            we praise you with the sound of guitars, claves, maracas and bongo drums.

Leader 3:      Spirit, Holy Wisdom, revealed to the little ones and present today in our dreams and hopes,

**All:**            we praise you and bring unto you the dreams of the elders, the visions of the young and the wisdom of the children.

Leader 4      God of our existence, you love life like a child and cherish it with great pleasure. You know how to convert every day into a miracle and every moment into a reason for celebration.

**All:**            We praise your blessed name and proclaim your realm, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Song**            **“Vengan, vengan, todos”**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

Girl 1:        God of Life, you have been present in all generations. We are the children who receive you; and we ask you to inspire this celebration, just as you have inspired humankind with the birth of and life of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**Song**            **“Alabanza criolla”**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Leader 1:      Like the butterfly jasmine that grows along the brooks and requires fresh water to show its beauty, we also need God’ s love and wisdom, which flows like a stream of water. Let’s take some time to confess that we have not accepted the invitation to receive this love from God. Let us unite our voices, asking for forgiveness with the song “*Espíritu de vida.*”

**Song**            **“Espíritu de vida”**

**All:**            Spirit of Life, hear our prayers and give us hope, strength and love.

Leader 2:      Lord, we confess that we are not receiving you when we do not respect children’s rights, nor when we deny children the opportunity to participate in our churches, families and society.

**Girl 2:**        **Help us to learn from the children who receive each other openly and do not discriminate, that we may seek reconciliation in our communities.**

Leader 3:      We recognize that we do not always reflect the joy of children; nor do we celebrate God’s plenitude as seen in the diversity of his creation.

**All:**            **Spirit of Life, transform us and give us hope, strength and love.**

Leader 4: :    Forgive us when we do not create a genuine space for dialogue among different generations, when we instead promote mistrust and power struggles that damage our relationships.

Leader 1:      We recognize that we did not lift up our voices sufficiently to denounce the injustice of the economic blockade that has affected the Cuban people for more than 50 years, endangering our children’s health and growth.

Leader 2:      Forgive us when we do not acknowledge daily violence against women, children and the elderly, at home, at work, in social settings and at church.

**All:**            **Spirit of Life, transform us and give us hope, strength and love.**

Leader 3:      We recognize our responsibility in building up walls that do not allow us to be a community of people and to give reason for our faith and hope.

**All:**            **Spirit of Life, transform us and give us hope, strength and love.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Girl 3:        Listen to the Good News: God is love and receives us with open arms! God listens to the confession of our hearts and forgives our sins through Jesus Christ. May God confirm the assurance of his forgiveness in our hearts and allow us to walk confidently toward his realm. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.