



Prayers following the Pacific and Asian Disasters - Sunday 4th October¹

Preparation:

- One dark candle & the Christ candle are lit prior to worship.
- A third bright candle sits on the table unlit
- At the front of the church, place some simple health care objects (for example a first aid kit, a stethoscope, medicine or health care information pamphlets).
- A simple powerpoint of images of the disaster from Samoa and Philippines www.unitingworld.org.au .

Reader 1: Among the people of Samoa, the Philippines and Indonesia, Uniting Church partners have been deeply affected by last week's natural disasters.

Reader 2: We come before God who in compassion aches with all who suffer.

Reader 1: In Christ God embraces people grieving the loss of family, neighbours, homes and livelihoods

Reader 2: With Christ we cry with those who cry and support those who reach out in care.

We offer our prayer.

Pause: Show powerpoint images of people in Samoa and Philippines. Hold up some of the objects on display.

Reader 1: Last Saturday a typhoon struck the Philippines bringing the equivalent of one month's rain in just 12 hours and causing the worst flooding in more than 40 years. The homes of millions of people have been flooded and hundreds of thousands have sought shelter

Reader 2: Last Tuesday a tsunami struck Samoa. Waves swept away thousands of homes leaving people in need of food, shelter and medical care. On Wednesday, two earthquakes struck Sumatra in Indonesia causing many deaths and the destruction of many towns.

As the candle is extinguished we acknowledge the great sadness disaster brings to many people.

Reader 2 extinguishes the dark candle.

¹ Adapted from Lenten Liturgy, Lent Event Worship Resources 2009, p13.

Reader 1: Let us pray:

All: God of grace,
from whose heart compassion flows,
comfort, uphold and sustain,
the people of Indonesia, Samoa and the Philippines
and especially those who hurt and grieve,
those overwhelmed by devastation and loss,
and those who do not know how they can begin again,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
AMEN

Reader 1 lights the third bright candle.

Reader 2: Let us pray:

All: God of provision and life,
strengthen the care provided by the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, the
Methodist Church in Samoa, the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa and the
Indonesian Communion of Churches.
Sustain them with hope that helps them persevere in the face of difficulty,
resource them with what they need to express the love of Christ
and weave our prayers with theirs in a continuing cry for healing,
until all things are made whole in you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.