

Mozambique Calls to Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP (Focus: Mozambique)

Leader: Come, you who are hungry and find food for your soul and body.

People: God's banquet table is set before you.

Leader: Come, children of AIDS and find care and nurture.

People: God's love heals you.

Leader: Come, older women outcast because of your family's misfortune and find haven and community.

People: God's welcome embraces you.

Leader: Come, you who are wounded by war and find peace.

People: God's wholeness surrounds you.

Leader: Come, children of God and share the gift of extravagant grace.

People: Let us worship God in joy and thanksgiving!

Originally written by Pat Shipley. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Spirit of God, the Master, is on us because God anointed us.

People: It is we who need forgiveness, to receive the strength of spirit we discover in our brothers and sisters in Mozambique.

Leader: The old order is destroyed and the New Order begins now!

People: We no longer live as slaves to the law, but as slaves to Jesus Christ.

Leader: The Lord has appointed us to bring good news to the oppressed ...

People: We look around and find that we are the oppressed; oppressed by our lifestyle, our materialism and our attitudes.

Leader: To release the captives ...

People: We give thanks for our friends who show us the way to life, the way to let go and the way to live in right relationship with a God who provides all that we need.

Leader: To bring comfort to the mourning ...

People: As we mourn our lack of spirit and vitality, may God surprise us with a new heart and comfort in our distress.

Leader: The Good News of Jesus' coming is at hand. Come and worship the Lord your God.

People: Come and worship the Lord, rejoice at what God is doing in our midst and through the gift of faithful friends in faraway places.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

All: Amen.

Originally written by Nancy Robinson. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lord of all creation, you reveal yourself in the sunny towns of Mozambique, the swirling waters of the Indian Ocean and the mountain peaks filling the land.

People: We are grateful for your presence, O God.

Leader: Lord of all creation, you reveal yourself in the life of the grasslands – in the palm trees, mango trees, cashew trees, elephants, baboons, and water buffaloes.

People: We are grateful for your presence, O God.

Leader: Lord of all creation, you reveal yourself in the sidewalk cafes of Maputo and the rough terrain of remote villages.

People: We are grateful for your presence, O God.

Leader: Lord of all creation, you reveal yourself in the people of Mozambique. They persevere through difficulties – poverty, natural disasters and disease – but they emerge as a people of remarkable hope and strength. We see you in our neighbors all over the world.

All: We are grateful for your presence, O God.

Originally written by Megan Roth. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Suggested use: Palm Sunday)

Background: In Mozambique, visitors are greeted with anticipation, celebration, and love.

Crowds sing and dance greetings to visitors and praise to the One who sends them. It's striking that Palm Sunday is very Mozambican. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, not in a van with a dozen mission teammates, but on a colt with a dozen companions sharing his mission. Those who greeted him sang, "Hosanna in the highest!" Mozambican welcomers sing "Nza muranza! There is no other like Jesus!"

Jesus' suffering followed His welcoming. Similarly, those who enter the holy path of missio dei share in the suffering of others as well as their joy.

All: Jesus is entering this place!

One: The children gather.

Many: We follow their lead.

One: Grandmothers whoop and shout with joy.

Many: We sing loud hosannas.

One: Fathers dance paths through the crowd.

Many: We make a way for Christ to enter.

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Originally written by Drew and Rhonda VanDyke Colby. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Focus: Mozambique, Psalm 149:1, Psalm 149:3)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Leader: With our sisters and brothers in Mozambique, let us sing a new song in Xitswa [sheets-wah], sing a new song in Portuguese, sing a new song in English. In all languages, let us rejoice in the Lord!

People: Let us praise the Lord with dancing.

Leader: As our brothers and sisters in Mozambique dance to express their joy in praising the Lord,

People: May we also unreservedly express the joy of the Lord in our worship and in our lives.

All: Praise the Lord! Amen.

Originally written by Betty and Walt Whitehurst. Edited by Amanda Pelletier.