



MOZAMBIQUE WORSHIP RESOURCES

As churches in the Missouri Annual Conferences continue to respond to needs in Mozambique following Cyclone Dineo, we have compiled a few resources that may be integrated into worship, small groups, or other settings. Please continue to keep the people of Mozambique, especially those in the Inhambane Province, in your prayers and consider ways your congregation may respond in the coming weeks.

Prayers

Jesus, we see you calming storms-
storm tossed seas and stormy lives.
Extend your power and grace again,
especially upon these most recent storm victims.

Speak peace and healing over bodies and spirits broken by the chaos.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and hope over families and communities devastated by sudden loss.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and unity over diverse groups of people
so they would come together for greater provision,
just distribution, and effective rebuilding.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and protection over rescue workers
as they reach out to those who are suffering.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

You are the Prince of Peace.

You are the Resurrection and the Life.

You are strong to save.

Our hope and trust are in you. Amen.

-A Prayer from the British Methodist Church

Jesus Christ, you became fully human and suffered for us.
You are the companion of all who weep in Haiti.

Our hearts are deeply connected to the Mozambican people,
and we hold them in prayer before you.

Use the faithfulness of your church and the goodwill of humanity
to comfort those who grieve, sustain those who suffer,

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and relieve human need through overwhelming generosity.

We pray for the presence and power of the church
in every place where Cyclone Dineo has caused fear, flight, death, injury
and devastation.

Use us, we pray, as we share your abundance with all people in these days.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

-Adapted prayer from the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church

In the Eye of the Cyclone* by Kwasi Kena

They say there's calm in the eye of the cyclone*
Right in the middle
As the storms brew and churn
Peace in the midst of heartache
Reflective pause despite pain and misery
A whisper of hope amid the rubble

They say there's calm in the eye of the cyclone*
Look down through the eye of this storm, Lord
Send peace to quell its terror
Clear pathways to aid rescue
Stay tides from overflowing
Quicken hearts to help

They say there's calm in the eye of the cyclone*
Dear God calm us
Guide us
Help us
Lead us
To the eye of the hurricane where there is peace.

**Original text said hurricane. Hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons are all the same weather phenomenon; we just use different names for these storms in different places. In the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific, the term "hurricane" is used. The same type of disturbance in the Northwest Pacific is called a "typhoon" and "cyclones" occur in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. (Source: National Ocean Service, <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/cyclone.html>)*

Concerns and Prayers by Andrea Murdock

Most Holy God,
We are a people who need you in your fullness
— as Creative Father, Redeeming Son, and Sustaining Spirit.
Our lives have complications and pain,

our world has war and despair.
But we were made in your image, and
your Spirit was breathed into us
that we might experience hope in your goodness.

There are situations that make it hard to be aware of that goodness.
We pray now for those whose lives are affected
by the negativity in these circumstances:

When bombs and terrorist and military attacks kill and injure innocent people around the world .
. . (brief silence)

When storms and hurricanes [*cyclone*] are so strong they destroy even the homes designed to
withstand them . . .(brief silence)

When political battles bring out pettiness over issues too important for bickering . . . (brief
silence)

When our hearts ache, hurt by broken relationships and unmet expectations . . .
(brief silence)

When we are exhausted emotionally from illnesses in ourselves or those we love . . . (brief
silence)

When we are overwhelmed by loneliness and isolation even though you are always with us . . .
(brief silence)

Gracious and Merciful Lord,
our church is working to hear the words of your Spirit.
Our desire is to learn what and who you are calling us to be in your world.
We call out to you
that we might have the courage
to give to you whatever burdens we entered with today
so that our hearts and minds can be open to you,
to your Word,
and to your Spirit — your Ruach*
— the same life-giving breath from the first of creation.

Christ challenges us to know you, God,
as one who would search us out if we are lost.
But we must also know that when we are not the "one,"
we are members of the 99 waiting together for your guidance.
So it is together that we use our breath to pray the words Christ taught us:

“Our Father . . .”

**The use of "Ruach" (the Hebrew word for breath, wind, and spirit) in the prayer was suited to the context as the congregation is going through a discernment process called "Ruach and Renewal." The word has overtones that connect it to the winds so prominent in the experience of people in the Caribbean and the southeastern United States in September 2004.*

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ADDITIONAL WORSHIP RESOURCES:

Liturgies and Prayers from Upper Room: <http://voices.upperroom.org/the-upper-room/news/words-fail-amid-unspeakable-tragedy/>

Additional worship resources for times of natural disaster and crisis:

http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/services-liturgies?group=41&limit=10&cat=789%7C791&sortBy=resource_date%7Cdate&sortDirection=desc