



## OPENING WORSHIP

### 37th WSCF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

23 June - 01 July  
Berlin, Germany

Legend: L- Leader; A- Assembly; □ - Stand up.

- **Video Assembly / Music**
- **Greetings and introductory words to the celebration:**

**L:** Up to here God has accompanied our departures and arrivals. God has made this encounter possible after crossing valleys of pandemic, isolation and death to affirm the good news of solidarity, faith and hope. The presence and testimony of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) throughout 127 years continues alive in each and every one of us and in those people and organizations that we represent today and that, working from different latitudes, with different faces and in various ways, embody the Gospel of Love.

From our places, we invite you to share words, gestures of welcome to the people next to us showing our hospitality, traditions of welcome, acceptance, and respect for the sacred experience of life that each one brings with him or her to this Assembly. (Short time to exchange greetings with background music)

It is a joy to know that we are together SCMerS and delegates from different regions of the world (ask them to stand up as we mention the regions):

- The African Region (greetings)



- The Middle East Region (greetings)
- The North American Region (greetings)
- The Latin American and Caribbean Region (greetings)
- The Asia Pacific Region (greetings)
- The European Region (greetings)

We also greet the SCMerS that are participating in this Assembly from their home countries mainly due to travel restrictions or the current Covid situation in their contexts. This is the first hybrid modality Assembly our Federation celebrates creating space for up to 30 percent of our Affiliated and Associated movements to join virtually. For you all wherever you are in the world now, please, feel welcome.

We also share greetings to our Senior Friends, members of the Centennial Fund WSCF Staff, and various colleagues and partners from ecumenical organizations that have come to journey together during these days. (to name ecumenical organizations present?)

An especial mention and word of gratitude goes to the churches and government bodies from Germany that are here and have supported all the efforts of the Assembly Planning Committee of this 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the Host Committee to make this celebration possible.

For each one of us, whether we come from far or near, the WSCF is our common home, *oikumene*, and this space welcomes us to celebrate life, share struggles and hopes, broaden our visions and commit ourselves to the abundant Life in Jesus Christ, Living Water that refreshes and revitalizes our path. Amen.

- **Prelude:** Hebrew dance Mayim-Mayim / entrance of liturgical elements (group of SCMerS from different regions)
- **Invocation** (In the liturgical center there will be a large container with water that will connect three circles formed with colorful pieces of fabrics representing traditional motifs from different countries. Two people per region will form a couple to lead the invocation (6 people). Each couple will be placed in the center of one of the circles and will make a liturgical gesture related to the text)

**L 1 and 2:** (Africa and Middle East representatives: they will agitate the water and lift it with their hands spilling it on the container) 1-This is the water of Creation. In the beginning, the Spirit of God danced over the water and made it the fruitful element of life. 2-It is also the dangerous water of the flood turned into covenant of God's love, opportunity of a new creation, promise of salvation and purification.



## Assembly Response:

### Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Anonymous, Caribbean

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le -

lu - ja, Hal - le - lu - ja.

**L 3 and 4:** (Europe and Asia Pacific representatives: one of the two will give water symbolically to the other to drink) 3-This is the water of Sustenance and Health. Living water offered to people who thirst for justice: women, children, victims of war, migrants, poor people, those sick along the path. Miraculous water that nourishes and satiates. 4-Water turned into wine to celebrate the *fiesta* of life. Water that springs from the wound of a life of commitment to the kingdom that is possible for all.

## Assembly Response:

### Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Anonymous, Caribbean

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja.

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Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le -

lu - ja, Hal - le - lu - ja.



**L 5 and 6:** (North America and LAC representatives: they will share a gesture of blessing) 5-This is the water of Liberation and Hope. Through it the people walked towards their freedom. 6-This is the water with which Jesus was baptized, the water of our baptism, which launches us on the path of discipleship marked by questions, certainties, encounters, prophetic challenge.

**All:** The water that gives us "joy in hope, patience in tribulation and perseverance in prayers." (Rom. 12, 12)

**Assembly**

**Response:**

### Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Anonymous, Caribbean

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le -

lu - ja, Hal - le - lu - ja.

### ● Prayer

Let us pray: God of history, you have told us: "I am the water of life, whoever comes to me will never be thirsty" and in that eternal promise we trust. You call us and gather us today in this place, we are your people and a sign of unity in your name. As Christians, we feel challenged to be witnesses of your Gospel in the world in which you have placed us.

God of joy, how can we sing to you in the midst of so much suffering of death?

God of hope, how can we announce your Good News surrounded by uncertainties?

God of justice, how to transform the world with so much apathy, violence, individualism, and remaining isolated, distant?

We need to remember your Truth:

You who incarnated the Gospel of humility, service, sharing, healing, inclusion, liberation in times of hegemonic empires;



You who were betrayed, wounded, denied, abandoned;

You, crucified and buried;

You, our God: you have risen!

God of Life, in today's realities we find your answers:

unveiling our eyes to see you in the most vulnerable of our communities and our entire world and do not playing the game of the structures that generate and legitimate injustices;

celebrating our life stories with gratitude in our hearts for the many blessings we receive from you and regaining faith in the small things, those that happens every day;

trusting the promise of your love and eternal company, to turn our anxieties into certainties that allow us to continue.

At this time together as members of the World Student Christian Federation, we want to affirm you with our charismas, creativity, resilience, solidarity, sensitivity, optimism, care, responsibility, commitment to your Kingdom. We want to refresh ourselves with the good news of a living ecumenical youth, with a sense of the historical moment and testimony of the values of faith in Jesus Christ to whom we all proclaim from every corner of this world. Amen.

- **Hymn:** Rejoice in Hope! (inspired by the 37<sup>th</sup> WSCF General Assembly theme) (Youth will be guiding the movements to the Assembly participants) Annex 1
- **Keynote Message** (Romans 12:12) Text read in several languages: French, Spanish, German, Arabic and English.
- **Hymn** (Affirmation of the ecumenical commitment)
- **Intercession/Commitment** (The sound of the waters will be listened to in off and before each expressed reason, images will be shown on the projector related to the situations that are described. Example: Photos of glaciers, rivers, oceans, salt waters, drought situations, water commercialization, storms / and others of the WSCF in their option for justice)

**L:** The WSCF has sailed on its ecumenical ship for 127 years, allowing itself to be challenged by the most demanding circumstances and realities for youth. Today, the symbol of the water challenges us to continue announcing hope in the midst of tribulations. The water is creation of God, it is a sacred element that gives life, a life





that needs to be cared for. When life is threatened or denied in any way, as Christians we can't remain indolent, quiet, inactive. We are called to announce and struggle for individual fullness, which become the liberation of the community. For it is written "if one member suffers, every member suffers with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Corinthians 12:26). We are called to be a praying community that cares for one another and for the whole of creation.

(Slides with background music)

**L7:** The waters of the glaciers and rivers are a free source of sustenance necessary to live: drinking water to consume. Unfortunately, we have been corrupted by the power of the market and we have privatized this resource, taking advantage of the need and scarcity of many who live in desert areas, far from water sources and in other cases even appropriating the natural water reserves in foreign countries. As a global fellowship, we do not want to be insensitive to these realities. We want to continue being a critical, empathetic, conscious Federation that struggles for a fair, equitable and solidarity-based distribution of the resources we have in the planet. We want to be "drinking water" for this "thirsty world".

#### **A: We commit to offer waters of life and hope**

(Slides with background music)

**L8:** In the salty waters we remember the cry of those people and communities who suffer as a result of the injustices that legitimize the dominant systems of our world. Many migrants, refugees, cross the seas and borders in search of a life opportunity, running away from war, or political oppression, or poverty; women and children are victims of physical and psychological violence; poverty is increasing and also social gaps; unemployment, children labor force, domestic workers and low-paid work are more established realities; discrimination continues to happen as the result of an inherited and archaic morality. The salty water also has the property to heal, regenerate, give life. We want the WSCF that we build together to add new flavors of peace and justice, of equity and dignity in this world today; that we care and take care of human beings and claim for their rights, their safety, their well-being, their fullness of life.

#### **A: We commit to offer waters of life and hope**

(Slides with background music)

**L9:** Countless mysteries lie in the deep waters of the oceans. Sometimes we think we know everything, understand everything, have control of everything, but God constantly places us before new things, unknown realities. We want to be a Federation



of humble people and recognize our vulnerability and limitations before the mystery of God. We want to look deep into human existence and all of Creation to always live with the capacity of wonder, with the joy of surprises, and with the desire to learn from the experiences of other people and nature.

### **A: We commit to offer waters of life and hope**

(Slides with background music)

**L10:** In the calm waters, with smooth streams and white sands, may privilege do not accommodate us. The turbulent and rough waters are sometimes necessary to get us out of our comfort zones, to shake us when we fall into individualism, apathy, alienation.

### **A: We commit to offer waters of life and hope. Amen.**

- **Hymn:** Pelas dores deste mundo / For the troubles of this world/ Imploramos tu piedad (WCC World Assembly, Book of Worship and Prayers “Em tua Graça” No. 39 pages 120-421) Author: Rodolfo Gaede Neto. Brazil Annex 2
- **Remembering our common baptism** (Adapted from Laudate Omnes Gentes. *Praying together. Resources and songs for ecumenical celebrations*. Liturgy after Lima. Join efforts of the Churches Together in Germany, Conference of European Churches, World Council of Churches)

### **Renewal of baptismal Vows**

**L:** As we gather today coming from different traditions and churches, we reaffirm we have crossed together the waters of baptism. In the Holy Baptism God received us and made us the community of God’s world-wide people. We have learned from Thy Word God’s loving purpose for us, we have been nourished at Thy holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world today.

Now therefore, gathered as your people, we remain and renew the baptismal vows: Drown everything that leads to division and separation. Drown all prejudices and all pride. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, so that we can be a sign of reconciliation and peace for the world.

**Thanksgiving and water blessing** (adapted from Liturgy: On the river of life. Gratitude for water. Ecumenical Symphony. Meeting of the WCC Executive Committee, September 17, 1993. Sigtuna, Sweden)

**L:** O God, listen to the pleas of your people. We celebrate our creation and our salvation. Listen to our prayers, and with your blessing touch these waters that give



fertility to the fields, freshness and cleanliness to human beings. By the baptism of Jesus Christ in the waters of the Jordan you have sanctified the waters of baptism. Through these waters you give us a new birth and renew us. May this life-giving element be a sign and mean of our renewal and freshness, and enable us to share the joy of all creation, sanctified by Christ in his baptism. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**L:** Before we leave this place, we are invited to touch these waters to participate in the renewal forces of these waters and receive the blessing of our God.

- **Blessing** (adapted from Liturgy: On the river of life. Gratitude for water. Ecumenical Symphony. Meeting of the WCC Executive Committee, September 17, 1993. Sigtuna, Sweden)

**L:** May God, who has created all the waters of this earth, the Son, who is the Living Water for us, and the Holy Spirit who purifies and renews us in these waters, and unites us in the same baptism and in love, be with us at this time of Assembly and always.

**Assembly: Amen.**

- **Final Song:** We are one in the Spirit Annex 3





## Annex 1

Rejoice in hope!

Inspired by the 37th WSCF General Assembly theme:  
Rejoice in hope! (Romans 12, 12)

Composed by Dianet de la C. Martínez Valdés  
and Alison Infante Zamora  
Translation by Dianet de la C. Martínez Valdés

Son

En me dio de un mun do en cri sis y tri  
In a world where hap pens cri sis and tri

bu la ción: vi va mos con a le gri  
bu la tions: le us live to ge ther

— a yes pe ran za! En  
— with joy and ho pe! In

un mun do lle no dein jus ti cias y do lor:  
a world full of in jus tice and a lot of pain:

— ja nun cie mos cual pro fe tas  
— let us be the pro phets that a

tu Ver dad! Y si laa pa ti  
nnounce your Truth! But if it is a

— a pre va le ce  
— pa thy pre vai ling,

yhay me nos fuer zas pa ra lu char,  
and there is no more strength to fight,



2

25 C A A

que tu Es pi ri tu nos lle ney  
may your Spi rit come to meet us

28 D D C

com pro me ta aha cer rea li dad  
with co mmit ment to make your king dom

31 C D D

tu rei no dea mor.  
of love be come true.

34 G C CORO

A quies ta mos, oh Dios,  
Here we are, o God,

37 C D D

u nien do co ra zo nes, ma nos y  
u ni ting our hearts, our hands, and our

40 G G G

vo ces. A quies  
voi ces. Here we

43 G C C

ta mos, oh Dios, dis  
are, o God,

46 D D G

pues tos a cons tru ir un mun do me jor.  
wi lling to build to ge ther a be tter world.



3

49 G C C

Laes pe ran za nos a ni me,  
May hope en cou rage our lives,

52 Bm7 Bm7 Am7

nos in vi tea ca mi nar, y nos lle ne dea le gri  
and al so in vite us to walk, may it turn in to a song

55 D G G

a pa ra can tar.  
that comes from the joy.

¡Alegres en la esperanza!

Rejoice in hope!

En medio de un mundo en crisis y tribulación:  
¡vivamos con alegría y esperanza!  
En un mundo lleno de injusticias y dolor:  
¡anunciemos cual profetas tu Verdad!

In a world where happens crisis and tribulations:  
let us live together with joy and hope!  
In a world full of injustice and a lot of pain:  
let us be the prophets that announce your truth!

Y si la apatía prevalece  
y hay menos fuerzas para luchar,  
que tu Espíritu nos llene y comprometa  
a hacer realidad tu reino de amor.

But if it is apathy prevailing,  
and there is no more strenght to fight,  
may your Spirit come to met us with commitment  
to make your kingdom of love become true.

**Coro:**

Aquí estamos, oh Dios,  
uniendo corazones, manos y voces.  
Aquí estamos, oh Dios,  
dispuestos a construir un mundo mejor.

**Refrain:**

Here we are, o God,  
uniting our hearts, our hands and our voices.  
Here we are, o God,  
willing to build together a better world.

//La esperanza nos anime,  
nos invite a caminar,  
y nos llene de alegría para cantar//

//May hope encourage our lives,  
and also invite us to walk,  
may it turn into a song that come from the joy//



Annex 2

### 39. Pelas dores deste mundo

Rodolfo Gaede Neto, Brazil

Pe - las do - res des - te mun - do, ó Se - ñhor,  
For the trou - bles and the suf - ferings of the world,  
Im - plo - ra - mos tu pie - dad, oh buen Se - ñor,  
Herr, wir bit - ten für die Schmer - zen die - ser Welt:

im - plo - ra - mos pi - e - da - de.  
God, we call up - on your mer - cy:  
por quien su - fre en es - te mun - do,  
Hör das Seuf - zen Dei - ner Schöp - fung!

um só tem - po ge - me a cri - a - ção.  
whole ere - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain!  
u - na gi - me to - da la crea - çion.  
barm Dich, gib an Dei - ner Gna - de teil!

Teus ou - vi - dos se in - cli - nem ao cla - mor  
Lend an ear to the ris - ing cry for help  
Tus o - í - dos se in - cli - nen al cla - mor  
Herr, Du bist's, der uns in den Hän - den hält:

des - sa gen - te o - pri - mi - da.  
from op - pressed and hope - less peo - ple.  
de tu gen - te o - pri - mi - da,  
Sieh das Lei - den Dei - ner Kin - der!

pres - sa - te com tu - a sal - va - ção!  
Has - ten your sal - va - tion, heal - ing love!  
pu - ra, oh Se - ñor, tu sal - va - çion,  
sch - nen uns nach Dir, nach Dei - nem Heil!

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*Música • Music • Música • Musique • Musik*

*A<sup>7</sup> D G*

A tu - a paz, ben - di - ta e ir - ma -  
We pray for peace, the bles - sed peace that  
Se - a tu paz, ben - di - ta y her - ma -  
Gih Dei - nen Frie - den, Ge - rech - tig - keit und

*A<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup>m*

na - da co'a jus - ti - ça a -  
comes from mak - ing jus - tice, to  
na - da a la jus - ti - cia que a -  
Se - gen für die Völ - ker! Schließ

*Bm G A*

bra - ce o mun - do in - tei - ro. tem com - pai - xão!  
cov - er and em - brace us. Have mer - cy, Lord!  
bra - ce al mun - do en - te - ro: |ten com - pa - sião!  
uns in Dei - ne Ar - me, er - bar - me Dich!

*A<sup>7</sup> D G*

O teu po - der sus - ten - te o tes - te -  
We pray for power, the power that will sus -  
Que tu po - der sus - ten - te el tes - ti -  
Zeig Dei - ne Macht! Wir sind Dein Volk, wir

*A<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup>m*

mu - nho do teu po - vo. Teu  
tain your peo - ple's wit - ness: un -  
mo - nio de tu pue - blo; tu  
wol - len Dich be - zeu - gen! Herr,

*Bm G D*

Rei - no ve - nha a nós! Ky - ri - ee - le - i - son!  
til your King - dom come, Ky - ri - ee - le - i - son!  
Rei - no ven - ga hoy, | Ky - ri - ee - le - i - son!  
komm mit Dei - nem Reich! Ky - ri - ee - le - i - son!



## They'll Know We Are Christians

Peter Scholtes

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. -John 13:35*

1 We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord; We are  
2 We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand; We will  
3 We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side; We will  
4 All . . . praise to the Fath - er, from . . . whom all things come, and all

6 one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, and we  
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, and to -  
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side, and we'll  
praise to Christ Je - sus, his . . . on - ly . . . Son, And all

10 pray that all u - ni - ty will one day be re - stored,  
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in the Land  
guard hu - man dig - ni - ty, and we'll save hu - man pride,  
praise to the Spir - it, who . . . makes . . . us . . . one,

14 *Refrain. --repeat on final verse*

And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love, Yes, they'll

19 know we are Christ-ians by our Love. Love.

1, 2, 3. 4.