

La valentía de amar

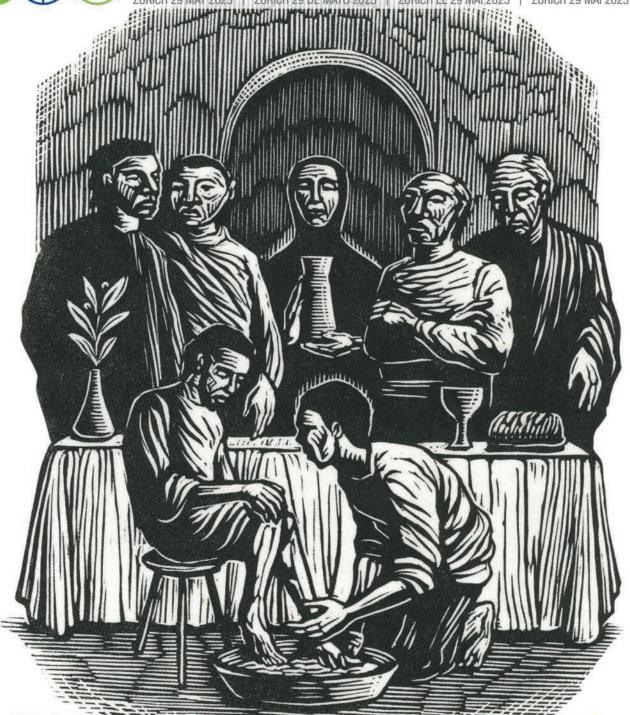
ZÚRICH 29 DE MAYO 2025 ZURICH

Le courage d'aimer

ZURICH LE 29 MAI 2025

Mut zur Liebe

ZÜRICH 29 MAI 2025



EN - P. 4

A Worship Service

Commemorating the 500th anniversary of Anabaptist beginnings

Mennonite World Conference

Grossmünster Zurich, Switzerland 29 May 2025 17:00–18:30

DE - S. 15

Mut zur Liebe

Festgottesdienst anlässlich des 500-jährigen Bestehens der Täuferbewegung

Mennonitische Weltkonferenz

Grossmünster Zürich, Schweiz 29. Mai 2025 17:00–18:30 Uhr

FR - P. 22

Une célébration

En commémoration des 500 ans des débuts de l'anabaptisme

Conférence mennonite mondiale

Grossmünster Zurich (Suisse) 29 mai 2025 17h–18h30

ES - P. 29

Un servicio de adoración

Conmemorando el 500 aniversario de los inicios anabautistas

Congreso Mundial Menonita

Grossmünster Zúrich, Suiza 29 de mayo de 2025 17:00–18:30



On behalf of Mennonite World Conference (MWC) and our 110 member groups, representing more than 10 000 congregations in 61 countries, we want to welcome you to this service of commemoration and worship. We are pleased to recognize members of the MWC General Council, Commissions and Networks, along with the many other visitors who represent the various denominations that claim the Anabaptists as their spiritual forebears.

And we extend a very special welcome to the representatives of the Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed Churches who have joined us today, along with leaders from many other Christian communions. We also want to express our deep gratitude to the Konferenz der Mennoniten der Schweiz / Conférence Mennonite Suisse, the City Council of Zurich, the Reformed Church of the Canton of Zurich, and the Reformed Church of the City of Zurich for hosting us so generously and so graciously.

May our worship together be a sign of our commitment to restoring wholeness to our spiritual family and to the Body of Christ. And may we leave here with "the courage to love" as we pursue a common witness to the transforming love of Christ in a hurting and divided world. May it be so!

César García, general secretary (MWC) Henk Stenvers, president (MWC)

Welcome!

The beginnings of the Anabaptist movement are closely linked to Switzerland. On this special day, it is therefore a distinct pleasure and honour for us as the Swiss Mennonite Conference (KMS) to welcome you all to this joyful worship service.

500 years ago, several people here in Zurich took a courageous step with the first Anabaptist baptism of faith. Today, as Mennonites in Switzerland we are a small community. But as we can see in this service, we are part of a movement that has become diverse and international – often due to migration or mission. The fact that you are here and celebrating with us is a gift. Together with you, we want to continue to live into this global Anabaptist community in the future and to share our gifts with each other.

A warm welcome also goes to our ecumenical brothers and sisters. Your presence testifies to the new forms of fellowship that have emerged following the break in church unity in the sixteenth century. In various ecumenical encounters, we have learned from each other and experienced reconciliation. Ultimately, we have also rediscovered our identity as a peace church. We pray to God that, together with you, we may continue to seek and experience "the courage to love."

Gladys Geiser and Lukas Amstutz, co-presidents (KMS)



We have received many words of greeting and encouragement from ecumenical friends throughout the Christian world. You will find the full text of those greetings here.

PROCESSION Holy God we Praise Thy Name 5

WELCOME

Martin Rüsch, Pfarrer Grossmünster/Swiss Reformed Church Gladys Geiser and Lukas Amstutz, co-presidents (KMS) Henk Stenvers, president (MWC)

INVOCATION Rebecca Osiro (MWC)

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;

People: with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,

People: that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. . .

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; People: steadfast love and faithfulness go before you...

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,

People: your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. . .

Praise be to the Lord forever!

All: Amen and Amen

PRAYER Sunoko Lin (MWC)

SONG Ewe Thina In and Cantai ao Senhor In

A CHURCH DISRUPTION BY SOME PEOPLE OF GOD

CONFESSION AND LAMENT

Danisa Ndlovu (MWC) and Lisa Carr-Pries (MWC)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-3 Tigist Tesfaye (MWC)

SERMON "The Courage to Love" César García, general secretary (MWC)

SONG May the Peace of Christ (Kirisuto no heiwa ga)

THE COURAGE TO LOVE WITHIN THE WOUNDED BODY OF CHRIST

Janet Plenert (MWC)

Celebrating Our Journey toward Reconciliation with the Catholic Church

Anne-Cathy Graber (MWC) and the Dicastery for the Promotion of Christian Unity

Celebrating Our Journey toward Reconciliation with the Lutheran World Federation

Larry Miller (MWC) and Anne Burghardt, general secretary (LWF)

Celebrating Our Journey toward Reconciliation with the World Communion of Reformed Churches

J. Nelson Kraybill (MWC); John D. Roth (MWC); César García (MWC); Hanns Lessing, executive secretary for communion and theology (WCRC); Setri Nyomi, interim general secretary (WCRC)

NOTE: the litany read during the service of footwashing is drawn from the recent MWC-WCRC statement "Restoring Our Family to Wholeness: Seeking a Common Witness".

NOTE: When Mennonites began to write confessions of faith in the sixteenth century, all started with God as Trinity in harmony with the Nicene Creed. But Mennonites also included a commitment to following the teaching and example of Jesus as an essential part of the Christian way. Now, in this 1700th anniversary year of the Nicene Creed, Mennonites, with renewed commitment to discipleship, join the universal body of Christ in praising Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

CONFESSING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

The Nicene Creed (each in your own language)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SONG: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful (El Señor es mi fortaleza) 🗗

THE COURAGE TO LOVE IN A TROUBLED WORLD

A Litany for the Healing of the Nations

PRAYER Nancy Heisey (MWC)

SONG We Want Peace A

GOING FORTH WITH COURAGE AND LOVE

A Litany of Thanksgiving (Congregation responds with "Thanks be to God!")

SONG Ehre sei Gott / Grosse Doxologie

CLOSING BLESSING

As we go from here, Almighty One, set us on the path toward your kingdom.

People: We heed your call!

Wherever you send us, let your perfect love cast out our fear.

People: We go forth in confidence!

Come, Holy Spirit, inspire us with the faithfulness of saints through the ages.

People: We follow their example!

Go forth, sisters and brothers, in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

RECESSIONAL: Siyahamba

NOTE: As you depart from the service, please be sure to return your headphones.

RESTORING OUR FAMILY TO WHOLENESS: SEEKING A COMMON WITNESS

A Common Statement of Confession, Gratitude, and Commitment
Mennonite World Conference
World Communion of Reformed Churches
29 May 2025

PREAMBLE

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:2, 3)

We gather today to commemorate the common origins of our global communions and to acknowledge our fractured relationship. The division, sparked by the voluntary baptism of adults in Zurich 500 years ago, soon led to the persecution of Anabaptists and then to a long period of estrangement.

We rejoice that today, building on efforts over many years toward mutual understanding and reconciliation, we can respond to Christ our Peace by living into the unity of the Spirit. Bound together, we persevere in nurturing this unity. We pledge to be humble, patient, truthful, and, above all, loving, as we walk together as one body of Christ.

Together, we give thanks

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful! (Colossians 3:14, 15)

Together, we give thanks to God, Trinity of love in perfect communion, who offers this koinonia to Jesus' disciples, to humanity, and to all of creation. We do not create this unity but receive it gratefully as a gift from God. Communion is God's self-giving to all creation, and nothing can destroy it. On the eve of his death, Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of his disciples. Today we give thanks that we can respond to Christ's will by making his prayer our own. In Christ, unity between our communions becomes a testimony to the world.

Together, we celebrate

For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

Gathered under God's loving gaze, we celebrate that our identity is found in our common confession of Jesus as Lord, our shared ancestors in the faith, and our common call to discipleship and gospel witness in a fragmented world. Recognizing our frailties, we surrender ourselves to God's grace and find new strength in the Spirit to take on a shared commitment to peace and fullness of life as a gift from our communions to all of God's creation.

Together, we acknowledge, confess, and lament

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. (James 5:16a)

Together, we acknowledge that our two traditions, though born in the same renewal movement, have been divided by deeply held convictions concerning baptism, the nature of the church, biblical hermeneutics, and the role of the state. We confess and lament that we have lived alongside each other for many centuries without questioning or exploring this division in the Body of Christ.

As Reformed Christians, we acknowledge that we have largely suppressed the memory of the persecution of the Anabaptists. We confess that this persecution was, according to our present conviction, a betrayal of the Gospel.

As Anabaptist Christians, we acknowledge that we have often overlooked the deep theological roots we share with the Reformed tradition. We confess that too often our convictions, ideals, and memory of martyrdom have fostered self-righteousness and a reluctance to see the face of Christ in our Reformed sisters and brothers.

Together, we hear God's call to unity and peace

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. (Hebrews 12:14-15)

We receive God's call from our shared beginnings in Zurich, which urged the Church to live anew in obedience to Christ, and in the witness of those who demanded the end of persecution and strived for religious freedom.

We hear God's call to unity and peace when we discern Scripture and partake in baptism and the Lord's Supper – even as we recognize and explore our differences in understanding baptism. We hear God's call in the voices of those who remind the Church that it is grounded in the Gospel and must not become an organ of the state. The Gospel calls us to work for a world where justice, peace and the wholeness of creation will allow every living being to flourish in fullness.

Together, we long for renewed imagination

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; justice and peace will kiss each other (Psalm 85:10)

Our traditions have blessed us with a passion for justice and peace. Yet we have often stressed one at the expense of the other, impoverishing our witness. Today, our different emphases can enrich each other as we eagerly work for justice and peace to embrace and kiss, as they do in Christ. May the God of the cross and the resurrection give us the heart and the mind to pursue peace and to practice the justice that resists violence, oppression, and ecological devastation, a justice that finds its fullest expression in forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation.

Together, we commit ourselves to respond

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (1 John 5:2)

Today, as Anabaptist and Reformed members of Christ's body we affirm that our witness to the world is nourished and sustained by God's grace, which enables us to love God, each other, and all creation.

Together, we commit ourselves to the sacred mission of proclaiming the Gospel of love in all our contexts, each with their own challenges and demands. We will not let fear, mistrust, or obstacles to dialogue keep us from this calling.

We promise to journey together to heal the wounds of the past and to re-member the body of Christ. We pledge to learn from each other by sharing the richness and diversity of our traditions. We bind ourselves to purposeful cooperation that affirms God's mercy and opens doors to the justice that leads to peace.

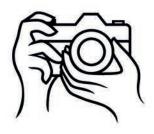
Together, we pray

We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:5)

Together, we pray for the body of Christ. In Christ we are members of one another, brothers and sisters of the same flesh and the same Spirit. We receive this unity as a gift. In painful awareness that our differences became a source of conflict and division, we now pray for the courage and the creativity to reshape them in ways that enrich our unity in the body of Christ. The One who is creating us anew will bring this great work of peace to completion.

Together, we embrace the gift of unity in the belief that you, O God, are restoring your family to wholeness.

AMEN



Smile – you may be on camera. You acknowledge that people are using video and photographic cameras at the event and that your image may be captured on video or in photographs, which may subsequently be displayed or disseminated without your consent or payment of compensation to you and you release MWC from any legal liability for such filming, photographing or dissemination.

Please inform MWC Communications if you do not wish for your image to be used in MWC materials. Please contact MWC Communications to share your photos from your own camera for use by MWC.

We are very grateful to the MWC staff and to many people who helped to make this event possible:

The Courage to Love planning committee: Jürg Bräker, Bettina Lichtler, Karl Martin, Simon Rindlisbacher, John D. Roth and Liesa Unger.

Participants in the worship: Anne Burghardt, Lisa Carr-Pries, James Jakob Fehr, César García, Nancy Heisey, Nina Marie Horsch-Kroeker, J. Nelson Kraybill, Hanns Lessing, Sunoko Lin, Larry Miller, Ebenezer Mondez, Danisa Ndlovu, Setri Nyomi, Rebecca Osiro, Ulrike Schmutz, Henk Stenvers and Tigist Tesfaye.

Musicians: Andreas Jost (organist); Worship Team: Debora Prabu (Indonesia), Luis Enrique Vizcaino Garcia (Colombia), Emily Grimes (USA), Wilhelm Unger (Germany) and Pranawa Setiawan (Indonesia).

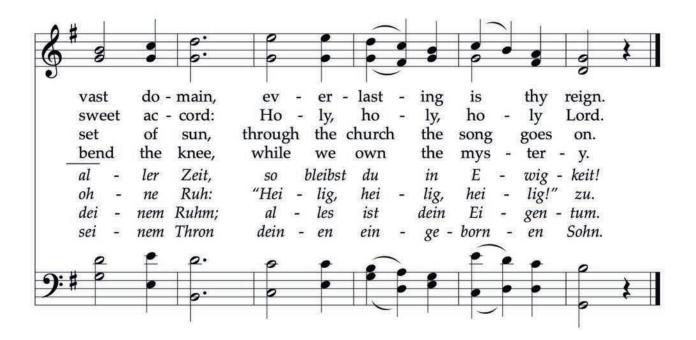
Ensembles: Agape (Paraguay), Songs of Peace (Switzerland), TIARA (Indonesia), EMU Chamber Singers (United States), Eastleigh Fellowship Centre Choir (Kenya); Music director – Rashard Allen (USA).

Others: Chris Blickensdörfer, Joel Driedger, Marius von Hoogstraten, Hanspeter Jecker, Markus Rediger, Jürg Rindlisbacher, Astrid von Schlachta, David Stutzman, Max Wiedmer, Judith Wipfler and Meredith Yoder.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name / Großer Gott Grand Dieu, nous / Te alabamos, ¡Oh Gran Dios!



Text: "Te Deum laudamus" (present-day Italy), late 4th c.; trans. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853; German trans. Ignace Franz (present-day Poland), ca. 1774, alt; French trans. Henri-Louis Empaytaz; Spanish trans. anon.
Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch (present-day Austria), 1774



Français

- 1 Grand Dieu, nous te bénissons nous célébrons tes louanges! Éternel, nous t'exaltons, de concert avec les anges, et prosternés devant toi, nous t'adorons: louange à toi!
- 2 Les saints et les bienheureux, les trônes et les puissances, tous les êtres dans les cieux. Disent ta magnificence, proclamant dans leurs concerts le grand Dieu de l'univers.
- 3 Puisse ton règne de paix s'étendre sur tout le monde! Dès maintenant, à jamais, que sur la terre et sur l'onde, tous genoux soient abattus au nom du Seigneur Jésus.
- 4 Gloire soit au Saint-Esprit! Gloire soit à Dieu de vie! Gloire soit à Jésus-Christ, notre sauveur, notre ami! Son immense charité dure à perpétuité.

Español

- 1 Te_alabamos, ¡oh gran Dios! Tu poder y reino honramos; te_adoramos ¡oh Señor! Por tus obras te glorificamos; Dios de fuerza y de bondad desde toda eternidad.
- 2 Por tu grande salvación te alabamos noche y día; tuyo es nuestro corazón, nuestra alma en ti confía; cuerpo y mente ¡oh Señor! te ofrendamos con amor.
- 3 Al Espíritu de Dios nuestros himnos entonamos en la lid confórtanos. Haz que en santo amor crezcamos. Llénanos en tu bondad de paz, gozo, y caridad.
- 4 Padre nuestro, escúchanos. Cólmanos de bendiciones; muéstranos tu rostro ¡oh Dios! Presta, Espíritu, tus dones; ¡Jesucristo, pronto ven! ¡Sálvanos, Señor! Amen.

Ewe, Thina / We Walk His Way / Suivons ses voies



Text: South African traditional; trans. by Anders Nyberg and Sven-Bernhard Fast

Music: South African tranditional

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Cantai ao Senhor / O Sing to the Lord Cantad al Señor / Pujilah Tuhan



Português

- 2 Porque ele fez, ele faz maravilhas, (3x) cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!
- 3 Cantai ao Senhor, bendizei o seu nome, (3x) cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!
- 4 É ele quem dá o Espírito Santo, (3x) cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!
- 5 Jesus é o Senhor! Amém, aleluia! (3x) Cantai ao Senhor, cantai ao Senhor!

English

- 2 By marvelous pow'r the Lord has done wonders, (3x) O sing to the Lord, O sing to the Lord!
- 3 So dance for the Lord and blow all the trumpets, (3x) O sing to the Lord, O sing to the Lord!
- 4 O shout to the Lord,
 who gave us the Spirit, (3x)
 O sing to the Lord, O sing to the Lord!
- 5 For Jesus is Lord! Amen, alleluia! (3x) O sing to the Lord, O sing to the Lord!

キリストの平和が / Kirisuto no heiwa ga May the Peace of Christ / Que la paz de Cristo Damai Kristus Besertamu / Jesu Friede erfülle



Japanese; Izumi Shiota; English stanza Lori True, 2008; Spanish trans. Betty Puricelli; Indonesian trans. Taning Purwidaningsih; German trans. Wilhelm Unger; Filipino trans. Ebenezer Mondez. trans. © 2021 Mennonite World Conference Music: Izumi Shiota; arr. Lori True, 2008

O Izumi Shiota

El Senyor és la meva força In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

El Señor es mi fortaleza / Ô ma joie et mon espérance Meine Hoffnung und meine Freude



We Want Peace

Music & Lyrics: Dennis Thielmann / French translation: Marie-Noëlle Yoder © 2021 Songs of Peace

CHORUS

We want justice, we want peace. We want justice, we want peace. We want justice!

VERSE 1 (SOLO)

Es wird Zeit wieder aufzustehn, und mit Hoffnung auf die Zukunft sehn. Aufeinander zuzugehn, und wo Feinde sind, das Schwert ablehn'n. Mach dich auf den Weg, nimm den Segen mit, wohin du auch gehst. Setz dich für den Frieden ein!

CHORUS

We want justice, we want peace. We want justice, we want peace. We want justice!

VERSE 2 (SOLO)

Il est temps de se relever, de voir l'avenir avec espérance,
D'aller les uns vers les autres, d'abaisser l'épée devant l'ennemi.

Mets-toi en chemin, emmène la bonté avec toi,

Engage -toi pour la paix.

CHORUS

We want justice, we want peace. We want justice, we want peace. We want justice!

INTERLUDE

BRIDGE

There's freedom for the poor, there is freedom for the broken.
There's peace for the weak and freedom for the bound.
There's freedom for the haters, freedom for the greedy.
There's freedom from the powers, freedom for the slaves.

There's peace for the mind and freedom for the body. There's peace for your heart and peace for your soul. There's peace for the humble peace for the children. There's freedom for the left and freedom for the right.

CHORUS

We want justice, we want peace. We want justice, we want peace. We want justice!

OUTRO

Pray for freedom, pray for peace. Pray for freedom, pray for peace. Pray for freedom, pray for peace. Pray for freedom, pray for peace.

Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe





Siyahamba / We Are Marching Caminamos en la luz / Nous marchons



Español

//// Caminamos en la luz de Dios ////
/ Caminamos vamos, caminamos vamos,
Caminamos en la luz de Dios /

Français

//// Nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu ////
/ Nous marchons, marchons, nous marchons,
Oh, nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu /



Welcome to this service of worship, reflection and inspiration!

"The Courage to Love: Anabaptism at 500" is part of a series of events called Renewal 2028 organized by Mennonite World Conference to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist tradition.

Each year we gather in a different MWC region – usually with ecumenical partners – to reflect on the Anabaptist tradition, celebrate the way in which this tradition has found expression in the local context, and ask where God is leading us in the future.

Thank you for your presence here today. Please join us in this journey of renewal!

John D. Roth

MWC Renewal 2028 planning committee chair

mwc-cmm.org/renewal2028 mwc-cmm.org/renovacion2028 mwc-cmm.org/renouveau2028



Mennonite World Conference

A Community of Anabaptist related Churches

Congreso Mundial Menonita

Una Comunidad de Iglesias Anabautistas

Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

Une Communauté d'Eglises Anabaptistes Mennonite World Conference is a global Anabaptist community, nurturing relationships among 110 member churches in 61 countries around the world, in order to strengthen each one's witness to Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for your participation in walking alongside our sisters and brothers all over the world.

DONATE NOW



We hope you enjoyed this day of commemoration and renewal in Zurich. These events, and the larger mission of MWC, are possible only through your support. Your gift to MWC will help us build on our foundation in Jesus Christ, strengthen the Anabaptist movement, and renew God's church for future generations.