

Presbyterian Church in Cameroon



PRAY FOR CAMEROON

A Special Week of Prayers in Times of Crisis

By

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Moderator, PCC

ThiREWORD

Dear Presbyterians,

Grace to you and peace from Him, who is, who was and who is to come.

During the meeting with Presbytery Chairpersons held at the Synod office Hall and Church Centre, Mankon-Bamenda on the 6th and 9th April, 2018 respectively; we agreed that funds and material things be raised and mobilized in all the PCC congregations on Sunday 22nd July 2018 to enable the church take care of our fellow brethren who are refugees in neighbouring Nigeria and others internally displaced due to the crises in the Northwest and Southwest regions of our country. For those who can remember, 22nd October 2017 was also declared a day of mourning and collection of material and cash support was made to victims of the said crises. The Holy Scripture says, ***“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”*** (Gal 6:9).

These crises in the Northwest and Southwest **Regions** seem to be worsening, it is affecting the entire nation. 8 other **Regions** have to cope with the fleeing denizens from the Northwest and Southwest **Regions**. As a church, the statistics are deplorable: 7 of our 22 Health Centres are non-functional. Few weeks ago, the Manyemen General Hospital was vandalized. Since then, there has been no stability in the hospital as Nurses and Doctors are scared to function freely. 88 of our 223 primary schools partially opened their doors for the 2017/2018 school year. 8 of the 22 Colleges were handed to nearby congregations because of our inability to run them financially. 8 of our 30 Presbyteries are affected, this includes the dis-functioning of about 128 congregations. The assurances that these ordeals will end soon are very bleak, that is why we have obeyed divine injunction to declare the 16th to 22nd of July as a week of prayer for Cameroon in times of crisis.

Dear Presbyterians, dear God’s people, let us come out and “Pray for Cameroon”. Our country is sick and needs thorough healing. We are motivated to pray because we have the promise of Scripture, *“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”* (2 Chron 7:14).

ThicaseI’mong prayers will end with a massive mobilization of support to Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria and internally displaced persons. We sincerely appreciate Congregations, individuals, institutions and Pastors who have stood valiantly with the suffering masses. You did this for the Lord. May he take all the glory.

Yours for the Sake of the Faith

Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba
Moderator, PCC
July, 2018

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Text: 1 Timothy 2: 1 - 6a

SERMON : PRAY FOR CAMEROON

Dearly beloved in Christ, I am concerned about our country Cameroon because Cameroon is not as good as it used to be. Cameroon was once the king of Central Africa, the haven of peace and unity. The place where human blood was sacred. It was the place where people died only through sickness.

Today, we have lost that prestigious place of king of peace in Africa. Our people are dying today in Cameroon through the barrel of the gun. Disunity can be felt everywhere in Cameroon. Human life has lost its value in Cameroon. Cameroon is not as good politically, socially, morally and spiritually as was the case in the past. So, we must pray for Cameroon because Cameroon is divided. There is a divide between the Anglophones and the government of Cameroon and a divide between the different social strata. In any of the above divides there is anger, pain, hatred and killings on both sides and it is awful.

We Cameroonians do not know how to disagree without being disagreeable and angry. The political landscape of Cameroon is that of survival of the fittest. “Strong man helep i sef”, even if it means pulling down others to achieve political dream. Greed has seized our political scene. Our country has been consumed by man’s hatred for man and the spirit of greed and corruption has become Cameroon’s greatest shame that has denied our nation the opportunity to take its true place among the “concert of nations” in Africa. In a way, we have neglected God’s cosmic companionship and this has led to a persistence of doom.

All what I have seen since October 2016 (when this crisis started) in Cameroon is disregard for the voice of the ordinary Cameroonians; and we have slowly been plunged into self-evident political betrayal. It is all about a culture of **victimization**, where the real victims are the poor, hardworking down-trodden people of our country.

Today in Cameroon, no one feels any obligation to anybody else and our new found worldview has been designed to comfort the comfortable and further afflict the afflicted. The Government has a big role to play; to create **opportunities**, to protect the environment, to provide for the common good. Yet, all we receive from the state is less jobs for the youths, lack of love for its people, discrimination, favouritism and silence when dialogue is most needed in times like these.

Someone has rightly said that, “We have to fight but we can’t fight like they do, we cannot fight with arms. We have to fight our Government with the truth. Irrational actions and emotional attitudes will lead us nowhere, whereas reason and objectivity will bring about the required result”. The Historian, Charles Beard puts it thus: “evil always has a self-defeating quality. Him whom the gods will destroy, they must first make drunk and mad with emotions”. Let me tell you one truth, the machines of God grind slowly, but surely. It is true that political evil has been initiated for a very long time in our nation, but it will crumble one day.

Today, our beloved nation staggers, on the **path** of civil war, dangerous passions of pride, man’s wickedness to man and certainly brothers betraying brothers like the Bible illustrates. Individuals have swindled billions meant for the poor. For me, this is uncharacteristic greed, hatred and selfishness that has endangered human life in Cameroon from the Shari to the Mungo.

In this day of internal conspiracy, it is difficult for us to comprehend the incomprehensible and understand the irrational. One thing has become quite clear: that our cry of distress means nothing to our politicians who have gone on with their political maneuvers and distortions, making their words seem meaningful, when in reality, they are meaningless. Politicians need to try as best as they can, to find some common ground on the issues that are dividing our country. It has been concluded by the wide minds that “UNITED WE STAND. DIVIDED WE FALL.” Our politicians need to wake up and start using some ‘common sense’ and some spiritual ‘sense’. So, pray for Cameroon.

Pray for the Social life of Cameroon.

When I was a kid it seemed like people were more sociable and neighbourly. Neighbours visited neighbours and even helped one another. Today, individualism has shown its ugly head in a society built by our forefathers out of community love. We have become our own prisoners due to the kind of fences individualism has forced us to construct around our homes. The social environment in Cameroon is characterized by lack of social cohesion. The lack of integration and communication between the various social movements, increasing division among Cameroonians, increasing fragmentation of socio-cultural identities, and increasing impoverishment and marginalization of the Anglophones intensify the conflict already existing and the consequences are social exclusion, fear, stress and frustration. The overall social situation in Cameroon has continued to deteriorate. This is evident in the rapid rate of rural-urban **emigration** and the pressure on urbanization, the decay in educational and health **infrastructures**, growing malnutrition and poverty and widespread unemployment. Do we care about one another as much as people did in the past? **Paul's** advice to the Galatians and Romans fit our context. He says, *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time will reap a harvest if we do not give up”*. *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers”* (Galatians 6:9-10). *“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited”* (Romans 12:16).

We need to be good, willing to visit and help one another. Jesus said, *“Love your neighbour as yourself...”* And your neighbour should not be those closest to you but

anyone made in God's image. If we do, this house of worship would be small to contain us. So pray for Cameroon.

Pray for the Moral life of Cameroon.

Today, our society has become morally bankrupt. Immorality is considered as an act of civilization. God's very own people have twisted His Word and commercialized His Word for their own gains. If not, why would a Pastor open a 'Breast Sucking' ministry? And this ministry is restricted only to women with the Pastor as the only male! Why would a Pastor open a 'Sex and Beer Drinking' ministry? When everyone is drunk you just turn and have sex with the person next to you. This is gradually creeping into Cameroon and morality is losing its grounds. The reason many problems such as crime, war, adultery, theft, and other sins, are exploding around us is because children are no longer taught right from wrong. They no longer understand what differentiates proper conduct from an improper one.

Our moral values have failed because of acute selfishness; greed and lust are the main reasons. **It is not** only the irreligious people who are the culprits in this case, **but many** of these acts of immorality are even carried out by followers of various religions. Morality is not a subject matter for rewards and punishment. It is the fundamental principle of life and it is what separates human beings from animals. It should be the primary duty of parents, elders, teachers and well-wishers to teach children the true values of morality and encourage them to imbibe moral values so that they would validate their every thought and action morally in their life. So pray for Cameroon.

Pray for patriotism in Cameroon.

Today, many Cameroonians are not patriotic as they used to be. When the National Anthem was sung in the past, we would all stand and attend to it and pledge ourselves to our country. Now, people dishonor the Flag, the National Anthem and other national symbols. At the campus of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon – IRIC, the intellectually acclaimed and vociferous Prof. Jean Emmanuel Pondi at the amphi 500, in 'The Theories of International Relation lectures 2' said; "the next President of Cameroon after Paul Biya will have a lot of work in crafting a new Cameroon identity and

International image”. When asked further about the challenging problems, he said, “the mentality of Cameroonians toward money has negatively over-powered the spirit of patriotism”.

Patriotism is the love for one’s country directed by critical intelligence. Meaning; it is a citizen-devoted-love, support and defense of country and loyalty to the nation. But patriotism in our context has been erroneously understood as ‘motions of support’, the whole idea seems to have stimulated a poisonous nationalism that prevents fruitful policy debates in Parliament, and slowly directing this nation into self-destruction, pain and sorrow.

Politicians have subverted genuine patriotism with slogans, over-simplifications, falsifications and diversions that disguise faulty strategies and mask tendencies that create crises. That is why surprisingly, those who are expected to represent the highest marks of patriotism are rather exercising greed. They defend the nation with false allegiances and co-opt the symbols of patriotism to personal benefit. Like Giffin in his book, “*Against the Grain,*” I would say;

‘I cherish my country more than any of you...But it is also true that the patriotic feeling which animates me is not exactly the same as the one whose shouts have upset my quiet existence...

I have not learned to love my country with my eyes closed, my head bowed, and my mouth shut. I think that one can be useful to one’s country only if one sees it clearly; I believe that the age of blind love has passed, and that nowadays one owes one’s county the truth. I confess that I do not feel that smug patriotism, that lazy patriotism, which manages to make everything beautiful, which falls asleep on its illusions and with which unfortunately many of our good souls are afflicted today’ (cited in Giffin and Smith, 1971, p.316).

So pray for Cameroon.

Pray for genuine Christian life in Cameroon.

Cameroonians are not spiritually inclined as they used to be. Christianity is considered the dominant religion in Cameroon; I doubt how committed Cameroonian Christians are to the Christian faith. The atrocities going on in our country today from road accidents, train

accidents and now burning down of houses and killing hardly makes our country a spiritual place.

Today, some Pastors have become the worst crooks and some Christians have become agents of the evil one. When I was a kid, it seemed like everyone went to some Church that preached Christ. Most people that I knew believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world **and** people went to Church. But today, go to our football pitches around the country on Sunday you would be surprised with the number of youths who prefer those playgrounds. Every Sunday the number keeps increasing and we are doing little or nothing about it. Soon our worship houses will become empty like those in the West with very few youths attending. No doubt CYF is the only Movement of our church that is not found in all of Europe, the Diaspora even though they are more Presbyterian youths in the European Diaspora than their parents. The Psalmist says; (33:12) ***“Blessed is the Nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance”***. How would God bless people who do not remember Him and honour Him and His Son?

It seems that Cameroonians have lost their focus or better still, Cameroonian Christians have lost their focus. Paul says; ***“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”*** (Philippians 3:14).

Instead of focusing on the Lord and pressing towards the goal, we’ve been focusing on the things of this world. Our focus should be on God, His Word and pleasing Him in all things. What must we do to see Cameroon become the country she once was? We need to pray for Cameroon!

Pray fervently for our country and her leaders.

Paul addressing young Timothy, said: ***“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth”*** (I Timothy 2:1-4).

- We should trust the Lord and not live in fear. ***“Do not fear because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like***

green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.” (Psalm 37:1-3).

- We should live right (we don't change things by doing evil). *“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the King, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men. But do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God”* (I Peter 2:12-16).
- We should speak for Christ and our country. *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”* (I Peter 3:15). *“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”* (II Chronicles 7:14).

It's time for all who claim to be God's people to humble themselves, pray, seek God's face (His will) and turn from sin if we want God to bless our country and our lives.

We have been asking God to bless Cameroon, now it is the time to sincerely pray. Amen.

Buea,

June, 2018.

Monday, July 16: DAY OF LAMENT

The Introit Psalm

Psalm 11

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Congreg.: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The salutation

Minister: In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congreg.: Amen

Minister: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congreg.: Who made heaven and earth.

The Opening Hymn

CH 399, CHB 439.

The Invitation

Minister: My brothers and sisters,

We are assembled in God's name and presence to meet with Him in our midst, in His holy word and to pray for Cameroon. The focus today is to wail and cry to the Lord. Let us sit down and remain silent while we beseech God for help, strength and support.

O come let us worship and bow down.

Congreg.: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

(silence)

Opening Prayer

Minister: God of Compassion, the Holy Scriptures teaches us to bear one another's burden and so fulfill the law of Christ, to brave that pain, and so enter into true solidarity with our brothers and sisters. For those who face hunger, for those who face war for those who face exploitation, for those who face displacement; we stand in solidarity. For those who face unjust discrimination, for those who face indifference, for those who face a lack of opportunity, for those who face a lack of health care; we stand in solidarity. Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to our people, to their lives and to their dignity so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will allow ourselves to cry for it is only in those tears that we truly become one. Our trepidations fall away and we step forward and stand anew. Teach us to cry;

through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns together with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen

Minister: Text: **Luke 23: 27-31**

(Brief meditation followed by interactive discussions. Prayers)

Hymn: CH 413, CHB 455.

Litany of Lament

(Adapted from Lamentations chapter 1 & 2)

Minister: Let us pray: How deserted lies our cities, once so full of people! How like a widow is our region, who once was great among the others! Our region that was the pride of our country, has now become a place of war.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: All the roads to cities of the Northwest and Southwest regions mourn, for no one comes to our appointed activities. All our gateways are desolate, our pastors groan, our women and girls grieve, our regions are in bitter anguish.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: Lord your children sit on the ground in silence; they have sprinkled dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. Your children of the Northwest and the Southwest regions have bowed their heads to the ground in pain and lament.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: All the splendour has departed from our villages and cities of the Northwest and Southwest regions. Our boys and men are like deer that find no pasture; in weakness they have fled from their pursuers.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: Our eyes fail from weeping, we are in torments within, our heart is poured out on the ground because we are in pains, our cities and villages are empty and have sought for refuge in the wild.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: Some of your prophets have been false and worthless in their pronouncement concerning evil; they did not expose our sins to ward off these afflictions. The oracles they gave us were false and misleading.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: In these days of affliction and pain, Cameroonians remember all the treasures in the days of peace. Today, the people of the Northwest and the Southwest **Regions** are now enemies to themselves. There is no one to help us. Our neighbours look at us and laugh at our destruction.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: We have sinned against You greatly and so have become unclean. All who honoured us now despise us; they have seen our nakedness and shame.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: All our people cry as they search for bread, shelter and safety; a time may come when we will barter our children for food, shelter, safety and life. Look, O LORD, and consider, for we are despised.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: You, O LORD are righteous, yet we rebelled against your commands. **With guilty** and **repentant** hearts O **Lord**, we **cry** to you; look at our **suffering!** Our young men and women, old fathers and old mothers are refugees and some are internally displaced. Cry to the Lord Almighty whose mercies never come to an end.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: Pastors, elders and **parishioners** in the cities and villages are perishing while they search for spiritual food to keep themselves alive.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: See, O LORD, how distressed we are! We are in torments within, and in our heart we are disturbed, for we have been most rebellious against your heavenly peace. Outside, the sword and gun await us; inside, there is only suffering, fear, hunger and death.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: People have heard our groaning, but there is no one to comfort us. All our enemies have heard of our distress; they rejoice at our suffering and pain.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: Let all the wicked come before you; deal with them with your righteous judgement. May they not die like our innocent **relatives**, but live to repent and proclaim your kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

Minister: Our groans are many, our hearts are fainting, we are short of words, and we are gasping for breath.

Lord, hear our prayer;

Congreg.: And let our cry come to you.

The Collect

Minister: Glory be to you, O Christ, for your Church which waits for you here, and for your servants who see you in a greater light. In the fellowship of **the Holy** Spirit and the communion of your saints, with the faithful of all ages, with our own beloved who are at peace in your presence, we who now live and labour on earth unite in ascribing to you with the Father and the Holy Spirit thanksgiving, glory, honour and power forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen

Hymn: CH 415, CHB 429

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you,

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord,

Congreg.: Thanks be to God.

Minister: Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you: May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congreg.: Amen.

Tuesday, July 17: DAY OF REPENTANCE

The Introit Psalm

Psalm 106: 6-7 & 20-27

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Congreg.: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The salutation

Minister: In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congreg.: Who made heaven and earth.

The Opening Hymn

CH 398, CHB 425

The Invitation

Minister: My brothers and sisters,

We are assembled **here** in God's name and presence to meet with Him in our midst, in His holy word and to pray for Cameroon. The focus today is personal and collective repentance. Let us sit down and remain silent while we beseech God for help, strength and support.

O come let us worship and bow down.

Congreg.: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

(silence)

Opening Prayer

Minister: O Lord, grant your people grace to repent as a people consecrated to you, that we may live through it in love and fervor which no trouble may disturb; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns together with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: Text: **2 Chronicles 7:14**

(Brief meditation followed by interactive discussions. Prayers)

Hymn: CH 411, CHB 438

Litany for personal and collective repentance

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congreg.: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congreg.: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congreg.: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Father in heaven;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Son, redeemer of the world;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Holy Spirit;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: Holy Trinity and one God;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but **wants that** the wicked turn from their ways and live;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who called Adam after his fall to the acknowledgement of his fault and to repentance;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God who forgives the sins of your disobedient people at the prayer of Moses;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who put away David's transgressions when he repented of his sins;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who spared the Ninevites when they repented with sackcloth and with fasting;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who came into the world to save sinners;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who received the outcasts and sinners and ate with them;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who forgave the many sins of Mary Magdalene;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who looked upon Peter who denied you;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who moved him to confess his fault and to shed tears of penitence;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who, on the cross, promised paradise to the penitent thief;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who bore our sins in your own body on the cross;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who was bruised for our iniquities;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who rebukes and chastens those whom you love;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, you are not willing that they should perish but that all should come to repentance;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who came to seek and to save the lost;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, who, after true repentance, remembers our sins no more;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive the Church and its **Preachers**, **Evangelists**, **Teachers** and **Pastors** for not seeking and **speaking** the truth against injustice and corruption;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive the atrocities of our military and the **revolutionary fighters** at the war front;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive your Church for compromise;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive us for idol worship and occult practices;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive us for declaring our country a secular state;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, save us from complacency and compromise in public and political life;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive us from our unrighteousness as a nation;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, you who forgave the state of Israel, kindly forgive Cameroon;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, you promised never to destroy the world with flood or a curse;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, save us from violence and war;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, forgive us from injustice in our land;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: O God, for the lack of the concern for the hungry and the needy;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

The Collect

Minister: God our Father, King of kings, and Lord of lords, we adore you for your mercy, power and wisdom. We thank you for all your blessings bestowed on our nation Cameroon, and that you still lead her forward in spite of our sinfulness, false ambitions, and weaknesses. We thank you wholeheartedly for the light of the gospel by which your people have learned love, justice and peace. We pray you to help us to use all that we have received and learned in your service and in the service to our fellowmen. Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Congreg.: Amen.

Hymn: CH 414, CHB 440

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you,

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord,

Congreg.: Thanks be to God.

Minister: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserves and keep you this day and for evermore

Congreg.: Amen.

Wednesday, July 18: DAY OF CEASE FIRE

The Introit Psalm

Psalm 34: 15-22

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Congreg.: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The salutation

Minister: In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congreg.: Who made heaven and earth.

The Opening Hymn

CH 417, CHB 273

The Invitation

Minister: My brothers and sisters,

We are assembled in God's name and presence to meet with Him in our midst, in His holy word and to pray for Cameroon. The focus today is to pray for the end of violence and war. Let us sit down and remain silent while we beseech God for help, strength and support.

O come let us worship and bow down.

Congreg.: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

(silence)

Opening Prayer

Minister: God, our world desperately needs your compassion and grace: We are at war and need to learn peace and understanding, we are greedy and selfish and need to learn to serve and to share the abundance of your world, We are impatient and careless and need to learn to use this world's resources wisely and sustainably, we are callous and judgmental and need to learn to care for and to befriend one another, and we are among those who are sick,

grieving, lonely, broken and wounded.; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns together with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: Text: **Mark 4:35 - 41**

(Brief meditation followed by interactive discussions. Prayers)

Hymn: CH 601, CHB 542

Litany to end violence and war

Minister: God the Father,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Son,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Holy Spirit,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: In these days of trouble, fear and sorrow,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: In our despair at the violence that **have** filled our Regions,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: In the pain of lost lives and shattered hopes,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: In our grieving for those who have died,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: In our compassion for all who are bereaved,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From the history of violence that corrupts every society and our own,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From the urge for revenge that adds to the cycle of violence,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From the fear that grows into hatred for people who are different,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From being too quick to attribute blame and demand retribution,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From those who plan and carry out acts of violence,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the victims of violence and war,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For all who live in fear, for refugees, and internally displaced persons,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For courage to resist **demonizing, dehumanization,**

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the leaders of our country and the **international community** looking for ways to end the **war** and violence,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For communities that are terrified by the military, armed bandits and the forces of the **restoration** of **independence.**

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For Christ to bring healing and comfort for those we love who are sick or in mourning, Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayer.

The Collect

Minister: Speak peace to the Government and the forces of the '**restoration** of **independence**'. Speak peace to the diaspora who want to see this conflict continue until they 'reach Buea'. Diffuse the violence in angry hearts with your gentle wisdom. Dazzle those who live by the darkness of war with the light of your truth and grace. Bring an end to the shattering violence and stir up the will for reconciliation and rebuilding. We pray in the name of the one who came to make peace by the blood of his cross, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Congreg.: Amen.

Hymn: CH 702, CHB 517

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you,

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord,

Congreg.: Thanks be to God.

Minister: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, And the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you always.

Congreg.: Amen.

Thursday, July 19: DAY OF PEACE PLAN

The Introit Psalm

Psalm 42

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Congreg.: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The salutation

Minister: In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congreg.: Who made heaven and earth.

The Opening Hymn

CH 444, CHB 387

The Invitation

Minister: My brothers and sisters,

We are assembled **here** in God's name and presence to meet with Him in our midst, in His holy word and to pray for Cameroon. The focus today is to pray for **the** Peace Plan to resolve the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest **Regions**. Let us sit down and remain silent while we beseech God for help, strength and support.

O come let us worship and bow down.

Congreg.: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

(silence)

Opening Prayer

Minister: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, **let** us sow love;

Where there is injury, let us give pardon;

Where there is discord, let us keep union;

Where there is doubt, let us hold unto the faith;

Where there is despair, let us plant hope;

Where there is darkness, let show light;

Where there is sadness, let us spread joy;

Grant that we may not seek so much to be comforted as to comfort; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in forgiving that we are forgiven; and it is in dying that we are born into eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who is honoured and praised together with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: Text: **Mt 18: 15-20**

(Brief meditation followed by interactive discussions. Prayers)

Hymn: CH 12, CHB 15

Litany for a Peace Plan

Minister: God the Father,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Son,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Holy Spirit,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the knowledge that peace is better than war,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For wisdom that we are all created in your image,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For knowledge that we are all Cameroonians even before our respective colonial and cultural heritages,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the Spirit of tolerance and forgiveness in spite of hurts and aches,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the courage and humility to take the first step for peace,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For a spirit to renounce **vengeance**,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For humility, meekness and the avoidance of the spirit of triumphalism,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For all the **national** and **international** leaders who genuinely are seeking for justice to make peace the supreme interest,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the leaders of the ‘Restoration of the independence of Southern Cameroon’, we pray that they should consider **justice** and peace as **the** supreme **interests**.
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For a nationwide repentance and love for one another,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the acceptance of the selfless intervention of the Churches,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the Spirit of truth and boldness for peacemakers,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the creation of a platform for dialogue,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the wisdom to define the most appropriate form of the State of Cameroon,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For peaceful, frank and loving discussion about the problems in Cameroon,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the people’s representatives, Senators and Parliamentarians for boldness to speak the truth about their people,
Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For restrain and self-control on the part of the military and armed civilians, and other forces,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the avoidance of provocation and mockery of fellow brothers and sisters,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the peace of the Lord which passes all human understanding,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For a miraculous breakthrough in **these** present crises and difficult **moments**;

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

The Collect

Minister: Lord of the nations, the horrors of war stand before us in graphic ways that disturb our daily lives. Fear grips us for our personal safety and the safety of those in harm's way. Sorrow washes over us for the seeming necessity of war and the losses that come with it. Opinions divide us and leave us confused in the face of an uncertain future. You alone, O God of Creation, who in the beginning brought order into chaos, light into darkness – you alone can help us in these days of crisis and war. Come to the aid of our leaders who need your guidance. Come to the aid of those standing in harm's way. Come to the aid of all who need your assuring and loving presence. Strengthen us in faith and calm the many fears within us. Help us to trust in you for our lives and our future. Forgive us for our sins, both corporate and individual, especially for our failings as peacemakers. Forgive us for the divisions among us. Renew our spirit and increase our resolve to pray fervently for peace. Protect us from any evil that surrounds us. Lift the hearts of the sorrowful. Bring healing to the sick and the wounded. Comfort the dying and the bereaved with your love. Above all, give us assurance that as Lord of all, for you are in control. Give us hope and give us peace on earth, lasting peace. God of peace, God of love, fill our hearts and our minds with the peace and love that only you can give. We, your people, ardently cry to you, O Lord. You are our answer. You are our hope. Come to our aid; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns together with you, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen.

Hymn: CH 414, CHB 440

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you,

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord,

Congreg.: Thanks be to God.

Minister: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserves and keep you this day and for evermore

Congreg.: Amen.

Friday, July 20: DAY OF COMPASSION

The Introit Psalm

Psalm ...

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Congreg.: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The salutation

Minister: In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congreg.: Who made heaven and earth.

The Opening Hymn

CHB 456

The Invitation

Minister: My brothers and sisters,

We are assembled **here** in God's name and presence to meet with Him in our midst, in His holy word and to pray for Cameroon. The focus today is to pray for God's compassion. Let us sit down and remain silent while we beseech God for help, strength and support.

O come let us worship and bow down,

Congreg.: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

(silence)

Opening Prayer

Minister: Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost, and those who have left home or who have run away from home. Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord; through Jesus

Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns together with you, O Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen.

Minister: Text: **Luke 6: 27-36**

(Brief meditation followed by interactive discussions. Prayers)

Hymn: CH 30, CHB 29

Litany for compassion

Minister: God the Father,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Son,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: God the Holy Spirit,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From the greed and injustice that divide the world into rich and poor,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: From believing ourselves safe through anything other than your grace,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For all who seek justice and ensure the rule of law, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For generosity in sharing fairly the world's resources, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For respect in conversation with people of other opinions in the Anglophone
Crises, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For honesty in knowing and confessing the sin of greed, hatred, pride and self-conceit, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For grace to change and be changed as you forgive us, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For rescue of innocent people assisting those in the midst of violence, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For NGOs, and humanitarian **organizations** and foundations and their workers, responding with practical care in the midst of violence, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For people waiting to find and bury the bodies of family members, friends and neighbours, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For people of goodwill, responding generously to the needs of suffering communities, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Minister: For the vulnerable and **defenseless**, for the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Have mercy upon us.

Thcorruptio healinghines; to a world that is hungry, you are food that sustains; to a world that suffers, you are hope of release; to a world that's broken, you are the **One** who restores; to a world full of hate, you are love that forgives, to a world that denies, you are truth that endures. To you we bring our thanks and praise, God of wholeness, God of Grace, Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

Minister: Bless the hands that bring wholeness to lives blighted by sickness. Bless the saints who in sad and desperate places bring a sense of hopefulness. Bless the Christians facing daily opposition showing a faithful witness. Bless the generosity of the rich and powerful for the gift of thoughtfulness. Bless the peacemakers working in conditions that are often hazardous. Bless the politicians whether good or bad for decisions affecting all of us. Bless our words and actions as we carry your light into places shrouded in darkness. Bless your children whoever they might be with the warmth of your love and grace; Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

Minister: By your Word, love was established, in the beauty of each created thing, that all might look to the mountains and in their majesty find you. In fertile fields and valleys, crops and flocks would be tended, vineyards planted, communities grown, and laughter heard; Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

Minister: By your Word, humankind was given the gift of true freedom within the safety of your love, and chose independence. By man's word are established **rulers** and **slaves**, rich and poor, full and starving, weak and strong. By man's word are established **corruptions** and **abuses**, **oppressions** and **tortures**, selfishness and greed within your garden, watered by your tears. We pray for lives lost, families torn apart, the lost and lonely, homeless, hungry, and fearful; Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

Minister: We pray for businesses destroyed in an instant, for machinery shattered, livelihoods ruined. We pray for rescuers finding survivors alongside bodies, courageous, undaunted, hopeful. We pray for recovery in the years to come, for restoration, generousifort healing; Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

Minister: For all whose image of your creation is marred by pain and suffering; Lord hear us, for those who wake each morning to shellfire and destruction; Lord hear us, for children dispossessed of childhood and transformed into soldiers; Lord hear us, for orphans wandering lonely roads to uncertain futures; Lord hear us, for each persecuted family carrying your Cross; Lord hear us, God bless the persecuted, and oppressed. God bless the refugee, and dispossessed; Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

Minister: We pray justice for the falsely accused, freedom for the wrongly imprisoned, healing for the tortured or abused, care for the orphan and widow, concern for the refugee and dispossessed, and above all forgiveness, for our emotional detachment. May we weep as you weep, love as you love, and not be afraid to be angry for the sake of your children, wherever they might be; Lord hear us,

Congreg.: Lord, graciously hear us.

The Collect

Minister: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what is in accordance with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ,

your Son our Lord, who is **worshipped** and glorified with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever,

Congreg.: Amen.

Hymn: CH 700, CHB 528

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you,

Congreg.: And also with you.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord,

Congreg.: Thanks be to God.

Minister: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, And the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you always.

Congreg.: Amen.

Sunday, July 22: PRAY FOR CAMEROON

See lectionary for more information (**9th Sunday after Pentecost**)

Introit Psalm: **92: 1-8 & 12-15**

1st Lesson: **Jer. 17:5-10**

2nd Lesson: **Jn 15:1-8**

Text: **Phil 1: 6-11**

(Brief meditation followed by interactive discussions. Prayers)

Lit Colour: **White**

Special Sentence: To bring to an end **week** long prayers for Cameroon and to raise up **an** offering for Cameroonians who are refugees in Nigeria and for the internally displaced persons due to the **crises** in the Northwest and Southwest **Regions**.

Pray for Cameroon

Minister: We pray for our nation, for our towns, cities and all others who are called to lead, that they **should** wisely administer their rule over us; and grant to all people that they live in brotherly kindness, tolerance, and patience, that peace and concord may always remain with us. And grant that the Christians of this land may become a blessing **for** whole nation.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: We pray you too for those who control newspapers and **other** mass **media outlets**, employers and trade union leaders, and for all others who have power and influence over men. Grant to all of them to seek only what is just and true and serve the common good that the life of the nation may be built up according to your will.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: O God, you are the ruler and judge of all nations, look mercifully on our land. Sanctify all that is rich and noble in our traditions. Grant that all that we aim at may be in accordance with your will. Take away pride and injustice from our midst; give us humbleness in our dealings with others outside and at home. Bless our leaders and the people in our several efforts to make this land happy and prosperous. Help us to discipline ourselves so that our

national freedom may be used for the good of all, and may bring all to the knowledge of him whose service is perfect freedom.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: O Lord, guide and govern your Holy Church; remain its only Shepherd, High Priest, and saviour; give life and strength to your word and increase in us the knowledge of the mystery of your redemption.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: Provide for the needs of the Church, remove any stumbling-block of **pirit** of division, and protect your people from false prophets and doctrines.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: Guide, by your Word and Spirit, all who bear office in our church, all Elders and Pastors, the Moderator and the Synod Clerk, and equip them with **wisdom**, patience, love, and devotion, that they may serve your people, and by their work advance the cause of the gospel in our land; and help each one of us to see the part he or she has to play in the work of our church, and not to shrink back from service and sacrifice.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: Pour out your Spirit upon all your servants; grant us humility and make us to be subject to one another in your fear, so that our brotherly and sisterly love may be pure.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: Almighty God, as you have sent your Holy Spirit to remain with your Church, to enlighten, comfort, and guide it, so give to us the same gift to help us in our weaknesses and to teach us how to pray.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: We pray you to give us power to bear witness to the truth of your gospel that those who serve you already may be strengthened and those who do not yet serve you may turn to you.

Lord in your mercy,

Congreg.: Hear our prayers.

Minister: Fill us, we pray you, with the Spirit of true service, that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit is **worshiped** and glorified forever and ever.

Congreg.: Amen.

References

We acknowledge with gratitude the use of the following prayer resources with prior permission. May God inspire you as we pray for a world of peace.

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2. John Van de Laar, 2008. A Liturgy for Compassion.
3. Act for Peace. Praying for Peace in the Middle East. The international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. www.actforpeace.org.
4. Faith and Worship. Prayers for Peace Where There is Conflict or Disaster. http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_peace.htm.
5. Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel. Liturgy by TWL. A Day of Prayer in Time of Crisis & War. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
6. Prayer in times of War. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/worship/warprayer.htm>.
7. Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel, 2015. God: Our Security. **Special** week of Intercessory prayers for the Nation of Cameroon.
8. The Liturgy of the PCC vol. 1