

# **The Accra Confession      WARC 2004**

Versified for congregational singing by David Alexander, Tainan Theological College, Taiwan

## **1) The Confession**

We believe in God, Creator and Sustainer of all life, who calls us as partners in the healing and redemption of the world.

We believe that God in Jesus Christ is revealed as the one who covenants with and for humanity and all life on earth. We live within the promise that Jesus Christ came so that all might have life in fullness.

We believe that God in the power of the Holy Spirit gives us a basis for global life in respect for creation, restoration of community, transformation of the individual, a just distribution of resources, and celebration of life for all.

We believe that the way nations and the world community organize the household of human life remains at all times accountable to God. Human beings are always called to choose between the one true God and the false gods of wealth and power.

We believe that in our day the church is especially called to stand by suffering people and to voice the cry of the earth in the face of mounting economic injustice and ecological destruction, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

We believe that God calls us to follow Jesus Christ in bringing good news to the poor, and health and healing to those who are ill, proclaiming freedom to the captives and peace in a world of war, embracing the outcast and excluded, honouring diversity, and treating women and men as equal partners in church and society.

We believe that the congregation – the people of God, the body of Christ, the community of the Spirit – is called to be a sign, a witness and a sacrament of the mission of God in every place. Obedience is the measure of our faith.

## 2) The Accra Confession Set to a Scottish Tune

O Waly Waly The tune is in the public domain, and can be accessed at: <http://www.strummeronline.com/waly.htm>  
A Score may be viewed at: <http://www.jdweaver.com/scores/walls.gif>

God who creates, sustains all life,  
calls partners from creation's strife.  
Seeks ev'ry woman, man, boy, girl  
to heal and to redeem the world.

In Christ incarnate God has shown  
regard for humans, all God's own.  
The promise made through Jesus Christ  
is where we find abundant life.

With pow'r O Holy Spirit move  
and show us how to live and love.  
That all may live sufficiently  
and celebrate community

God sits in judgment of the ways  
we spend our lives and pass our days.  
And organize economy  
for wealth and pow'r idolatry.

The church is called to stand with folk  
who bear a heavy unjust yoke,  
to voice the cry of earth in pain  
that righteousness may flow again.

Good news to poor, and health to ill,  
these we proclaim, they are God's will.  
Set captives free, put end to war,  
women and men, equal once more.

The church is found in many-a guise,  
"People of God", "Body of Christ",  
"The Holy Ghost's Community",  
in service to the Trinity.

Called as a sign, and sacrament  
to witness wherever we're sent  
in mission to each distinct place,  
obed'ience will measure our faith.

### 3) The Accra Confession to an Asian Tune

Kuthu Villeku The tune can be found as selection #46 in Sound the Bamboo, the CCA Hymnal 2000

(Copyright 2000 by the Christian Conference of Asia, published by the Taiwan Church Press, 334 Ching-Nien Road, Tainan, Taiwan)

Permission to publish has neither been sought nor granted at this time.

1) The God in whom we trust creates the world.  
The One by whom we're known sustains all life.  
Creator of the cosmos is our God,  
Sustainer of the earth, whose paths we tread,  
Calls us as partners redeeming the world:  
Calls us in mission heal that all may live.  
Hallelujah, Amen. Hallelujah, Amen.

2) In Christ God covenants with all on earth  
For all humanity and all that lives.  
Revealed as One who cares for all that is  
And shown as One who recognizes worth.  
Within the promise that we have in Christ  
We find the meaning and fullness of life.  
Hallelujah, Amen. Hallelujah Amen.

3) The Holy Spirit pow'r of God expressed  
will form the basis for our global life  
Creation gets respect, we are transformed  
Community restored within the Lord.  
Distribute justly now ev-ry resource  
Joyfully celebrate ev'ry life force  
Hallelujah, Amen. Hallelujah Amen.

4) For ways that nations choose to order life  
we are accountable to God at times.  
This household where we live: "community."  
The lives we share together are all seen.  
Called between true and false gods to discern  
To pow'r and wealth, or to God do we turn?  
Hallelujah, Amen. Hallelujah. Amen.

5) The church with the oppressed is called to stand  
to voice the cry of sea and suff'ring land.  
Injustice mounts on high, destruction reigns.  
Creation cries aloud, the earth's in pain.  
Justice must roll down, as water with might.  
Righteousness ever must flow day and night.  
Hallelujah, Amen. Hallelujah, Amen.

6) Believing that we're called to follow Christ,  
good news to poor folk bring with healing life,  
to set the captives free, put end to war,  
the world will be transformed by God, for sure!  
Embrace the outcasts, God's true family.  
women and men joined in equality.  
Hallelujah Amen. Hallelujah Amen.

7) God's People congregated on the earth  
Christ's Body we've been made, we've matchless worth.  
Community within the Holy Ghost;  
and called to be a sign, be God's guidepost.  
Witness and sacrament in ev'ry place  
Obey to measure height and depth of faith.  
Hallelujah, Amen. Hallelujah, Amen.

#### **4) Sing the Accra Confession to a Traditional Zimbabwean Tune**

“If You Believe and I Believe” (The tune can be found in *Common Ground*, published by St. Andrews Press (Edinburgh) and in *Sent By The Lord*, Copyright 1991 WGRG Iona Community Glasgow G2 3DH Scotland)  
Permission to publish has neither been sought nor granted at this time.

In God, creator of all life, we say that we believe.  
The One sustainer of the world whose partners we would be.  
Redeeming what God made, and healing what’s sustained.  
We’re called by God to take this place because we have believed.

In Jesus Christ God is revealed to all humanity.  
A covenant with all on earth is made eternally.  
Within that promise Christ gives all abundant life.  
For this he came as one of us and opened up the way.

The Holy Spirit’s power forms our base for global life.  
Creation is respected, for its sanctity we strive:  
Community restored, transformed through Christ the Lord,  
Just distribution of resources, celebrating life.

For how the nations of the world arrange the house of life  
Accountable to God they are at this and ev’ry time.  
We’re always called to choose between the false and true.  
Will wealth and pow’r seduce us or will we be one with Christ?

With suff’ring people at all times the church is called to stand,  
To voice the cry of tortured earth, polluted sea and land.  
Injustice is opposed by righteousness in flow.  
Destruction of ecology meets justice and new birth.

We follow Jesus Christ in bringing good news to the poor,  
Accompanied by words of health and healing to their door.  
All captives will be free, and war be met with peace,  
And men and women in the church will know equality.

The congregation, we believe, is called to be a sign,  
Community of Holy Ghost, God’s people, Bride of Christ,  
A sacrament of grace, at work in ev’ry place,  
Obedience, we know, will be the measure of our faith.