



Prepared by the
MWC Regional
Representatives for
19 January 2025,
or at any time
convenient for your
congregation in 2025.

Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday Worship Resources

Theme and texts

a. Theme: **The Courage to Love**

b. Why this theme was chosen:

The first baptisms in the Anabaptist tradition took place in secret in Zurich, Switzerland, on 21 January 1525. A small group of Jesus-followers acted together with courage on their shared understanding of Scripture and the church, different from their political and religious context. Today there are churches all over the world in the Anabaptist tradition, acting together with courage to love each other, different from our political and religious contexts that too often pull us apart.

c. Biblical text options:

Old Testament:
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalms: Psalm 133
Gospel:
Luke 7:36-50
New Testament:
1 John 4:7-21

d. Relationship between the theme and biblical texts:

- Joseph forgave his brothers and took care of them.
- How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
- The woman courageously showed her love for Jesus, in ways that were beyond acceptability.
- Let us love one another, for love comes from God.

2

Prayer requests

Prayer requests from MWC

- We give thanks for your creation with all of its beauty and diversity on earth and in the heavens.
- Lord, we seek your forgiveness for our failures to live up to your plan and purpose. We seek your courage and power to follow Jesus's teachings to cooperate with you in restoration of your kingdom in a world that is broken and messy.
- Together we pray that we may recognize and affirm the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our sisters and brothers of our various national church conferences, and live into the unity we have been given in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Pray that God's love will flow through the churches to the youth in their communities, reaching them with the message of Jesus. Pray for the churches in some parts of the world who have the challenges of many children and young adults.
- Pray for the churches in some parts of the world who face the challenges of many aging members.
- Pray for the MWC event on 29 May 2025 in Zurich, to commemorate 500 years of Anabaptism, in the context of renewed relationships with the Reformed Church (WCRC).
- Pray for the current needs in the MWC family as expressed on the MWC prayers page: mwc-cmm.org/en/prayers

3

Song suggestions

Songs from MWC 2022 International Songbook

Africa #22

Somlandela / We will follow / Je te suivrai / Seguiremos

Asia: #11

Kirisuto no heiwa / May the Peace of Christ

OR #12

Dalam Yesus kita bersaudara / In Jesus Christ We are One Family

Europe # (1990)

[Vrede dragen in Gods naam / We are people of God's peace, words by Menno Simons, Worship Together #677](#)

Latin America: #30

Cantai ao Senhor / Oh Sing to the Lord / Cantad al Senor / Pujilah Tuhan

North America: #36

True Evangelical Faith / Le fe de Cristo / Wahrer Glaube wird / Iman Injili Yang Murni

Song videos available online at mwc-cmm.org/awfs.

Please check your congregation's copyright protocols before using these songs in public gatherings.



4 Multimedia resources

In this package (pages 3-13)

- Liturgies and symbols for gathering and benediction
- Sermon
- Commemorating 500 years of Anabaptism with history, liturgy and reconciliation
- Children's activity
- Tithes and offering suggestions
- Celebration ideas



6 Additional resources

See mwc-cmm.org/awfs

- Written resources online in English, Español, Français, Deutsch, हिंदी and Português
- Video readings of Scripture texts
- Video sermons in English, Español, Français and Deutsch
- Video testimonies in English, Español, Français, 中文 and Swahili
- Song videos
- Photos
- Celebration map

5 Offering

- MWC invites congregations to take a special offering for our global Anabaptist family on Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday. One way to do this is to invite every member to contribute the cost of at least one lunch in their own community to support the core ministries and Commissions of MWC and to acknowledge that we are all members together. This is a manageable amount for nearly every MWC member around the world, except in times of drought, flooding and violence.
- Go to [page 8](#) for more ideas to celebrate a special offering time for Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday.



First Mennonite Hutchinson KS, USA



BICC Mt Pleasant Harare, Zimbabwe



Youth of GKMI Kudus, Indonesia

The biblical texts, prayers, song suggestions, sermon ideas, testimonies and other resources in this package have been prepared by members of MWC from their experience in their local context. The teaching does not necessarily represent an official MWC position.

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📷 Please send your photos and testimonies regarding your celebration to photos@mwc-cmm.org