**Break the Silence**

An Ecumenical Service of Worship

December 4th 2014, Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, Suva

**This is part of the participation of the Christian community to support the 16 Das of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**



**The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender is a worldwide campaign which runs from November 25th – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to December 10th – International Human Rights Day**

**Order of Service**

**Silence - Break the silence**

**Light the 16 Candles - as each candle is lit one person stands up and reads:**

1. Break the silence surrounding family violence
2. Claim the promise of life in abundance
3. God did not give us a spirit of timidity
4. Love casts out all fear
5. What does God require of us?
6. To love mercy
7. To do justice
8. To walk humbly with God
9. Love is not envious or boastful
10. Love is not arrogant or rude
11. Love does not insist in its own way
12. Love does not rejoice in wrong doing
13. Love rejoices in the truth
14. Love is patient
15. Love is kind
16. Love never ends

**Call to Worship From Psalm 106:1-5**

**Leader:** O give thanks to God for God is good

**People:** God’s steadfast love endures forever.

**Leader:** Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times

**People:** Remember us, O God when you show favour to your people;

**Leader:** Help us when you deliver them;

**People:** That we may experience the blessings of your chosen ones,

**Leader:** That we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,

**People:** That we may glory in your heritage.

**Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever will be.**

***Refrain:  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*  
  
Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*  
  
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

**Prayer of Confession**

**Great God of justice and righteousness you call us as your people into a covenant relationship of love and compassion. We acknowledge the alarming degree of brokenness in families all around us. We lift up the survivors of family violence who known the pain of broken trust even from those who promised to love and protect them.**

**We know that your will for families is based on the foundations of love and peace, joy and mutuality, justice and righteousness. Sadly there are many families who struggle with fear and jealousy, control and anger, manipulation and abuse in their daily lives. Forgive us O lord for our silence when others suffer. Guide our families with Christ’s love and peace. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen**

**Reflective Litany\***

**Leader:** Finally beloved, whatever is true,

**People:** In Fiji, two out of three ever partnered women will experience physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. 58% will experience emotional violence and 72% of ever partnered women will experience physical, sexual or emotional violence from their husband or partner in their lifetime and many suffer all three forms of abuse simultaneously,

**Leader:** Whatever is honourable,

**People:** Witnessing violence in the home is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behaviour from one generation to the next.

**Leader:** Whatever is just,

**People:** In Fiji as a result of domestic violence “43 women are injured, 1 is permanently disabled and 73 loss consciousness every day and 16 women are injured badly enough to need health care.

**Leader:** Whatever is pure,

**People:** Globally 35% of women have experienced intimate partner violence or non-partner violence sexual violence in their lifetime, In the Pacific this figure rise to 65%.

**Leader:** Whatever is pleasing,

**People:** Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.

**Leader:** Whatever is commendable,

**People:** Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

**Leader:** If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,

**People:** Globally risk factors for being a victim of intimate partner violence include gender inequality, rigid role stereotypes, witnessing violence between parents and exposure to abuse as a child and society’s attitudes of accepting violence and women’s inequality.

**Leader:** Think about these things

**People:** 30% of ever partnered women are injured in their lifetime; intimate partner violence is undoubtedly one of the biggest risks to women’s physical health and wellbeing in Fiji.

**Leader:** Keep on doing these things you have learned and received and seen in me and the God of peace will be with you.

**People:** The contrast of your will for our relationships and the reality within our communities is staggering O God. Teach us anew to be guided by Jesus Christ to serve as witnesses of hope to all survivors.

We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen

**Hymn Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Isaac Watts

**Benediction**

***A Franciscan Blessing***

May God bless you with discomfort

at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,

so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger

at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,

so that you may work for God’s justice, God’s freedom and Gods peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those

who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war,

so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy

Any may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe

that you can make a difference in this world

so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

**Amen**

\*The litany from Philippians 4:8-9 has been adapted from the 2014 Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network.

Facts and statistics are from the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre research **Someone’s Life Everybody’s Business** – National Research of Women’s Health and Life Experiences in Fiji (2010-2011) and the World Health Organisation International Statistics on Domestic Violence October 2013**.**

This Ecumenical Worship has been prepared by

**Suva Christian Network (*Talanoa)* – working together to end violence and abuse against women and children in our families, our churches and our communities.**

**For additional information about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence and resources for Break the Silence Liturgies**

**www.houseofsarah.org**



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