CLOSING SERVICE

ZONDAG August 27th 2017 9.30 am

SHOULD I NOT HAVE CONCERN?

Start in SILENCE…

WELCOME to this final and special moment of prayer…

We asked every one of you   
to wear or bring something WHITE   
for this closing service:

White is the color of new beginnings,   
of wiping the slate clean, so to speak.   
It is the blank canvas waiting to be written upon.   
It opens the way for the creation   
of anything the mind can conceive.  
The color white is the ultimate in purity,  
a color offering a sense of   
peace and calm, comfort and hope.  
Pilgrims heading to Makkah to perform the Hajj   
wear white clothes because   
they need to be focused on the purpose of their journey and they are required to be in a state of Ihram   
which means a state of purity and peace…   
In some cultures   
white is traditionally related to death and mourning.   
In these cultures death usually means   
the end of one life and the beginning of another,   
moving forward to a new life,   
so the color meaning of new beginnings still holds.  
In other cultures white is the color to wear  
for brides and new born babies  
at the start of their new life.  
White is used for all high Holy Days   
and festival days of [the Christian Church](http://www.crivoice.org/chyear.html) ,   
especially the seasons of [Christmas](http://www.crivoice.org/cyxmas.html) and [Easter](http://www.crivoice.org/cyeaster.html):  
feasts of new beginning…  
On Yom Kippur some Jewish people wear a *kittel,*   
a white robe worn over the clothing.  
It serves to remind us of man's mortality   
and the need for *teshuvah, ‘repentance’.*It is a tradition in all Jewish communities   
to wear a large tallit on Yom Kippur evening.   
The white of the tallit also serves   
to suggest purity and mercy,   
asking God to grant us forgiveness and atonement*.*  
We will hear the last chapter of Jonah  
about the ‘reversal’, the change,   
the ‘conversion’ of Nineveh,  
and about Jonah being sulky   
because of God’s mercy,   
allowing a new beginning despite everything.

Let ‘s listen to the last chapter of Jonah.

*Laatste hoofdstuk van Jona wordt gelezen in versch. talen,  
laatste paragraaf in het Engels: should I not have concern?*

SHOULD I NOT HAVE CONCERN?

There is something remarkable that I read   
about the color white while preparing this service.  
White seems to be   
the most important pigment for a painter.   
The tube white is therefore often the first to be empty.   
White allows all other colors to reflect from it.  
But even more important: white, mixed with other colors,   
makes all kinds of variations in shades possible.  
It makes hard colors lower,   
softer and mellow, more gentle…  
Perhaps God is such a kind of painter   
using a lot of white  
- the white of His endless patience,  
the white of Her forgiving love -  
softening the colors of hate, prejudice, injustice  
that people do to each other?  
Perhaps God is such a kind of painter   
using a lot of white, and always asking:   
SHOULD I NOT HAVE CONCERN?

*Tangram : VRAAGTEKEN / QUESTION MARK*

U roept mijn naam, You call my name,

ik hoor U niet. I do not hear You.

Ik hoor uw stem, I hear You voice,

ik wil U niet. I do not want You.

Al val ik diep, Even though I fall deep

U laat mij niet, You don’t let me,

U keert mij om, You turn me around

opdat ik zie. that I can see   
O, keer mij om, O, You turn me around

Opdat ik zie. that I can see

Schuldbelijdenis bij Jona - tekst A. Govaart en muziek H.Rouw - Confession

Singing: Lo Yissa goy…

Peace message doves of Jonah…

Yitzak Rabin, who won the [Nobel Peace Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Peace_Prize)   
together with long-time political rival [Shimon Peres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimon_Peres) and Palestinian leader [Yasser Arafat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat) in 1994, said:  
  
I believe that it is my responsibility  
to do whatever can be done  
to exploit every unique opportunity   
that lies ahead of us  
to move towards peace.  
Not everything can be done by one act,  
but it begins with one first step,  
and then another one.  
Many people taking small steps:  
that’s the way paths arise…

So let us do it that way!  
We invite you to write down on the small colored paper:  
your peace message for the world,  
which steps should be taken,  
which ones do you want to take yourself?

*(music: Imagine, as performed by Syrian musicians Rudi Vranckx - Belgian journalist- met in the destroyed town of Mosul. For three years Nabeel could not play guitar because music and singing was forbidden by IS. But they could save 2 guitars from destruction…)*

When ready please fold the piece of paper  
like an accordion.  
Then we invite you to come to the center  
and take one of the pigeons with you, a small ‘Jonah’!   
*(The literal meaning of the name Jonah is a dove.)*  
Carefully put the folded leaf through the hole in the bird.  
Now your bird has got wings to fly with,  
so you can let them go   
and fly into the hands of other people in this place.  
When the music stops,  
let the dove rest in your hands for a while in silence.

*(music: Imagine, as performed by Syrian musicians Rudi Vranckx - Belgian journalist- met in the destroyed town of Mosul. For three years Nabeel could not play guitar because music and singing was forbidden by IS. But they could save 2 guitars from destruction…)*

This little ‘Jonah’ can stay with you from now on,  
or, once back home, you can ‘release’ it  
and send it as a ‘travel-peace-pigeon’,   
as a piece of peace, wherever you want…

Bread en wine…

The end of this conference is in sight.  
We had the chance to meet each other, to meet Jonah.  
We were given the opportunity   
to explore Nineveh, the belly of the big fish,  
Ypres and even Mosul maybe.  
We shared all kinds of intense experiences  
during this four days.

We’d like to symbolize that sharing in a simple ritual

in order to try to make it firmly rooted in our hearts,  
to ‘anchor’ it...

There is bread on the table,   
ordinary bread from the bakery.

Next to that a few bottles of wine,   
Fair Trade wine, but nothing special at all.  
Let us make them a sign,   
a representation of what happened these days.  
We invite you to tell something   
about what you went through the past days,   
a few words only, maybe one word is enough,   
or even a gesture…

Telling about what touched you deeply   
about something that grieved or wounded you,  
or took a big effort from you,  
you can break a piece of bread   
and lay it down on one of the plates…

If you tell about something really good,   
something nice that made you happy,   
you can pour a dash of wine into one of the cups:  
those are things to drink a toast to!  
 *(happens in silence)*

As we shared a part of our life, a part of ourselves,  
some small pieces of peace,  
during this conference,

let us share this bread and wine now  
to never forget those words   
God said to Jonah ànd to us all:  
SHOULD I NOT HAVE CONCERN?  
  
*(pass plates and cups, invitation to break and share  
music: Islamo-Christian Ave Maria)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhwJpac61Dg>

It is good to end this closing service  
with a blessing…

To bless in Latin is benedicere,  
bene-dicere, to say good things.  
  
There are many good things to say, for instance,  
… about the workshop leaders.  
We ‘d like to thank them   
with a special Jonah-puzzle-present.

Before we thank all of you  
with a final Aaronic blessing,   
we roll up our banner   
of the European Bibliodrama Conference  
and with that, our responsibility as organizers this year,  
and we hand it over to Switzerland for the next one…

Lets make a circle, hold hands  
and sing together… Aaronic blessing

