

World Day of Prayer • March 4, 2016

## Children's Service



Receive Children, Receive Me



Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Cuba  
and the World Day of Prayer USA Committee

# World Day of Prayer 2016

## About World Day of Prayer

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World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement led by Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on and around the first Friday in March. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up issues of mission, justice and peace that are important to them. Offerings collected during the services are granted by WDP national committees to nonprofit organizations that deal with the issues of concern identified by the writer-country. The WDP motto is “Informed prayer, prayerful action.”

### About the USA Offering

Make all checks payable to WDP USA. Mail to

**WDP USA**  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1523  
New York, NY 10115

Donations greater than \$50 will be acknowledged with a letter. For others, your bank record is your receipt.

### About the Art

Sandro de la Rosa has shared his painting *Origamis de Paz y Esperanza* with the World Day of Prayer community. His oil-on-canvas painting is reminiscent of the Copper Virgin, patron saint of Cuba. It depicts a young girl holding an origami crane (in Japan, the crane is a symbol of

peace) against a backdrop of lavish clouds. The artist painted origami ships on the waves of the girl's dress, symbolizing the voyages of Cuban people traveling through the Straits of Florida. The girl is Sandro's daughter, Laura, who has been the central character in his paintings for more than a decade. Sandro was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1972. In 1992, he graduated from the San Alejandro Academy of Art in Havana. His work has been exhibited there, as well as at the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam and at El Museo del Ron in Havana. His works are part of private collections in the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. You can see more of his work at [www.cernudaarte.com/artists/sandro-de-la-rosa](http://www.cernudaarte.com/artists/sandro-de-la-rosa).

### Thank you!

Thank you to all the faithful women who organize World Day of Prayer celebrations, adding to the powerful legacy of women's work in faith. Thank you, too, to the committee members and staff who worked on the preparation of the WDP USA materials. A special thanks to Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) for design and production of the USA materials, to Kutztown Publishing for printing and fulfillment, to James E. Green for typesetting the music, and to Magdalena García for translation into Spanish.



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Art by Sandro de la Rosa • Graphic design by Debbie Paris Materials produced by Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., and World Day of Prayer USA.

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# World Day of Prayer 2016

## Children's Worship Service

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*You may adapt this children's service to fit the needs of your program and age group.*

### Preparation

*You may decorate the room using blue, white and red balloons, which are the colors of the Cuban flag. For the worship center, you may use pieces of colored fabric in blue, white and red. Place a gift box with a Bible and an assortment of toys inside (a ball, a kite, dolls, etc.) and green puzzle pieces in the shape of the Cuban island.*

*You may prepare name tags with the Cuban flag, the World Day of Prayer logo, and the theme for this year. Write the names of the children as they arrive for service.*

### Processional Song

**"Jesus Loves Me"**

*You may start the service singing this song all together.*

### Welcome

**Leader:** A Cuban hero, José Martí, once shared, "We work for children because they know how to love and because they are the hope of the world." He admired and deeply cared for children in Cuba, as well as for all the children of the world!

**Children:** Attention, attention! (*Speaking loudly as if it were a public announcement done in the streets of Cuba.*) Affection is something we receive, and have learned to receive since childhood. The Cuban children greet us today and invite us to greet each other as they do in their country—shaking hands, hugging or kissing on the cheeks while saying:

*¡Buenos días!* [BWEHN-ohs DEE-ahs] Good morning!

*¡Buenas tardes!* [BWEHN-ahs TAHR-dehs] Good afternoon!

*¡Buenas noches!* [BWEHN-ahs NOH-chehs] Good evening!

## Introduction to Cuba

*Prepare a cardboard map of Cuba and cut it into pieces to make a puzzle. Divide the group into two or three teams. A participant of each team will takes turns to assemble the puzzle pieces together until the map is completed. After completing the map, ask the children to identify the image.*

**Leader:** It is said that the shape of the Cuban island resembles a green crocodile. The people of the Cuban Island invite us to pray with them and for all the children of the world.

*Show photos of Cuba. You may adapt the information, accordingly. See the summary below.*

Cuba is an indigenous word that means ‘cultivated land’. As a country, its official name is “Republic of Cuba.” It is the largest island of the Greater Antilles. Cuba is located south of Florida, north of Jamaica, east of the Yucatan Peninsula and west of The Bahamas. Christopher Columbus arrived in Cuba from Spain in 1492. The official language of Cuba is Spanish. Cuba is organized into fifteen provinces. The island is divided into three zones: eastern, central and western. Havana is the capital. Cuba was inhabited by Aborigines. In 1512, the Spaniards discovered some of the first villages in Cuba. For many years, Spain and the United States ruled the island until the revolution in 1959. Many women and men fought for Cuba to be led by its own people.

The jasmine butterfly is the national flower. Other national symbols are the royal palm and the tocororo bird, whose feathers are blue, white and red like the national flag. The Cuban climate is humid and its land is very fertile. Fruits and vegetables can be



grown throughout the whole year. Cuba has an everlasting summer. There is an important children’s festival called “Singing

to the Sun.” Many Cuban children do not have computers or video games. However, many of them ride bicycles, skate and enjoy playing in parks. Those who live near rivers or the beaches spend their vacations swimming and playing in the water.

In Cuba all the children go to school because education is required. But they also enjoy their freedom for recreation and play. Many laws protect their rights. Children receive wonderful medical care. Children in Cuba receive vaccination that fight against many childhood diseases.

Let’s celebrate this World Day of Prayer with the children of Cuba. Is everybody ready to travel?

## Call to Worship

*When the guitar, the maracas and the claves (Cuban musical instruments) are mentioned, play that instrument and then bring them to the altar or worship center.*

**Leader:** Children, let us sing to the Lord with a joyful heart! Let us thank our Lord with the sound of guitar, let us sing with maracas and claves, let us sing a new song, and with joy let us sing to praises him!

The Lord always tells the truth in his Word; what he has done demonstrates how much he loves us.

The Lord loves the truth and what is good. His love fills up the whole earth!

Let us thank the Lord, all the children of the world! (Psalm 33)  
Let us now sing together!

## Song

“*Jesus Loves Me*” or “*Encendiendo sueños*”



# Encendiendo sueños

Gerardo Oberman  
Horacio Vivares

Siem - pre ca - mi - nan - do por un mis - mo rum - bo  
Walk - ing al - ways walk ing in the same di - rec - tion;

an - da - mos bus - can - do luz pa - ra es - te mun - do,  
as we walk, we're search - ing for light for this world

en - cen - dien - do sue - ños, a - mnun - cian - do vi - da  
We're ig - nit - ing dreams we're pro - claim - ing life

ple - na y com - par - ti - da, la que quie - re Dios.  
life that's full and shared life pleas - ing to god.

Lu - mi - no - sa gra - cia hoy nos a - lum - bras, a - bres sen - das nue - vas ha - cia  
Glow - ing grace, to - day you bring us re - diance op' - ning path - ways lead - ing us to

tu jus - ti - cia y paz, pa - ra que tu Rei - no siem - pre bri - lle  
jus - tice and to peace so your King - dom will be e - ver shin - ing

y tu vo - lun - tad nos ha - ga li - bres de ver - dad... de ver - dad.  
and your will shall make us free, make us real - ly free, real - ly free.

Siempre caminando  
por un mismo rumbo  
andamos buscando  
luz para este mundo,  
encendiendo sueños,  
anunciando vida  
plena y compartida,  
la que quiere Dios.

Luminosa gracia hoy  
nos alumbras,  
abres sendas nuevas  
hacia tu justicia y paz,  
para que tu Reino  
siempre brille  
y tu voluntad nos  
haga libres de verdad...  
de verdad.

Lyrics and Music: Gerardo Oberman, Horacio Vivares ©  
Translated by: Lois Kroehler. Used by Permission

## Prayer of Invocation

**Child:** God, we thank you for this new day you have given us. Just as the sun rises and shines in Cuba, we ask you abide with us and unite us in love. We ask for your guidance to walk together with all the flags interwoven in a way that loneliness disappears. In your name we pray, Amen.

## Bible Study

**Scripture:** 10:13–16

### Skit

#### *Characters*

*Narrator, Jesus and his disciples, children with their families (could be the mother or the father).*

#### *Instructions*

*Children may be invited to open the gift box, which is on the altar center, and place the Bible on the worship table. You may explain that the story that will be shared derives from the Bible.*

*In advance, you may prepare a group of children to dramatize the story in Mark 10:13–16 (See below the script for the dramatization; it is recommended to perform each gesture and action indicated in the text and story).*

#### *Script*

**Narrator:** Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples:

**Jesus:** “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a child will never enter it.”

**Narrator:** Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

*Focus on the actions described and performed in the text.*

*Emphasize these words: “Let the children come to me.” “He took the children in his arms; he placed his hands on each of them, he blessed them.”*

*Encourage conversation among the children by asking a few questions. For example:*

- What would we have done if we were the children who were brought to Jesus and were prevented from getting closer to him?
- Can you give examples of when you have wanted to be received/welcome? And give examples of when you have not felt welcomed? How did you feel?
- Is Jesus an example of profound love and acceptance? How did he show this?
- How would we welcome and receive others, as Jesus taught us?

*You may close this time with practicing gestures of receiving and welcoming others. You may invite the children to write letters to people who are sad or sick that may need to be welcomed and received. Talk about the situations identified by the group and how they would like to express what they learned with Jesus' behavior.*

*Another gesture would be to make a mural that illustrates the different ways in which we have been received by Jesus and also use images that depict or show ways in which we receive others. They can use pictures from magazines, posters, or drawings. Then display the mural and explain the actions represented.*

## **Prayer of Intercession**

**Leader:** We invite you to pray for the people around the world, so they may draw closer to Jesus and receive His love. Let us lift up our prayers and take special consideration for all the children and people in Cuba who are fully received by Jesus. We pray for acceptance from their neighbors, across national borders to receive them, as Jesus did.

*You may help the children prepare their own prayer request and then let them present it.*

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, we now remember all the children of the world, and we ask that you bless and protect them. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## **Song**

*“Jesus Loves Me” or “Encendiendo sueños”*



# Encendiendo sueños

Gerardo Oberman  
Horacio Vivares

Siem - pre ca - mi - nan - do por un mis - mo rum - bo  
Walk - ing al - ways walk ing in the same di - rec - tion;

an - da - mos bus - can - do luz pa - ra es - te mun - do,  
as we walk, we're search - ing for light for this world

en - cen - dien - do sue - ños, a - mnun - cian - do vi - da  
We're ig - nit - ing dreams we're pro - claim - ing life

ple - na y com - par - ti - da, la que quie - re Dios.  
life that's full and shared life pleas - ing to god.

Lu - mi - no - sa gra - cia hoy nos a - lum - bras, a - bres sen - das nue - vas ha - cia  
Glow - ing grace, to - day you bring us re - diance op' - ning path - ways lead - ing us to

tu jus - ti - cia y paz, pa - ra que tu Rei - no siem - pre bri - lle  
jus - tice and to peace so your King - dom will be e - ver shin - ing

y tu vo - lun - tad nos ha - ga li - bres de ver - dad... de ver - dad.  
and your will shall make us free, make us real - ly free, real - ly free.

Siempre caminando  
por un mismo rumbo  
andamos buscando  
luz para este mundo,  
encendiendo sueños,  
anunciando vida  
plena y compartida,  
la que quiere Dios.

Luminosa gracia hoy  
nos alumbras,  
abres sendas nuevas  
hacia tu justicia y paz,  
para que tu Reino  
siempre brille  
y tu voluntad nos  
haga libres de verdad...  
de verdad.

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## Prayer of Intercession

**Child:** God of love, we thank you for this time we have shared.

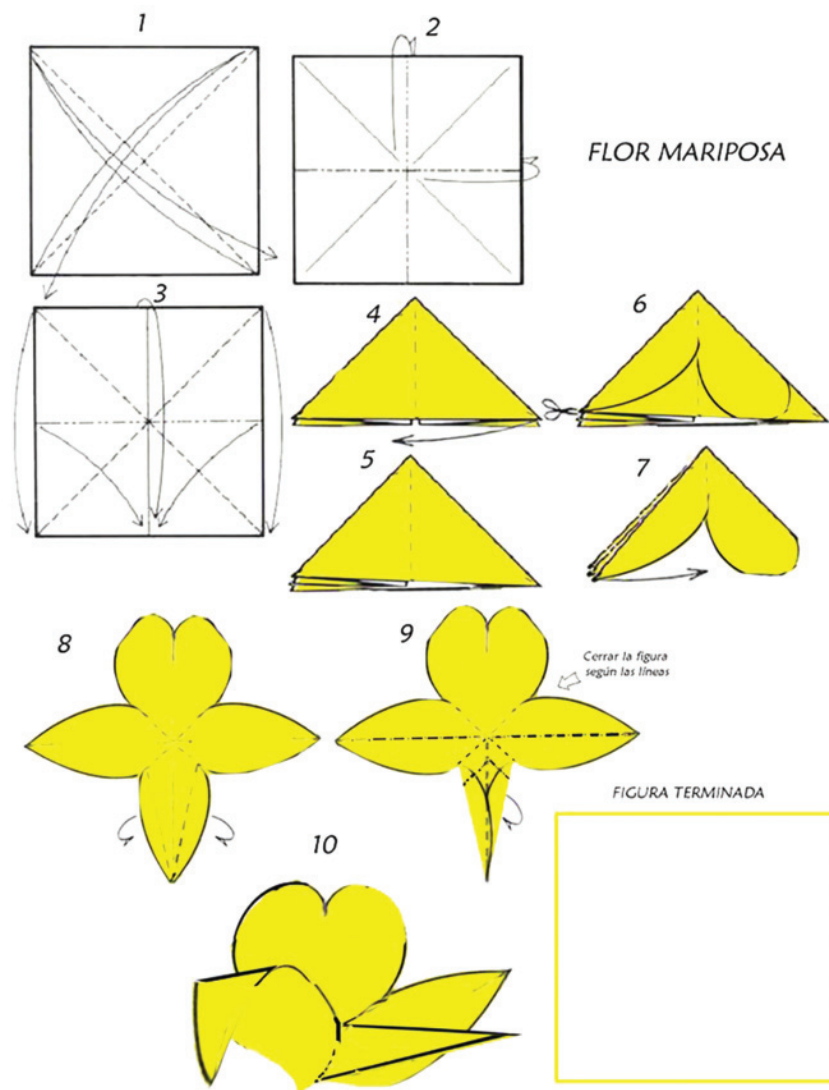
We ask for your guidance to find and receive friends with joy. May we continue to serve you and expand your Kingdom, as we care for our neighbors, communities, families, friends, and all of nature. Send us now with the desire to open our hearts and give more generously to others and receive. We ask for your blessings in Jesus name. Amen.

*You may end the time by playing or singing the traditional Cuban song called “Guantanamera.”*

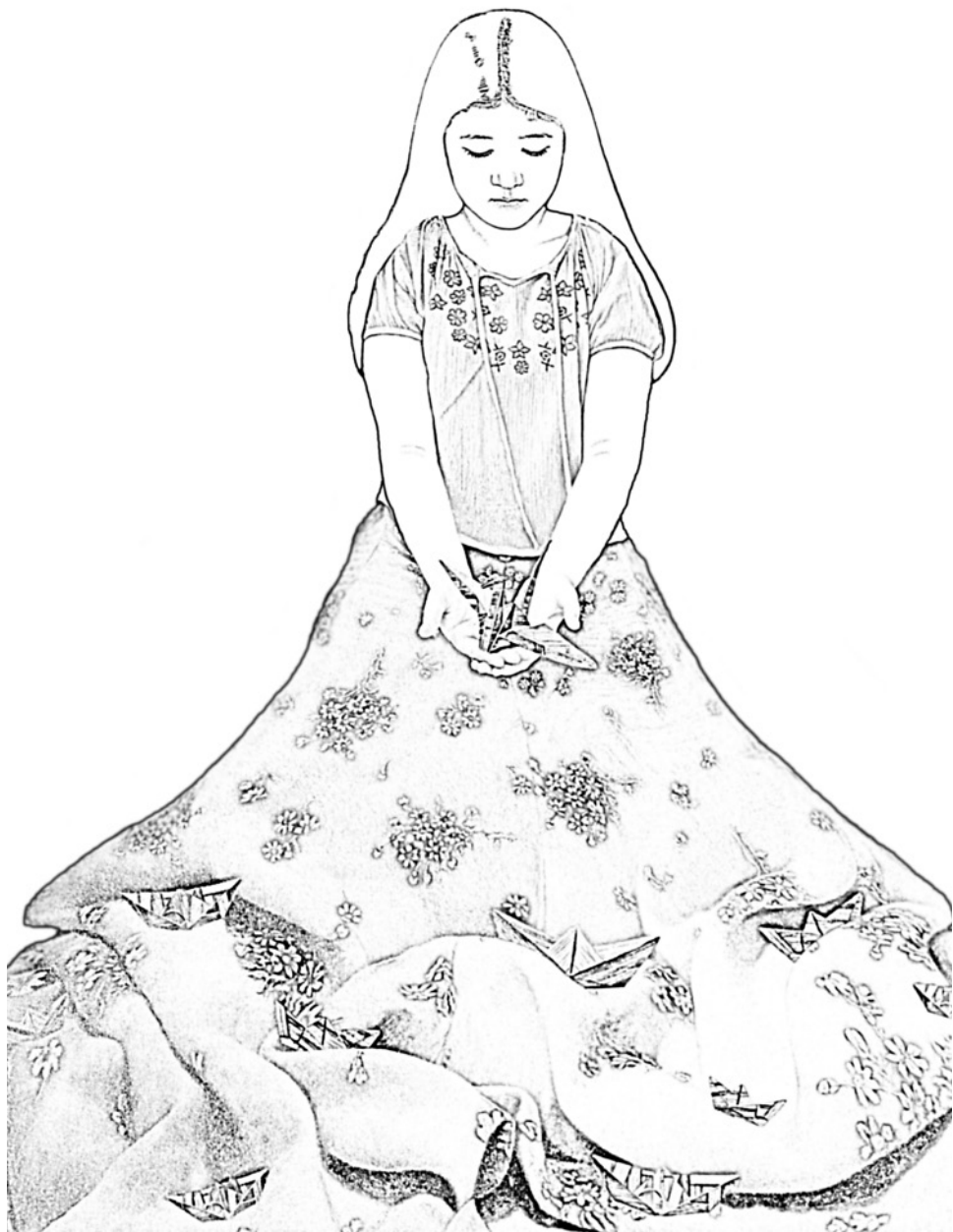
# Activities

## Origami

**Origami:** You may spend some time making an origami of a butterfly lily (*flor mariposa*), which is the Cuban national flower. See instructions below.



*Origamis de Paz y Esperanza*  
Coloring Page



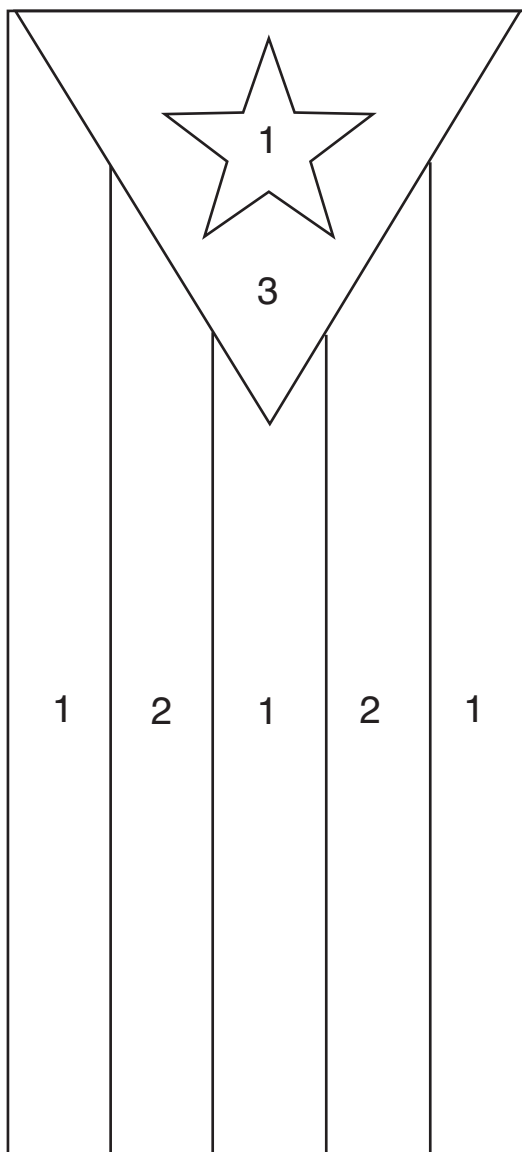
## The Cuban Flag

Let's color the numbers.

1. Blue

2. White

3. Red



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