

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Week 1 Worship Resources

The Great Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

These worship resources were compiled by Rev. Kris Mutzenberger from the website of The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>. Search query was the scripture reference for each week.

Additional worship elements written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT.

Calls to Worship

L: As we gather to worship today, turn to a neighbor* and say to each other, “Welcome! I am glad you are here!”

P: Welcome! I am glad you are here!

L: Now, turn to another neighbor* and say to each other, “You are loved by God and by me!”

P: You are loved by God and by me!

L: Beloved children of God, how can we love each other today?

P: By meeting and listening and caring for one another face-to-face.

L: Beloved children of God, how can we love God today?

P: By practicing our love for one another and God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

L: Let us worship God together today!

P: We come to worship God by living our love for God and neighbor face-to-face. Amen.

-Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023.

L: People of God, listen! Let us love the Lord our God.

P: We will love God with all our heart, with all our being, with all our mind, and with all our strength.

L: And let us love our neighbor.

P: We will love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

L: Through our love, may the Kingdom of God come near, in our lives and in our world.

P: We will live near the heart of God. Amen.

-Written by Rebecca J. Kruger Gaudino, Abingdon Worship Annual 2018.

Come into the land of God.

P: We come seeking the land of love.

Let us live as the people of Christ.

P: We gather to grow as a community of love.

Follow in the ways of the Lord.

P: We move forward on the path of love.

Come, young and old, friend and foreigner, for all are welcome here.

P: We come to live and grow in the love of Christ. Praise God for this wonderful gift!

-Written by Mary J. Scifres, Abingdon Worship Annual 2012.

L: God calls us to love with heart, soul, and mind.

P: We come to worship the One who first loved us.

L: Christ invites us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

People: We gather to learn the way of holy love.

L: The Spirit empowers us to grow in love every day.

All: Great is Thy faithfulness, O God! Shape us in perfect love.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Prayers

Opening Prayer

Holy and loving God, breathe Your Spirit upon us so that in our worship we may grow in perfect love. Form our hearts to love You fully, our minds to seek Your truth, and our lives to reflect Your compassion. Teach us the way of holiness: love lived out in prayer, mercy, justice, and community. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

-From *The Book of Common Prayer* (New York: Church Publishing, Inc., 2006), 235.

O God, you are our God and we come as your people on earth. Gather us in, that we may remember the ties that bind us together in your love. Write your law upon our hearts, that others may find us to be generous and loving friends. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may live in love-a love that transforms our lives even as we help to transform the lives of others. In the hope of your miraculous love, we pray. Amen.

-Written by Mary J. Scifres, *Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you have told us what to do. But this love thing is hard. You've invited us to love you with everything we have; instead we have fallen in love with our jobs, houses, and electronic toys. Loving you intimately is scary, and we often opt for another way. You've invited us to live in loving relationship with everyone we encounter, but there are folk who are downright hard to love. We confess our inability to love as we should. We need your forgiveness and help living out this love thing. Free us to love as you do. Amen.

-Written by Lillian C. Smith, *The Africana Worship Book, Year A* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 150.

Pastoral Prayer

Faithful God,

Your love is the foundation of our lives.

We thank You for loving us before we could love You and for calling us into the way of holy love.

Strengthen us to love those who are difficult to love.

Heal relationships that are strained.

Restore those whose spirits are weary.
Teach us to see every person as Your beloved child.

We pray for our community—
for those who are lonely, sick, grieving, or anxious.
We lift up caregivers, teachers, medical workers,
and all who serve with compassion.
We pray for peace where there is conflict,
justice where there is oppression,
and hope where there is despair.

Shape our church into a community of love
that welcomes the stranger, comforts the hurting,
and practices mercy.

Trusting in Your great faithfulness,
we join our voices with Christians everywhere as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven... (Lord's Prayer)
-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, You pour out love in abundance. Receive our gifts: our money, our time, our service, and use them to extend Your love to our community and the world. Form us into generous disciples who live out Your Great Commandment in all we do. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication~ Could be used all four weeks of the series.

Gracious and Generous God,
You shape us to love you fully and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. You send us out to share your grace with courage and humility. Help to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.
Strengthen us to proclaim the good news of Jesus and offer peace and hope to all.

Receive these gifts, O God, and use them to extend your grace, embody your mercy, and reveal your love through us. We dedicate all that we are and all that we have to your purposes. May our gifts make a difference in our communities and in the world beyond. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Children's Message

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Object: A heart-shaped pillow or paper heart.

Message: Today Jesus teaches something very important: the greatest thing we can ever do is **love**. Not just sometimes... not just people we already like... but everyone God loves—and that's **everybody**! This heart reminds us that God's love is big, wide, and never-ending.
Love isn't just a feeling—it's something we **do**. Love is an action!

Interactive moment:

Let's think of some actions we can do to show love this week—maybe helping at home, sharing with a friend, or encouraging someone who feels left out. (*Invite children to name ideas aloud.*)

Repeat-After-Me Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for loving me.

Help me love You.

Help me love others.

Help me love myself.

Make my heart more like Jesus. Amen.

Hymnal/Book of Worship Resources

“Festival of the Christian Home” *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 437

“Canticle of Love” *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 646

Hymns/Songs

From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

- UMH #64: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
- UMH #111: How Can We Name a Love
- UMH #432: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
- UMH #89: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- UMH #402: Lord I Want to Be a Christian
- UMH #572: Pass It On
- UMH #408: Gift of Love
- UMH #140: Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- UMH #384: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- UMH #399: Take My Life, and Let It Be
- UMH #402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

From *The Faith We Sing*

- FWS #2167: More like You
- FWS #2168: Love he Lord Your God
- FWS #2223: They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Contemporary Songs

- “Your Love Never Fails” — Jesus Culture
- “Yet Not I But Christ Through Me – CityAlight
- “How He Loves” — John Mark McMillan
- “Good, Good Father” — Tomlin
- “Build My Life” — Pat Barrett
- “One Thing Remains” — Bethel

For more song suggestions see additional document entitled “Song Suggestions Great is Thy Faithfulness Series”

Blessing/Benediction

L: Go to celebrate the God who is our home forever.

P: God's love goes with us!

L: Go to follow Christ's example in loving God, self, and neighbor.

P: God's love goes with us!

L: Go with the Holy Spirit to change the world with love.

P: God's love goes with us!

-Written by [Laura Jaquith Bartlett](#). Posted on the [Worship Elements](#) page of the Ministry Matters website.
Reposted on the re:Worship blog, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/benediction-proper-25a.html>.

Go forth in the love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously,
trusting always in the God whose great faithfulness sustains you.
Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Week 2 Worship Resources

The Great Commission

Matthew 28: 16-20

These worship resources were compiled by Rev. Kris Mutzenberger from the website of The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>. Search query was the scripture reference for each week.

Additional worship elements written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT.

Calls to Worship

L: We come today to worship the Triune God, even as we, like the Eleven on the mountainside, have our doubts.

P: Holy Trinity, meet us in our questions and help us embrace your mystery.

L: We come to encounter the God who is both immense and particular, greater than words can describe, and yet intimately present with us.

P: Holy Trinity, surround us with your love that brings order to chaos and community to individualism.

L: We come to give thanks to the God who created and sustains us, and who calls us to steward the earth and all that live in it.

P: Holy Trinity, empower us to enter into partnership with you for the flourishing of all creation with gratitude and joy.

L: We come to receive Christ's commission to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach the gospel wherever we go.

P: God, immerse us in the life of the Holy Trinity that we might go and welcome others into the dance of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

-Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, November 2022.

L: Jesus meets us on the mountain and sends us out.

P: We gather here today to be strengthened for mission.

L: Christ promises His presence always.

P: We rejoice in the Spirit who empowers us.

L: God's mission is our mission, today and every day.

All: Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, who sends and sustains us.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Prayers

Opening Prayer

Living Christ, You call us to go into the world and make disciples. Fill us with boldness and compassion, rooted in practices of prayer, study, and holy living. Empower us by Your Spirit that our lives may witness to Your saving grace. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Holy God, Three in One, you are our eternal hope, our companion in life, our liberating power. Lead us in your mission, baptizing and teaching in your blessed name, so that all may worship you to the end of the age. Amen.

-From "Prayers for Trinity Sunday," Presbyterian Mission (PCUSA),
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/prayers-trinity-sunday>

Jesus, our Savior, in response to your call to be your faithful disciples, we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Open our lives and teach us how to follow your great commission to make disciples of all nations, to baptize and teach them your ways. Let us know the full blessings of our God-Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

-Written by Robert Blezard, Abingdon Worship Annual 2008

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess our sin, which separates us from you. We know how people who belong to you should live, but we fail to live that way. At times we have forgotten that we bear your image and have done evil. At times we have forgotten to live in response to your sacrifice for us and have acted selfishly. At times we have ignored the voice of your spirit speaking to our conscience, and we have followed the desires of our own heart. As a result, we have lived for self rather than for you or our neighbor, our lives have been diminished, our witness has been stifled, and your image within us has been tarnished.

Forgive us, good Lord, through Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, guide us to live as people who know and love you. Amen.

The Lord, who saves you, says: I am the God who forgives your sins; I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you. Let us praise the triune God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

-Taken from "Prayers for Trinity Sunday," The Moravian Church,
<https://www.moravian.org/2020/06/prayers-for-trinity-sunday-june-7-13-2020>.

Pastoral Prayer

Risen and living Christ,
you meet us, your disciples with our doubts present and hope rising, and you offer mercy that steadies us and love that sustains us. We thank you for your promise to be with us always.

Where we feel uncertain or afraid, speak your peace. (pause)

Where we are weary or wounded, bring your healing. (pause)

Where guilt, shame, or broken relationships weigh heavy on our hearts, offer forgiveness and teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven. (pause)

Send us out in your name, O God, not in our own strength, but covered in your grace.

Make us people who bear mercy into places of hurt, who work for reconciliation, and who live as signs of your peace in a restless world.

We lift before you those who are sick or grieving,

those who are lonely or burdened,

those who long for justice, safety, and hope.

Hold them close, surround them with care,

and use us as instruments of your compassion.

Trusting in your abiding presence and guided by your Spirit,

we place our lives, our church, and our world in your hands.

And now, with one voice and one heart, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven... (Lord's Prayer)

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Offertory Prayer

Lord of mission and mercy, bless these gifts. Multiply them so that disciples may be formed, the lost found, and Your kingdom proclaimed. Use us as instruments of Your grace, peace, and love. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication~ Could be used all four weeks of the series.

Gracious and Generous God,

You shape us to love you fully and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. You send us out to share your grace with courage and humility. Help to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

Strengthen us to proclaim the good news of Jesus and offer peace and hope to all.

Receive these gifts, O God, and use them to extend your grace, embody your mercy, and reveal your love through us. We dedicate all that we are and all that we have to your purposes. May our gifts make a difference in our communities and in the world beyond. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Children's Message

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Object: A flashlight.

Message: This flashlight helps us see where to go. Jesus tells us to go into the world and shine His light by loving people, helping people, and telling them that God is always with them. Because Jesus is with us, we can be brave and kind even when it is hard.

Interactive moment: Turn on the flashlight.

Ask: "Where could you shine Jesus' light this week?" (*Invite responses from children.*)

Repeat-After-Me Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for being with me.

Help me shine Your light.

Help me help others.

Send me where You need me.

Amen.

Hymnal/Book of Worship Resources

"Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 570

"Prayer of Saint Francis," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 481

"Prayer of Saint Patrick," *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 529

Hymns/Songs

From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

- UMH #389: Freely, Freely
- UMH #571: Go Make of All Disciples
- UMH #584: Lord You Give the Great Commission
- UMH #583: You Are the Seed
- UMH #569: We've a Story to Tell to the Nations
- UMH #671: Lord Dismiss us with Thy Blessing
- UMH #644: Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Also see: *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 568-593, "Called to God's Mission"

From *The Faith We Sing*

- FWS #2239: Go Ye, Go Ye into the World

- FWS #2071: Jesus, Name above All Names
- FWS #2243: We All Are One in Mission

Contemporary Songs

- "Lay Me Down" — Chris Tomlin
- "The Commission" — CAIN
- "Build Your Kingdom Here" — Rend Collective
- "Send Me" — Bethel
- "Who You Say I Am" — Hillsong
- "What a Beautiful Name" — Hillsong
- "God of This City" — Bluetree

For more song suggestions see additional document entitled "Song Suggestions Great is Thy Faithfulness Series"

Blessing/Benediction

L: Let us go forth in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

P: We will make disciples of all nations. We will baptize and teach them of our God.

L: Remember that Jesus is with you to the end of the age.

ALL: Amen.

-Written by Robert Blezard, Abingdon Worship Annual 2008

Go, therefore, because you are children of the Triune God and partners in God's work of light, life, and love that even now is at work all around us. May the mystery of the Trinity enfold you, the glory of the Trinity astound you, and the love of the Trinity companion you on your way. Amen.

-Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, November 2022.

Go in the power of the risen Christ.
Make disciples,
love boldly,
and carry the assurance that Christ is with you always,
even to the end of the age. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Week 3 Worship Resources

The Great Requirement

Micah 6:6-8

These worship resources were compiled by Rev. Kris Mutzenberger from the website of The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>. Search query was the scripture reference for each week.

Additional worship elements written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT.

Calls to Worship

L: Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?

P: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

L: In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?

P: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

L: When we share the good news with all creation, what worship does God desire of us?

P: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

L: Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!

P: We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

-Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025

L: Let us speak of mercy and justice.

P: For these are the things suitable for our God.

L: Let us follow the ways of mercy and justice, for they are the ways of peace and community.

P: Let us lift up our hearts in conviction and our voices in commitment and praise to the Lord of peace and the God of justice; the hope and healing of humanity.

L: Let us pray for the poor:

P: For theirs is the kingdom of God.

L: Let us pray for those who are hungry now;

P: For they will be filled.

L: Let us pray for those who weep:

P: For they will laugh.

L: Let us pray for the despised and excluded;

P: For in that day they shall leap for joy, for surely their reward is great in heaven.

L: What does the Lord require of us?

P: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

L: God calls us to holy living.

P: We come seeking the Spirit's guidance.

Leader: Christ leads us on the path of compassion and courage.

ALL: Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, who leads us in righteousness.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Prayers

Opening Prayer

God of justice and mercy, speak to us through Your Word so that we may grow in holiness of heart and life. Shape our discipleship through practices of mercy, service, and holiness. Make us agents of compassion and justice. In Jesus' name. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Oh God, Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer-

How do we thank you? How do we show our gratitude? Do you want signs and sacrifices?

Do you want gold and cattle? Can we turn over our children to you? Would that repay our debt, make everything right? Tell us, what do you require in return for all your goodness?

Oh God, Our teacher, example, companion—You have shown us what is good, and call us to remember that what you require is not repayment of debt or settling the score, but obedience. Show us, God, When to do justice, how to love kindness, and where to walk, humbly, with you. Amen.

-Written by Dana Cassell, a former BVS volunteer. Posted on the Church of the Brethren website, <https://www.brethren.org/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/prayer-micah-6-6-8.html>.

L: Micah reminds us that our prayers, fasting, and pious ritual must be lived out in compassion and justice: When we forget the fast you desire—To do justice, and rise up for the powerless:

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: When we forget the prayer you love—To show compassion and care for those in need:

P: Christ, have mercy.

When we forget the rituals you require—To create relationships of righteousness and peace:

P: Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance for Grace and Peace

L: Friends, the love of God revealed in Jesus forgives us, heals us, and sets us free to rebuild, restore, and raise up foundations for new generations. Amen.

-Adapted from Rev. Susan A. Blain, posted on the Worship Ways website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/salty-bright-and-good-service-prayers-for-the-5th-sunday-after-epiphany-year-a-february-9-2020/>.

A Prayer Based on Micah 6:8

Give us, o Lord, an eye for injustice.

For it is only when we are able to recognize injustice and feel its awful sting that we will be moved to make things right.

Give us, o Lord, a tender heart.

Sometimes we are too hard-hearted to recognize when we have been uncaring, unfeeling, or unkind.

Grant us, o Lord the ability to view life from the dust.

All our lives we have been taught to make others proud, to be proud of ourselves, to hold our heads high – all the while missing the virtues of being poor in spirit.

Teach us dear Lord, to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Amen.

-From the [*Africana Worship Book for Year A*](#). Copyright Discipleship Resources. Used with permission.

Pastoral Prayer

God of justice, mercy, and humble love,
You call us to live out Your righteousness in the world.
Give us courage to seek justice where people are hurting,
to offer kindness where there is bitterness,
and to walk humbly in a world full of pride.

We pray for communities torn by violence,
for those oppressed or marginalized,
for people struggling with poverty or homelessness,
and for all who long for dignity and hope.
Strengthen all who work for justice—
advocates, community leaders, counselors, and caregivers.

We pray for healing for the sick,
comfort for the grieving,
companionship for the lonely,
and rest for the weary.

Make our church a place where justice and mercy meet,
where love is lived daily,
and where Your presence is unmistakable.

With hearts seeking Your will,
we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven... (Lord's Prayer)

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, receive these gifts as signs of our desire to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You. Bless our ministries of compassion, outreach, and service. Use us to bring hope and love to our community and the world beyond. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication~ Could be used all four weeks of the series.

Gracious and Generous God,

You shape us to love you fully and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. You send us out to share your grace with courage and humility. Help to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

Strengthen us to proclaim the good news of Jesus and offer peace and hope to all.

Receive these gifts, O God, and use them to extend your grace, embody your mercy, and reveal your love through us. We dedicate all that we are and all that we have to your purposes. May our gifts make a difference in our communities and in the world beyond. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Children's Message

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Object: A small scale or balance.

Message: This scale helps remind us of fairness. Micah, a smart person from the Old Testament in the bible tells us in our scripture lesson today that God wants us to do what is right, to be kind, and to walk humbly with God. That means telling the truth, including people who feel left out, and remembering that we're not better than anyone else—we're all God's children.

Interactive moment:

Ask children: "What is one kind thing you can do for someone this week?" (Invite responses.)

Repeat-After-Me Prayer:

Dear God,

Help me do what is right.

Help me be kind to everyone.

Help me walk humbly with You.

Make me more like Jesus.

Amen.

Hymnal/Book of Worship Resources

"Prayer for Courage to Do Justice," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 456

"The Prayer of Saint Francis," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 481

"A Litany for the Church and for the World," *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 495

"One Great Hour of Sharing: Greeting" *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 424

Hymns/Songs

From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

- UMH #103: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
- UMH #106: God Is Able
- UMH #121: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
- UMH #122: God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale
- UMH #159: Lift High the Cross
- UMH #178: Hope of the World
- UMH #210: All the Earth is Waiting
- UMH #318: Christ is Alive
- UMH #401: For Holiness of Heart
- UMH #426: Behold a Broken World
- UMH #427: Where Cross the Crowded ways of Life
- UMH #428: For the Healing of the Nations
- UMH #432: Jesu, Jesu
- UMH #435: O God of Every Nation
- UMH #437: This Is My Song
- UMH #441: What Does the Lord Require
- UMH #489: For God's Gifts

- UMH #576: Rise Up O Saints [Men] of God
- UMH #577: God of Grace and God of Glory
- UMH #578: God of Love and God of Power

Also see: *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 509-536, "Strength in Tribulation" and 425-450, "Social Holiness"

Contemporary Songs

- "Same God" — Elevation or Will Morrison
- "God of Justice" — Tim Hughes
- "The Cause of Christ" — Kari Jobe
- "Micah 6:8" — Charlie Hall
- "Do Something" — Matthew West
- "Heal Our Land" — Hillsong

For more song suggestions see additional document entitled "Song Suggestions Great is Thy Faithfulness Series"

Blessing/Benediction

May the holy wisdom of God
Guard your ways and guide your paths
May the living truth of God
Enlighten your hearts and open your minds
And may the living Spirit of God
Give you life, and life to the full!
Amen!

Go forth to live as God requires:
do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly.
And may the God of peace strengthen you for
every good work. Amen.
-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Posted on Literature & Liturgy,
<https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/09/blessing-wisdom-of-god.html>.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Week 4 Worship Resources

The Great Proclamation

Luke 4:14 - 21

These worship resources were compiled by Rev. Kris Mutzenberger from the website of The United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>. Search query was the scripture reference for each week.

Additional worship elements written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT.

Calls to Worship

L: Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

L: We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world. To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

L: We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God's love redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

L: Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

-Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

L: Jesus proclaims good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed.

P: We gather to hear His liberating Word.

L: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

P: Empower us to join Christ's mission.

L: God's kingdom breaks in—right here, right now.

All: Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, who brings hope to the world.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Prayers

Opening Prayer

Spirit-anointed Christ, proclaim Your good news among us today. Open our hearts to the freedom, healing, and hope You offer. Inspire us to continue Your mission of liberation through Wesleyan practices of mercy, justice, and holy living. Strengthen us to embody Your kingdom in the world. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. "We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ; you have touched us with your Spirit, and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

-Written by Ruth C. Duck in *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated*, eds. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 38-9. For use in worship, use the following notice: *Reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.*

Prayer of Confession

God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet.
We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor,
the oppressed, the prisoners.
Forgive us for being insulated and isolated.
Open our hearts to the poor
and help us to love them as you love them,
working to bring in the good news of the reign of God.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

-Posted on ***Waiting for Water: Liturgy for The Easter Journey 2013***

<http://storage.cloversites.com/waitingforwater/documents/Liturgical%20resources%202013%2010%2018%2012.pdf>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/01/prayer-of-confession-luke-4-14-30.html>.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
You came proclaiming good news to the poor,
release for the captives, healing for the broken,
and freedom for the oppressed.
Let Your Spirit rest upon us
so that our words and actions proclaim Your
kingdom.

We pray for those trapped in cycles of poverty,
for families facing insecurity,
for people battling illness of body or mind,
and for all who feel forgotten.

We pray for justice in our community,
for compassion in our relationships,
and for healing in our world.

Strengthen ministries that feed the hungry,
visit the sick, advocate for justice,
and bring hope to the despairing.
Make us partners in Your mission of liberation.

With trust in Your faithfulness,
we join our voices in the prayer You taught...

Our Father, who art in heaven... (Lord's Prayer)
-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, bless these gifts that they may proclaim Your good news—feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted, and lifting up the oppressed. Make us partners in Your healing work. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication~ Could be used all four weeks of the series.

Gracious and Generous God,

You shape us to love you fully and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. You send us out to share your grace with courage and humility. Help to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

Strengthen us to proclaim the good news of Jesus and offer peace and hope to all.

Receive these gifts, O God, and use them to extend your grace, embody your mercy, and reveal your love through us. We dedicate all that we are and all that we have to your purposes. May our gifts make a difference in our communities and in the world beyond. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Children's Message

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT

Object: A bandage or small first-aid kit.

Message: Jesus came to heal, help, and give hope. Just like a bandage helps a cut feel better, Jesus came to help people who were hurting inside and outside. We can be part of His good news by being kind, gentle, and helpful. We can offer help heal the hurts of people we know.

Interactive moment:

Ask the children: “How you can help or encourage or make someone feel better this week?” (Let them suggest some ideas.)

Repeat-After-Me Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for bringing good news.

Help me help others.

Help me be kind.

Help me share Your love.

Amen.

Hymnal/Book of Worship Resources

"Prayer for Courage to Do Justice," *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 456

Hymns/Songs

From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

- UMH #57: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
- UMH #454: Open My Eyes That I May See
- UMH #332, Spirit of Faith Come Down
- UMH #203, Hail to the Lord's Anointed
- UMH #192, There's a Spirit in the Air
- UMH #384, Love Divine All Loves Excelling
- UMH #121: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Also see: *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 256-276, "Life and Teaching" and 425-450 "Social Holiness"

From *The Faith We Sing*

- FWS #2236: Gather Us In
- FWS #2130: The Summons
- FWS #2241: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Contemporary Songs

- "The Commission" — Cain
- "Chain Breaker" — Zach Williams
- "Freedom" — Jesus Culture
- "Way Maker" — Leeland
- "Glorious Day" — Passion

For more song suggestions see additional document entitled "Song Suggestions Great is Thy Faithfulness Series"

Blessing/Benediction

May the Holy Spirit bless you with inspiration to recognize and pay attention to all the ways the Word of God springs to life around you in the familiar rhythms and customs of your day, so that you may find and bring God's love, peace, and hope wherever you go. Amen.

-Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

Go forth proclaiming the good news of Christ in word and deed.

May the Spirit empower your witness,
the love of Christ guide your steps,
and the faithfulness of God strengthen you always. Amen.

-Written by Beata Ferris with help from ChatGPT