

Access Sunday Worship Resources

Call to Worship

ONE: We have accepted your call, God:

ALL: to gather around the banquet table of your Realm,

ONE: to praise you, to proclaim your mighty acts,

ALL: and to serve you here with what, who, and how we are.

ONE: As we settle into places in your presence, let us take notice of who is around us, those with whom we are acquainted,

ALL: different from us in dress, age, color, or behavior.

ONE: Let us also be aware of who is not here,

ALL: excluded because our attitudes have put them on the margin of our life in Jesus.

ONE: May your Spirit move among us:

ALL: burdening us with the tasks of justice toward all humanity.

ONE: Give us a new vision:

ALL: that how we are is not as important as who we are individually and in the Body of Christ.

ONE: In this humility, let us worship God with a loud voice and a joyful strain!

Confession

Holy God, your justice rolls down like a mighty stream cutting a path, clearing away obstacles, making surfaces smooth and beautiful. In its presence, our sin is made plain, and we confess our captivity to sins of indifference, condescension, arrogance and pity.

Lord Christ, you open us to relationships of equality and respect, to justice that flows as a soothing and refreshing spring, showing us the abundant life that can be ours in your Body, the Church.

Wash us clean, O God, bathe us in your Spirit. Awaken us to the wonder of your image imprinted in each of your treasured children;

Make us partners with one another, cherishing the gifts each one of us brings. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God's justice is a boundless love, which brings us to wholeness within ourselves and for others. When God's justice and love are found in us as they are found in Jesus the Christ, we are made new creatures. Thanks be to God!

The Peace

The Peace of Christ gives wholeness and new being.
The Peace of Christ be with you and in your sharing.
May it be your wholeness as well.

*The preceding worship resources were adapted from liturgy written by the
Rev. Donald "Don" Milloy, H.R., Bloomington, MN, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.*

Music

To help make your Access Sunday worship accessible to all generations, it may be helpful to choose at least one hymn with a repeated refrain. Liturgy in inclusive worship serves to "provide a context for words and actions to be repeated over and over again, thus enabling the participants to participate beneath the surface of events, to mind, body, and spirit."

Brett Webb-Mitchell, *Dancing with Disabilities*

Suggested Scripture

Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 8, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 4:16-19, John 9 (see "The Honor of Their Presence" included separately with these materials.)

Children's Sermon

See "You've Got Trouble" included separately with these materials.

Moment for Mission

"Called by Christ to Care" included separately with these materials.

"Shared Ministry: Affordable Housing" included separately with these materials.

Litany

"We Are God's Work of Art" included separately with these materials.

Suggested Sermon Themes

- Wholeness: What is Wholeness? Does it depend upon abilities or disabilities? See "Reflections on Wholeness" in this packet.

- **Belief, Faith, and Disability:** How do our beliefs and our faith influence our attitudes toward people with disabilities? See “The Honor of Their Presence” and “Encountering the Disabled God.”
- **“Healing” as inclusion:** How did Jesus’ ministry restore people to their communities? What is “healing” today? See “Domestic Violence: the Secret Disabler,” “Lost and Found: An Integration Story,” and “The Honor of Their Presence.”
- **The Inclusive Church:** How can the congregation welcome people with disabilities? See “Stories from the Celebration of the Sacraments,” “A Culture of Belonging at the Springdale Church,” “Advocacy: A Young Person’s Perspective,” “Advocacy: A Mother’s Perspective,” and “Aspergers Syndrome.”
- **Disability and Social Justice:** What is the difference between charity and justice? What is justice for people with disabilities? See “Where Emergency StrikesCalled to Care,” “Shared Ministry: Affordable Housing,” “Domestic Violence: the Secret Disabler,” and “Modeling Justice in the Workplace.”

Offering

If your congregation has a special accessibility project --- for example, renovating an entryway or bathroom, producing alternate format educational or worship materials --- this would be an appropriate time to receive an offering for that purpose and dedicate it.

Hymn

“It’s Sad When We Exclude Them” included separately with these materials. About the hymn writer:

Lori Ludwig describes herself as “a music therapist who can’t sing.” When she developed a disability that prevents her from singing, she began to write hymns.

Lori did not lose her ability to use music in her ministry with elderly people. She uses a holistic approach at the residential facilities where she serves. She engages all the senses as residents sing, play instruments, move to music, and play memory games like “fishing” for song titles.

In 2006 Lori won the contest sponsored by the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen for her hymn, “We Celebrate All Women,” written in honor of the ordination of women as elders, deacons, and clergy. She says, “Now I sing through lots of other people.”