

Reunion Worships 2009
Theme 1: Identity and Calling (Paragraph 1)

Worship Setting

Throughout the week the daily themes will suggest questions, prompting us to think deeply. They may challenge us to explore and discover, to find our reality and look beyond the horizon. A possible visual focus for the worship setting might be a free-standing, wooden cross (about three or four feet tall, placed upright on the altar). For each daily theme, choose a cloth or scarf to drape artfully from the cross. The drape can be removed each day to create a “revealing of the Divine” metaphor. Each of these daily unveilings will be accompanied by a Call to Worship. (See CTW and cloth suggestion for today’s theme, which follows.) Place the cloths for the week on the cross in reverse order, so the last one on is the first to come off. Remove one each day.

Hymns for the Service

Hymns have been chosen for this service. In addition, other hymns have been listed here that might better fit the reunion or planner/presider’s focus.

“Christ Bids Our Hearts to Sail” by Danny Belrose (Tune: *HS* 435).
The text is found in *Vulnerable to Grace*, Danny Belrose, p. 21.
SP 36, “Called by Christ to Love Each Other”
R-16, “Community of Joy, Proclaim the Living Christ!”

Welcome

What is our identity? What do we identify with?
What is our calling? Do we hear Christ’s call?
Where will it take us? Are we ready?

Call to Worship

Unwrap the first (black) cloth that should have been covering all the cloths; let it fall gently to the altar, revealing the next one. The next cloth could be blue, representing the identity of the church.

As we unravel the mystery of the Divine,
let our poets, prophets, scriptures, and prayers
help us find our identity.

Scripture for the Theme

“‘Community of Christ,’ your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

Hymn: *SP 4*, “Gather Us In” (There is a hymn for the closing of the worship service the last day that is a companion to this one. It will fit well with this song and uses the same tune.)

Opening Prayer

Scripture Story and Activity: 1 Samuel 3:2–10

Did You Call Me?

Have one child pretend to be Eli and another Samuel. Have Eli and Samuel act like they are sleeping on opposite sides of the stage. One person can be the voice of God off stage calling Samuel. Samuel wakes up and says, “Here I am.” He runs and wakes up Eli. Eli wakes up and says, “I didn’t call you; go back to bed.” Samuel goes back to sleep. Follow the sequence given in scripture for the second and third time that God calls. End with Samuel saying to God, “I hear you God; I’m listening.”

Hymn: “We Will Listen, Lord” (The text and tune will follow this worship outline. Pause to “listen” between each stanza.)

Building Community—Personal Story

Ahead of time, ask one person to share about their identity or calling and how it has been revealed to them. Was it gradual or all at once? Was it in an unanticipated direction? Does it continue?

Hymn: *NS 35*, “Make Me a Servant”

Message/Sharing the Word

We become comfortable in the status quo, in our “certain and tested” beliefs handed down from generations before. These are like the security of a worn-out, comfortable chair. If we are called to deepen our beliefs and faith, we might need to change. It is much easier to continue the tried and predictable.

Our identity as Community of Christ presents us with the thorny call to embrace the past yet look to the horizon beyond. We are called corporately and individually to seek more, to listen intently to God's prompting, which might call us to step from one stone to the next. This community asks us to honor the steps behind, yet embrace the uncertainty ahead, knowing God is always there.

Our faith was founded on a young lad searching for more. He sought to deepen his understanding of God and where he was called to go.

Challenge: Go beyond where you are to where God calls. Where will it take us? Are we ready?

Ministry of Music: Instrumental meditation music

Offertory

If your reunion only has one or two offertories throughout the week, you will want to decide when to add this to your service.

Hymn: *SP 38*, "Christ Has Called Us to New Visions"

Benediction

We Will Listen

Lu Mountenay

1. As the rain de - scends to earth and your Spi - rit
2. As the moun - tain stands in awe of a God whose
3. As the wil - low bends its bough whis - per - ing a
4. As the sun shines through the cloud and a hush falls

4

breathes new birth, as your love shines from each face
love is law, reach - ing high its tow' - ring peak
humble ~~qui - et~~ vow, qui - et wa - ters lap the shore
on the crowd, when we call forth the un - heard,

7

fill - ing us with peace and grace, we will lis - ten, Lord,
for a chance to hear you speak.
shap - ing stone for - ev - er - more.
send to us Thy Ho - ly Word.

10

we will lis - ten. We will lis - ten, Lord, and we will hear.