

Reunion Worship 2009
Theme 2: Pathways for Peace (Paragraph 3)

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.

Prelude/Gathering Songs

SP 3, “Gather Your Children”

SP 19, “We’re Singing a Peace Song”

SP 15, “Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”

SP 1, “Center of Peace”

(Light a peace candle while singing this last hymn.)

Welcome

Are we ready to follow? Is it peace that we seek?

How do we get there? Are we following the right path?

And again we ask, “Where will it take us?” Are we ready?

Call to Worship

*Unwrap the blue cloth and let it fall gently to the altar,
revealing a white cloth representing peace.*

The pathway to peace lies at the foot of the cross. We have only to follow. Come, follow the peace of Christ.

Scripture for the Theme

“You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness.

“Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ’s vision of the peaceable Kingdom of God on earth. Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace.

“There are subtle, yet powerful, influences in the world, some even claiming to represent Christ, that seek to divide people and nations to accomplish their destructive aims. That which seeks to harden one human heart against another by constructing walls of fear and prejudice is not of God. Be especially alert to these influences, lest they divide you or divert you from the mission to which you are called.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a, b, c

Hymn: *NS 5*, “Beyond the Horizon”

Building Community

Responsive Reading

Leader: You have only tasted the blessings of peace. Fuller dimensions and expressions of its grace are before you. They await exploration and discovery. My peace has many faces: black, brown, white, and yellow; young and old, rich and poor. The time for hesitation has passed. Create new pathways. Open new doors.

All: **Horizons of hope call to us. We will place our feet where they have yet to tread. We will be your people, God.**

Leader: Many wander in disbelief seduced by subtle forces imitating my gospel. Peace is frustrated by those who bend its meaning for self-serving purposes. Strengthen your resolve to speak for those who cannot speak and stand for those who cannot stand.

All: **Horizons of hope call to us. We will not remain silent. We will be your people, God.**

Leader: The hope of Zion is in your hands and the hands of all who share the vision of peace. My community of faith extends beyond the doors of your sanctuaries. Be faithful to your calling and unite your efforts with all who embody generosity, justice, and peacefulness.

All: **Horizons of hope call to us. We will join hands in community with all who pursue your peace. We will be your people, God.**

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 34

Personal story: Ahead of time, ask someone to share a personal story of how they experienced God's blessing by doing a good deed. Or have them tell about how they may have missed an opportunity to serve.

Message/Sharing the Word

Creating new pathways can require removal of obstacles on the path. It also means stepping out in uncertainty, not clear what will be encountered or where it will lead. It is hard to know if one is going where God calls. The world's voices often speak louder. The uncertainty can be overwhelming and can prevent one from even starting on the journey.

It is so much easier to repeat the steps we know. While moving down new pathways we will make mistakes, have disappointments, be distracted, and experience challenges. It will require give and take, compromise, risk, and constant evaluation of where God is calling us. Scriptures, spiritual mentors, and prayer can be touch stones to assist when the fear seems to prevail. We have been called to be in the forefront and to positively influence our surroundings.

Challenge: Go and find new pathways of peace where God calls. Where will they 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: NS 35, “Make Me a Servant”

Prayer of Commitment

God, we hear your call to pursue peace
—to embody within us the principles of justice and grace.

You have placed the hope of Zion in our hands.

They are not equal to the task

—for too often they have grasped lesser things.

Like sand sifting through uncupped hands,

we have seen peace slip silently away

—never fully realized—never made incarnate.

Forgive the detours of our faith.

Put us once again on its path,

finding new avenues to realize your vision of community.

Grant us courage to challenge

that which frustrates your purposes.

Awaken within us your call to be living sanctuaries

of your peace—walking hand in hand with all

who celebrate your many names.

May our voices rise above the hymns we sing,

the prayers we pray, the sermons we preach.

May they be heard defending the used and abused.

May they speak out against the subtle influences

that detract from your way.

And may they speak with gentleness, Lord,

inviting every race and face

to be your people.

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 35.