

Reunion Worship 2009
Theme 3: In Their Welfare (Paragraph 4)

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

NS 6, “Come, Holy Spirit, Come”

NS 12, “Here I Am, Lord”

NS 43, “Santo, Santo, Santo”

Welcome

How can we make a difference? Who can we reach out to in love and care? Where will it take us? Are we ready?

Call to Worship

*Unwrap the white cloth and let it fall gently to the altar,
revealing a raggedy, patched, and soiled cloth representing poverty.*

“Open our ears to the cries of the lost, the least, and the labeled. Let the tears of others be our tears. Let the hopes of the displaced, diseased, and mistreated be our hopes. Not in word only, God—but in willful acts of love multiplied by your grace.”

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 44

Scripture for the Theme

“God, the Eternal Creator, weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God’s will. Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare.

“The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation’s natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences.

“Let the educational and community development endeavors of the church equip people of all ages to carry the ethics of Christ’s peace into all arenas of life. Prepare new generations of disciples to bring fresh vision to bear on the perplexing problems of poverty, disease, war, and environmental deterioration. Their contributions will be multiplied if their hearts are focused on God’s will for creation.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a, b, c

Hymn: *SP 27, “I Am Standing Waiting”*

Opening Prayer

Building Community

Take a pilgrimage together to a predetermined site where a tree (or seeds or flowers) can be planted. Let the children and youth help dig the hole and water the tree. (If it is very poor weather, have a large pot of soil in the sanctuary and do the planting indoors.)

Words can be spoken emphasizing the theme scripture—“The earth (was) lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish.” We can positively influence our earth in one small way by planting a tree. We can share the benefits of what one tree can do for our earth. (It adds oxygen to the atmosphere; it provides a home for the birds and shade to cool the earth.)

Hymn for the Tree Planting: “Garden of Blessing” (Sing the first three verses of the following song. If there is opportunity for the blessing of a child as well, sing all four verses before the sacrament.)

Garden of Blessing

(Tune: "Jesus, Remember Me," *SN 26*)

Sow seeds so gently;
God promises to provide their needs.
We help to nurture
what Jesus Christ has created.

Plant trees for children,
all the children yet to be.
Let their roots freely grow;
do not break their tender branches.

Train these vines to hold tight
to the Master Gardener's vision.
Feed with living waters;
take them into community.

Bless this beloved child
with grace from thy Holy Spirit.
Mindful Christ said of them,
of such as these is my kingdom.

—Lu Mountenay © 2008

Hymn: *NS 27*, "Lay Your Hands" (Gather back into the sanctuary.)

Message/Sharing the Word

One can feel quite small and useless in the world where we live. How can one person make a difference in the world? It's easier to continue with our routines, taking care of ourselves and families, justifying that we are too busy and don't have time.

Can you remember how one person's action made a difference in your life? God asks us to look outside ourselves and put the welfare of others first. Jesus was the example showing how to reach out to the brokenhearted and the marginalized.

God also asks us to consider how we treat our planet. God created each living creature, human, and plant. We can show our respect to God by our caring relationship with both human and plant.

It is a safe assumption to say that we desire to leave the world a better place for our children. God has sacrificed all for us. We can honor God and blessings will flow through our actions to care for our communities, our world, and all that live therein.

Challenge: We have a responsibility for the state of the world, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God. God's blessing will flow from our actions. We can make a difference when we reach out. 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 45*, "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

Benediction