

Reunion Worship 2009
Theme 4: An Indispensable Witness (Paragraph 7)

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

HS 473, “I Love to tell the Story”

SP 19, “We’re Singing a Peace Song”

HS 58, “Now in This Moment”

“Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet” (Amy Grant © 1984, Bug and Bear Music, Meadowgreen Music. Each location may use their CCLI license number.)

Welcome: The scripture witness can guide our everyday life decisions. To find truths in the scriptures requires us to read the stories more fully with trusting, open communication with God. How can the scripture stories help us in the twenty-first century? Where will they take us? Are we ready?

Call to Worship

Unwrap the ragged and soiled cloth and let it fall gently to the altar, revealing a bright yellow cloth representing joyful witness.

“Let sacred texts point the way, not ‘be’ the way.

Let them serve, not ‘be’ served.

Let them unite, not divide.

Let them, once again, be a lamp unto our feet,
not a hammer in our hands.”

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 71

Scripture for the Theme

“Scripture is an indispensable witness to the Eternal Source of light and truth, which cannot be fully contained in any finite vessel or language. Scripture has been written and shaped by human authors through experiences of revelation and ongoing inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the midst of time and culture.

“Scripture is not to be worshiped or idolized. Only God, the Eternal One of whom scripture testifies, is worthy of worship. God’s nature, as revealed in Jesus Christ and affirmed by the Holy Spirit, provides the ultimate standard by which any portion of scripture should be interpreted and applied.

“It is not pleasing to God when any passage of scripture is used to diminish or oppress races, genders, or classes of human beings. Much physical and emotional violence has been done to some of God’s beloved children through the misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices.

“Scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment in the faith community must walk hand in hand to reveal the true will of God. Follow this pathway, which is the way of the Living Christ, and you will discover more than sufficient light for the journey ahead.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:7a–d

Hymn: *SP* 9, “Bring Forth the Kingdom”

Opening Prayer

Building Community

Ahead of time, ask one person to tell of a time when someone witnessed to them and made a difference in their life.

Hymn: *HS* 324, “God Is Working His Purpose Out”

Message/Sharing the Word

How can scripture stories help someone struggling with everyday life? Sometimes we see scriptures used to foster views and agendas other than God's. This is when the meaning of scripture is compromised. It is through faith that we have the chance to see the truth of the scriptures. Stepping into the scripture stories we realize that early Christians dealt with similar problems and questions such as: What does God have to offer me? Why must I be born again? Why should I love my neighbor? The *indispensable witness* calls us to a new life, a change of attitude and behavior. The scriptures are a light to help us see and understand more clearly.

Challenge: The scriptures are filled with wonderful stories of human dilemmas and how God mentors us to a fuller life. 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* 31, "Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing"

Benediction