

Reunion Worship 2009
Theme 5: A Sanctuary of Christ's Peace (Paragraph 8)

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 3, "As We Gather"

NS 36, "Meet Me in a Holy Place"

Welcome

I feel my world is always in flux. Can I or anyone find safety and sanctuary in this every changing world? How do I let go and reach out for God's guiding hand? Where will it take us? Are we ready?

Call to Worship

Unwrap the bright yellow cloth and let it fall gently to the altar, revealing a wine-red cloth representing Christ's sacrifice.

"Each soul's a living sanctuary,
—a place of hope and healing
—a place of trust and peace
—a place of safe acceptance
—a love that will not cease."

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 79

Scripture for the Theme

“The Temple is an instrument of ongoing revelation in the life of the church. Its symbolism and ministries call people to reverence in the presence of the Divine Being. Transformative encounters with the Eternal Creator and Reconciler await those who follow its spiritual pathways of healing, reconciliation, peace, strengthening of faith, and knowledge.

“There are additional sacred ministries that will spring forth from the Temple as rivers of living water to help people soothe and resolve the brokenness and pain in their lives. Let the Temple continue to come to life as a sacred center of worship, education, community building, and discipleship preparation for all ages.

“As these ministries come to fuller expression, receptive congregations in the areas around the Temple and throughout the world will be revived and equipped for more effective ministry. Vital to this awakening is the understanding that the Temple calls the entire church to become a sanctuary of Christ’s peace, where people from all nations, ethnicities, and life circumstances can be gathered into a spiritual home without dividing walls, as a fulfillment of the vision for which Jesus Christ sacrificed his life.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a–c

Hymn: “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary” (*Worship & Rejoice* 482, © Hope Publishing Company)

Opening Prayer

Building Community—A Personal Story: Ahead of time, ask one person to tell about a time when they experienced Christ’s love in an unexpected place that called them to become more compassionate.

Hymn: *HS* 369, “Bear Each Other’s Burdens”

Message/Sharing the Word

Do we feel our world is constantly changing? We get comfortable with the week to week sameness of our faith community. We know we can become more as God calls us to new horizons, however the call to deeper faith can be both challenging and fearful. God continually calls us to change and

deepen our discipleship. That is the amazing uniqueness and blessing of our belief in modern day revelation. It can also be unsettling and fearful when God calls us. How do we let go of false securities and reach out for God's guiding hand? Where will it take us? Are we ready? God's love and sanctuary will free us to a new world.

Challenge: Rely upon the constant nature of God and the deeper faith we are called to experience in God's sanctuary of love.

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 21*, "Instruments of Your Peace"

Benediction