

Reunion Worship 2009  
**Theme 6: Generosity Flows** (Paragraph 9)

**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 28, “Let Justice Roll like a River”

NS 47, “Soften My Heart”

SP 36, “Called by Christ to Love Each Other”

**Welcome**

My world is filled with bills and expenses, my income is unstable, and my savings is dwindling. I have little and at times I feel like I have nothing to give. How can my giving affect the world? Where will it take us? Are we ready?

**Call to Worship**

*Unwrap the red cloth and let it fall gently to the altar, revealing a length of fishnet representing God’s bounty. You could also have loaves of bread on the altar.*

“When I can ache with hunger pangs for those whose bowls are washed with tears . . .

I see in them Christ’s face divine and hope they see his face in mine.”

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 88

## **Scripture for the Theme**

“Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?”

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

**Hymn:** “Touch the Earth Lightly” (*Worship & Rejoice* 38, © Hope Publishing Company)

## **Opening Prayer**

“We thank you, God,  
that we have been awakened by your grace.  
Let us rub the sleep from our eyes  
that we might once more drink in  
the wonder of your creation of which we are a part.  
Bless us beyond the meager gifts we give.  
Let us be constantly amazed by your love,  
and may we amaze others with its wonder. Amen.”

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 86

## **Building Community: Drama**

### **Loaves and Fish**

Come quickly! I must share this story about what my son did. We had heard about this man named Jesus, who was nearby, and my son wanted to see him. I made sure we packed a small meal to take with us. I knew he would get hungry and would complain if he didn’t have something to fill his ever-empty stomach.

By morning, the crowds had already gathered on the hills by the Galilean Sea. You could see people wherever you looked. Someone said there were about 5,000 people, not counting women and children, so the crowds were probably closer to 10,000 people. I spread out our small ground mat, and we spent the next several hours listening to Jesus and his friends teach us many things.

Just past midday I caught a glimpse of my son grabbing his small lunch satchel and heading toward Jesus. I wasn't certain what he was up to. I saw Jesus put his hand on my son's shoulder and he bent down to talk. He graciously received the lunch satchel from my son, which only held a few fish and some bread.

It was at that moment an amazing thing happened. As Jesus said a prayer on the meal, I noticed others that had observed the same scene as I had. All the people around us began to share with each other, making sure no one was without something to eat. It was like watching a ripple effect when a stone is dropped in water. The waves of generosity spread through the masses gathered on the hillside.

On the way home, I asked my son what prompted him to share his food. I also wondered why he thought it would make a difference. He told me he heard Jesus' friends say to send the people into town to buy food. My son said he did not want Jesus or his friends to leave. He had heard Jesus doing many other amazing things. Surely he knew how to multiply his lunch to feed everyone.

—Cathy Loving

**Personal Story:** Discuss the following together in groups of two: Is there a time when you shared a small act of generosity or someone shared generously with you? How did the experience affect you? Do you know how it affected them?

**Hymn:** *HS 377*, "Let Your Heart Be Broken"

### **Message/Sharing the Word**

With the global economic crises, our personal worlds are filled with financial worries. One might feel they have little or nothing to offer. However, be aware of the constant call to give. God does not call us to give out of obligation or duty, but out of love for each other. It is a response to God's generous love for us. We are called to give out of choice.

**Challenge:** It is not a sacrifice but a choice and acknowledgement of God's love. 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:** *HS 484*, “Make Us, O God, a Church That Shares”

**Benediction**