

Reunion Worship 2009  
**Theme 7: Forerunners** (Paragraph 5)

**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.

**Extra activities for this day’s setting:** Before the service, gather materials from the reunion grounds (ferns, rocks, shells, etc.). Place them alternately, with votive candles, on the ground at the front of the sanctuary in the shape of a nautilus or a spiral. Make the “path” between the spiral dividers wide enough for someone to walk.

**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 36, “Meet Me in a Holy Place”*

*HS 381, “Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling”*

*HS 392, “Go, Make of All Disciples”*

**Welcome:**

Have we become vulnerable to God’s grace? Perhaps we feel hopeful yet inadequate and don’t know if we’re ready to go into the world. Where will this vulnerability take us? Are we ready?

**Call to Worship**

*Unwrap the fishnet and let it fall gently to the altar, revealing a length of fabric with a rainbow print (or a rainbow made from ribbons) representing hope for the journey.*

“Greet your brothers and sisters, remembering there are lonely people in the world, waiting for you to bring them joy.  
Gaze on the empty cross, symbol of hope, and be ready to share this message with those without hope.  
Look at the faces of those you love and go out to share God’s love unconditionally.  
Gather in the sanctuary of Christ’s peace, preparing to carry Shalom abroad to heal wherever tears are shed.  
Proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.”

—Lu Mountenay, 2008

**Ministry of Music** “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.)

Light the “path” candles.

### **Scripture for the Theme**

“The Council of Twelve is urged to enthusiastically embrace its calling as apostles of the peace of Jesus Christ in all of its dimensions. The Twelve are sent into the world to lead the church’s mission of restoration through relevant gospel proclamation and the establishment of signal communities of justice and peace that reflect the vision of Christ. As the apostles move out in faith and unity of purpose, freeing themselves from other duties, they will be blessed with an increased capacity for sharing Christ’s message of hope and restoration for creation.

“To accelerate the work of sharing the gospel, the Twelve and the Seventy should be closely associated in implementing holistic evangelistic ministries. The seventy are to be the forerunners of Christ’s peace, preparing the way for apostolic witness to be more readily received.

“Procedures regarding the calling and assignments of the Presidents of Seventy and members of the Quorums of Seventy shall be developed to facilitate the maximum level of collaboration with the Council of Twelve. The Twelve, the Presidents of Seventy, and the Quorums of Seventy should

spend sufficient time together to ensure a mutual understanding of evangelistic priorities and approaches.”

—Doctrine and Covenants 5:a–c

**Hymn:** NS 7, “Companions on the Journey”

## **Opening Prayer**

### **Building Community: Drama**

#### **The Good Father**

I have good memories of my father. You may have heard of me. They call me the prodigal son. Do you know what that means? Prodigal? It means being wasteful—with money, time, and strength. It means being extravagant, being a spendthrift. But that is *not* what people should remember—that I was a spendthrift. They *should* remember, as *I* do, that *my father was generous and good.*

People should remember the story of the “Good Father.” Yes, I asked him for my inheritance too soon, and he gave it to me—reluctantly. Not because he wanted me to leave home, but because he hoped I would grow and learn and exercise my agency. And what did I do? I spent it all on food and drink and riotous living, and I was then brought low—so low that I was starving and knew that even my father’s servants lived better than I.

I decided to humble myself, return to my father, and ask for forgiveness and a place among his servants. This was not acceptable to him.

When I returned, it was to his *home*, his *family*, his *heart*. Yes, he was the good father.

What I remember most is this: When I was coming near to his house and he saw me, his face lit up, he dropped what he was doing, and he *ran* to meet me with open arms and open heart, with unconditional love—divine love. And I was vulnerable to that grace. Now when I go out into the world, it is as a transformed person. It is as a good steward over my inheritance. It is as a servant to do God’s will, to be a sanctuary, to be a peacemaker. I go out to share my testimony of the grace of God.

—Lu Mountenay, 2007

**Personal Story:** Ask ahead for two or three people to share personal stories about how they have opened to God’s grace and where God’s whispers are calling them.

**Hymn:** *HS* 409, “Touch Me, Lord, with Thy Spirit Eternal”

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

At family camp (or reunion) we often experience the building of community and create a safe place where we can open up and become vulnerable to God’s grace. We experience God’s grace through a community of loving brothers and sisters. We are filled with the Spirit and a hope for the possibilities that God will create pathways for us to share his love in this world. I *am* ready to go into the world! I *am* ready!

**Ministry of Music:** “Where He Leads Me I Will Follow” (Instrumental)  
**Can you refer the reader to a source for this?**

### **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:** “Send Us Now Forth” (Tune *SP 4*, “Gather Us In”)

Here from this place, a journey beginning;  
here from the center, outward we go.  
Divinely inspired by breath of the Spirit,  
share Christ’s shalom by the love that we grow.

*Refrain:*

Send us now forth the found and forgiven;  
find those in need and burdens they bear.  
Blessed by our calling, our mission, our purpose,  
send us now forth as disciples of care.

*Refrain*

As we now leave this space that is sacred,  
make of us sanctuaries we pray.  
Turn not away from poor fathers and mothers  
who plead for their children, day after day.

*Refrain*

From silence of prayer and deep meditation  
carry the awe and wonder abroad.  
As the Divine has graced us with presence,  
we will be presence to others for God.

—Lu Mountenay, 2008

**Sending Forth:** Anyone who wishes to stay and “walk the path” may do so.

*The presider or a participant reads the following while walking from the center of the spiral path to the outer opening and out “into the world.”*

“God’s Temple comes alive in us—in every nation, tribe, and home. It lives and breathes in every soul that seeks the peace of Jesus Christ.”

—Danny Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, p. 81