

# Reunion 2012 Worship Resources

*Sermon-illustrations.com* is a website that lists places to get short video clips for worship—everything from music and pictures only, to actual movies. This is only a reference site; enter a theme, like “praise,” and then shop for a clip that fits. Don’t overlook the power of visuals in worship. Consider using one or two of these in worship services ([www.sermonillustrations.com/video.html](http://www.sermonillustrations.com/video.html)).

For use in these worship services, we are excited to publish a sampler of songs that are helping to shape the next hymnal and are on track to be included. The *2012 Song Sampler* is available to each reunion free of charge to provide a chance to look over seven new texts and consider how they articulate the church’s message, mission, identity, and beliefs. Use these songs as suggested in the reunion worship services and in other gatherings to whet people’s appetites for the amazing resources that are coming in 2013. To order *2012 Song Sampler* for reunions in the United States and Canada, contact your mission center after March 1, 2012. Quantities are limited. This sampler is intended for gatherings where English is the predominant language.

In addition to the *2012 Song Sampler*, hymns from the following hymnals are also suggested in the orders of worship, and shown by abbreviations noted.

- By Request* (noted as *R-*)
- Hymns of the Saints* (noted as *HS*)
- Sing a New Song* (noted as *NS*)
- Sing for Peace* (noted as *SP*)
- \*Congregation stands as able

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## Contents

### Signal Communities...

1 Reflect Christ’s Peace . . . . .	2
2 Embrace Continuing Revelation . . . . .	4
3 Make Responsible Choices. . . . .	6
4 Pursue Peace . . . . .	9
5 Honor the Sacredness of Creation . . .	11
6 Speak and Live Christ’s Mission . . . .	13
Sharing Services . . . . .	15
Commitment Service . . . . .	20
Baptism Service. . . . .	22

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# 1 *Signal Communities... Reflect Christ's Peace*

Prepare a worship setting that portrays light and incorporates a peace candle. The candle can be lit before the service or prior to the Prayer for Peace.

## Community Gathering in Praise

*"Shine, Jesus, Shine" (see three verses following this worship outline) NS 45, adapted*

*"Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!" NS 49*

*"Now Sing to Our God" NS 40*

## Engaging in Signal Communities

Reader 1: You are the salt of the earth.

Reader 2: You are the light of the world.

Reader 3: Stand and shine!

Reader 4: Be generous with your lives.

Reader 5: By sharing with others, you bring glory to God. (adapted from Matthew 5:13, 14, 16)

Reader 6: Establish signal communities of justice and peace that reflect the vision of Christ. (adapted from Doctrine and Covenants 163:5a)

## \*Opening Hymn

*"Bring Forth the Kingdom" SP 9*

## \*Invocation

## Intergenerational Activity and Sharing (10–15 minutes)

Divide the congregation into five smaller "communities." (Depending on the size of the congregation, you may have as few as two or three people in a group, or as many as 10, 15, or more.) Give each community a poster with one of the following statements:

- As a signal community, we will invite people to Christ.
- As a signal community, we will abolish poverty and end suffering.
- As a signal community, we will pursue peace on Earth.
- As a signal community, we will develop disciples to serve.
- As a signal community, we will experience congregations in mission.

Instruct each community to come up with descriptions (words or pictures) of what the statement says to them. Each group can share briefly with the congregation or their descriptions and pictures can simply be displayed around the gathering area for the week.

## Hymn

*"Community of Joy, Proclaim the Living Christ!"  
R-16*

OR *"Lord, Thy Church on Earth Is Seeking" HS 438*

## Message

Based on Romans 12

## Hymn

*"In Christ We Live" 2012 Song Sampler*

## Disciples' Generous Response

*As part of the Disciples' Generous Response, we ask you to integrate the message of "giving to your true capacity" and "sharing equally" to fund the World Church mission initiatives and your Local & Mission Center ministries. Generosity stories are provided to keep the church in touch with how contributions to Mission Tithes focus on the whole mission*

*of Jesus Christ through the five life-changing, church-changing, and world-changing mission initiatives. Please use the stories, testimonies, and up-to-date contribution information as part of your offertory ministry. Visit [www.CofChrist.org/generositystories](http://www.CofChrist.org/generositystories) to print a copy, or contact your pastor, congregational financial officer, or worship coordinator for a copy. You can also find additional material to assist with the congregation's understanding of A Disciple's Generous Response at [www.CofChrist.org/generosity](http://www.CofChrist.org/generosity). You may also consider using the "Jack and Jenn" video series as part of the Disciples' Generous Response ministry.*

#### Blessing and Receiving of Mission Tithes

#### Reflection on Christ's Peace

Give the congregation a few moments to reflect on the following: How is God calling me to reflect Christ's peace?

#### Prayer for Peace

*Following the prayer for peace, during the singing of the final hymn, the congregation will come forward to receive and light small candles from the peace candle and form a circle around the gathering area. This is symbolic of a commitment to being open to transformation and reflecting Christ's peace during the reunion experience and beyond.<sup>1</sup>*

#### \*Hymn

*"For Fear to End" (solo with congregation joining on last refrain; see music following this worship outline)*

#### \*Sending Forth

When your willingness to live in sacred community as Christ's new creation exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be. The rise of Zion the beautiful, the peaceful reign of Christ, awaits your whole-hearted response to the call to make and steadfastly hold to God's covenant of peace in Jesus Christ.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9b

## Shine, Jesus, Shine (adapted)

### Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the  
Father's glory,  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;  
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace  
and mercy,  
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be  
light.

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
in the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on us, shine on us.

(Chorus)

Lord, we come to your awesome presence  
from our shadows into your radiance;  
by your grace we now enter your brightness,  
search us, heal us, remove all our darkness.  
Shine in us, shine in us.

(Chorus)

As we gaze on your holy brightness,  
so our faces display your likeness;  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine through us, shine through us.

(Chorus)

<sup>1</sup>If this is not feasible, a representative from each previously designated "community" can come forward to light a candle and stand in a row in front of the congregation or in the area their community was gathered.

# 2 Signal Communities... Embrace Continuing Revelation

## Gathering Songs

“Gather Us In” SP 4

“Mighty God, Transforming God!” NS 38

“For Fear to End” by Randall Pratt (*see music on page 10 of this resource*)

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” HS 134

## Welcome and Scripture Reading

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

—Romans 12:1–2 NRSV

## Responsive Reading

Leader: We are conformed by the world, bent over in our blindness.

**People: Open our eyes, God, that we might see your possibilities.**

Leader: We are bombarded with blaring noises, crouching in our deafness.

**People: Unstop our ears, God, that we might hear your loving whisper.**

Leader: We are confused and complacent, filled with apathy.

**People: Renew our minds that we may discern your will, Lord.**

**All: Transform us into a living sanctuary of love.**

## Opening Prayer

*ask two youth to write and offer a prayer in unison*

## \*Response

“God of Smallness, God of Greatness” HS 164  
(*quartet*)

## Story for All Ages

*Images of God for Young Children* by Marie-Helene Delval, (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010. ISBN 9780802853912). *This book uses simple language to help young children discover images of God in their world. Choose a portion to read from its 88 pages. If possible get permission from the publisher to project these images for all to see on a large screen.*

## Discuss:

How does God speak to us? What might God say to us?

## Ministry of Music

“Mysterious Presence, Source of All” HS 169 (*solo or quartet*)

## Message “Discerning God’s Will”

Based on Romans 12:1–2

## Hymn

“Sometimes a Light Surprises” HS 155

## Disciples’ Generous Response

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*church-changing, and world-changing mission initiatives. Please use the stories, testimonies, and up-to-date contribution information as part of your offertory ministry. Visit [www.CofChrist.org/generositystories](http://www.CofChrist.org/generositystories) to print a copy, or contact your pastor, congregational financial officer, or worship coordinator for a copy. You can also find additional material to assist with the congregation's understanding of *A Disciple's Generous Response* at [www.CofChrist.org/generosity](http://www.CofChrist.org/generosity). You may also consider using the "Jack and Jenn" video series as part of the *Disciples' Generous Response* ministry.*

Blessing and Receiving of Mission Tithes

Scripture Reading

God's grace, revealed in Jesus Christ, freely moves throughout creation, often beyond human perception, to achieve divine purposes in people's lives.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:2b

Hymn

"O God of Vision" *2012 Song Sampler*

Questions for Reflection

Allow a few minutes of meditation accompanied by instrumental music.

- How does Community of Christ discover God's will?
- How do we individually discover God's will?

\*Closing Hymn

Choose a hymn from the *2012 Song Sampler*

\*Prayer of Sending Forth

We go now, God, into your world.

You are continually present,  
whispering to us in every moment  
and surrounding us with love.

As we leave this hour together,  
may we hear your urging voice to move into life,  
to embrace each moment assured that we are  
never alone.

Open our eyes to the beauty of your creation  
that shouts your wondrous love and power.

Where there is neglect or abuse  
may we respond with empathy and creativity.

Free us from apathy.

Move us to compassion

Lead us to action.

Send us forth.

Amen

—Barbara Howard

# 3 Signal Communities... Make Responsible Choices

## Gathering Songs

"Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence" NS 31

"Let Justice Roll like a River" NS 28

"Bring Forth the Kingdom" SP 9

Call to Worship (*two readers located at opposite sides of the room*)

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.  
Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.  
Love each other with genuine affection, and take  
delight in honoring each other.

—Romans 12:9–10 New Living Translation

Whoever goes hunting for what is right and kind  
finds life itself—*glorious* life!

—Proverbs 21:21 The Message

\*Song of Repentance

"Kyrie Eleison" 2012 Song Sampler

## Response

"Choices" (*hand out this poem to several people and have each of them stand up and call out a line from the congregation*)

## Object Lesson

### The Chocolate Is Always Greener on the Other Side

Invite two children to the front. Offer the children two brown paper bags that contain chocolate chips (or two envelopes that contain pennies or small value coins). One bag has twice as many chocolate chips as the other (of course they do not know which one has what amount). Ask the children to choose one bag. Tell them not to look inside yet.

## Choices

choose to laugh  
choose to smile  
choose to help  
choose to be patient  
choose to be healed  
choose to try  
choose to be kind  
choose to embrace  
choose to play  
choose to be vulnerable  
choose to be still  
choose to be fair  
choose to be consistent  
choose to be responsible  
choose to care  
choose to be held  
choose to reconcile  
choose to hope  
choose to be changed  
choose to love  
choose real life  
choose to believe that it is freely given  
and ready for the taking  
choose blessings  
Amen.

—Julie Allen, *A Book of Blessings: Pocket Liturgies*, Proost, 2008,  
[www.proost.co.uk](http://www.proost.co.uk)

After making the choice, give them an opportunity to exchange. Ask them the following questions. Do they decide to keep or exchange the bag? Why? This could be the beginning of a terrific discussion on choices and what is a responsible choice

Reflections (*worship leader asks these questions for the congregation to ponder*)

The children are not making a choice based on knowing all the facts—do we sometimes do this in our lives? Maybe sometimes we make decisions about people this way. What other choices do we make each day without thinking? How do we make responsible choices? How does the life of Christ inform our decisions?

#### Story for All Ages

*God's Dream* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Candlewick, 2008. ISBN 9780763633882)

OR *Somewhere Today: A Book of Peace* by Shelley Moore Thomas (Albert Whitman & Company, 1998. ISBN 9780807575444)

#### OR Object Lesson

Invite all the children to come to the front. In front of them is a map. In the center is a compass. The needle of the compass points directly to magnetic north and can be adjusted to point to “true north” based on where you are in the world (GPS devices and many cell phones have true north compass capabilities). Also on the map are some small magnets, some “false norths.”

Try having some of the children move the magnets around the compass. See what happens.

The “false norths” pull the needle away from magnetic north.

Discuss the following questions among the general congregation or in small groups of five to six including the children.

1. If God is true north, what are the false norths that distract your focus away from God's purposes?
2. What do you feel that God is calling you to focus on?
3. What does it mean to stand on the side of good?
4. How does your church community support you in making responsible choices?

#### OR Activity

Divide into groups and have each group design a poster poem with the theme “Good Choices” using colored poster board and markers. Starting with the words “Choose to...” children can cut out or tear shapes and contribute their thoughts to create the group poem.

#### Thoughts to Consider

Some people think that decisions are made every once-in-a-while, when a major issue comes up. But truly all of life—every conscious moment—is a decision to walk with God and support our neighbors. From the instant we wake up, we begin to decide: What will I do today? How will I treat people today? How will I greet my boss today? Even if we yawn, turn over, and go back to sleep—that's also a decision.

The cumulative impact of our individual decisions, even though each is small, is what determines the overall quality of our life. The combined impact of our decisions determines the condition of our world. Goodness is multiplied by our corporate response in community. And when we turn our directions to what is right and kind we find life itself—glorious life!”

#### Message

Based on Romans 12:9–21

#### Hymn

“God Weeps” *2012 Song Sampler*

#### Disciples' Generous Response

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# 4 Signal Communities... Pursue Peace

## Gathering Songs

"Gather Your Children" SP 3  
"We're Singing a Peace Song" SP 19  
"Creator of Sunrises" HS 186

## Welcome

We begin with song. We bring our body, mind, and spirit to create the song. Our voices fill the air with vibrations. One voice joins another and together we form community. Our voices join with millions of others who have sung in cathedrals, homes, valleys, and on hillsides. We sing a song of peace.

## \*Hymn

"For Fear to End" by Randall Pratt (see music following this worship outline)  
OR "Behold a Broken World, We Pray" SP 21

## Prayer for Peace

## Hymn

"Center of Peace" SP 1

## Sharing

*The children's classes are preparing "signal communities" models. The classes could bring these to the worship to be incorporated into the worship setting. Ask the children to share something they have learned.*

*OR Prepare an Agape meal (cheeses, grapes, crackers, juice) at three tables and allow 10 minutes of sharing, greeting one another, and saying "peace be with you."*

## Hymn

"For Everyone Born" 2012 Song Sampler

## Message

Based on Romans 12:14–21

## Ministry of Music (choir or quartet)

"To Live at Peace with Others" SP 17  
OR "Gentle God, When We Are Driven" SP 16

## Disciples' Generous Response

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## Blessing and Receiving of Mission Tithes

## \*Hymn

"We Are People of God's Peace" SP 6  
OR "Instruments of Your Peace" NS 21

## \*Closing Prayer

Leader: Loving God, we want to respond to your Spirit with words of peace.

**People: Peace in our lives and peace in our families.**

Leader: Creator God, we want to respond to your Spirit with actions of peace.

**People: Peace in our communities.**

Leader: Healing God, we want to pursue peace.

**People: Peace for the planet.**

# For Fear to End

C Dm C/E G C Dm C/E

For fear to end, for peace to be, be - gin to greet as Je - sus  
 For hate to end, for love to be, be - gin to seek as Je - sus  
 For death to end, for life to be, be - gin to breathe as Je - sus  
 If we would be com - mu - ni - ty be - gin to lead as Je - sus

F2 C Dm C/E F C Bb F/A

greet each per - son as a child of God, a bless - ing that we re - ceive.  
 seeks our God's em - brace and end - less grace for bless - ing, set - ting us free.  
 breathes; In God we live, each mo - ment gift of bless - ing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 leads. Make Zi - on real, God's King - dom here; God's bless - ing we will re - deem.

C F C/E G/D C F C/E F

Share peace in Christ, share love and life! God calls us on - ward to be

G7 C Dm C/E Am F C Bb F C

pro - phe - tic peo - ple fol - low - ing Christ in sig - nal com - mu - ni - ty.

# 5 Signal Communities... Honor the Sacredness of Creation

Ask a member of the congregation to draw or paint a picture during the worship, expressing their understanding of the sacredness of creation. If they are willing, place them in the front to the side so the congregation can watch their progress. Or, give the children play dough to create symbols for how they see God in creation. Provide opportunity for them to share later in the service, perhaps as a part of the Disciples' Generous Response.

Welcome

Call to Worship

"Earth's crammed with heaven, and every  
common bush afire with God; But only those  
who see take off their shoes."

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

*Invite the congregation to remove their shoes.  
Encourage them to sense the holiness of the  
ground and intimacy with the Spirit that they feel in  
reverence. Remind them that all of creation is a holy  
revelation of God's love and creativity. Ask that, as  
they continue in worship, they keep their shoes off  
as a sign of recognition for God's presence in and  
through the world.*

*Have an empty vase as part of the worship center.  
During each congregational response ("People"),  
have someone place a flower into the vase to  
symbolize the beauty of God's creation. Leave the  
resulting bouquet for the duration of the worship.*

Leader: In the beginning, God created and called it  
all good.

**People: Creator God, we see.**

Leader: Spirit and material, seen and unseen, are  
related.

**People: Creator God, we see.**

Leader: Creation's power to create or destroy  
reminds us of our vulnerability in this life.

**People: Creator God, we see.**

Leader: God is still creating to fulfill divine purpose.

**People: Creator God, we see.**

Leader: May we join with God as stewards of care  
and hope for all creation.

**People: Creator God, may we see, and take off our  
shoes in worship.**

\*Hymn

"This Is God's Wondrous World" R-1

OR "All Things Bright and Beautiful" HS 18

\*Invocation

Hymn and Prayer

"We Are One in the Spirit" HS 466, verse 1

Prayer of Awareness

Gracious God who embraces all of creation,  
may we remember that all is made one in your  
unifying Spirit. May we be restored to right  
relationship and balance through your love for us.

"We Are One in the Spirit" HS 466, verse 2

Prayer of Affirmation

Sustaining God, you have called us as partners in  
stewardship of your beloved creation. May we  
bear the good news of your Son so that healing  
extends through every corner of the world.

"We Are One in the Spirit" HS 466, verse 3

Prayer of Commitment

Life-giving God, You affirm the intrinsic worth of  
every part of your creation by declaring it "good."  
May we work courageously and humbly to uphold  
the dignity of earth, sea, sky and living organisms.

“We Are One in the Spirit” HS 466, verse 4

Prayer of Praise

Holy God, we join with all your creation in gratitude and praise for the life you have granted and the hope you offer. May we be known by our love, as we embody Christ’s mission of wholeness in your world. Amen.

God’s Word in Scripture

Adapted from Psalm 104:10–13, 24, 33–34;  
Doctrine and Covenants 163:4

Reader 1: You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal.

Reader 2: 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.

Reader 1: By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

Reader 2: Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences.

Reader 1: From the heavens you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

Reader 2: 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.

Reader 1: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Reader 2: 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.

Reader 1: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to God, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Hymn

“For Beauty of Meadows” SP 14

Prayer for Peace

*Invite the congregation to pray with arms uplifted in recognition of the beauty around them.*

Eternal River of Life, we come to you and find refreshment and renewal. We sense your Spirit moving throughout your creation, dancing, pulsing, whispering, healing. You have created a sacred universe, of which we are but a small portion. Help us to care for the earth, her waters and the very air we breathe as you would. Grant us wisdom to discover our place in the fragile web of life as we affirm the beauty and majesty around and within us. May we be gardeners of peace, nurturing healthy relationships with one another and Your world. Fill us with Your desire to bring forth peace through tender care, that all of creation may know the fullness of Your healing. Amen.

—Dan Gregory

Message

Based on Doctrine and Covenants 164:9c

Response

“For Beauty of Meadows” SP 14, verse 3 only

Disciples’ Generous Response

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Blessing and Receiving of Mission Tithes

\*Hymn

“Now Sing to Our God” NS 40

OR “Sing of Colors (*De Colores*)” 2012 Song Sampler

\*Benediction

# 6 *Signal Communities... Speak and Live Christ's Mission*

## Gathering Songs

"For Fear to End" by Randall Pratt (*see music following this worship outline*)

"Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence" NS 31

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HS 20

"Now in This Moment" HS 58

## Welcome and Responsive Reading

Welcome! May our worship here enliven us to respond to God's call. May the joy we have known together be contagious to those whose lives we touch. As we worship together now let our hearts be open to God's call to us.

Leader: We are called to a world of people looking for relief. Many suffer the pangs of physical hunger. Others yearn for meaning.

**Congregation: May we speak and live Christ's mission.**

Leader: That mission calls us from lethargy to compassionate service.

**Congregation: May we be responsive to the call to serve.**

Leader: The response requires a heart open to others who are suffering.

**Congregation: May our hearts be open.**

Leader: The response calls for minds alert to God's presence.

**Congregation: May our minds be quickened to sense God's presence.**

Leader: We have known the power of community in our time together. As we leave this sacred

place we are sent by the Spirit to create such communities of love, joy, hope, and peace.

**Congregation: May we be such communities as we speak and live Christ's mission.**

\*Hymn

"Let Us Build a House" 2012 Song Sampler

\*Opening Prayer

Sharing

*Create a slide presentation from photographs taken during the week—slides of people engaging in fellowship, in worship, in everyday activities. Accompany this presentation with instrumental music. End with a slide that reads "Signal Communities...Speak and Live Christ's Mission."*

Scripture Reading

When your willingness to live in sacred community as Christ's new creation exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be. The rise of Zion the beautiful, the peaceful reign of Christ, awaits your whole-hearted response to the call to make and steadfastly hold to God's covenant of peace in Jesus Christ.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9b

Message

Based on Doctrine and Covenants 164:9b

Ministry of Music

"Within These Walls" by Pepper Choplin (*ensemble or reunion choir*)  
(SATB, choir, and piano) Monarch Music 10/3609M



# Signal Communities... Sharing Services

Reunions (family camps) and retreats are a time to gather in community to share with one another, a time to explore and understand the dimensions of Christ's love. From scattered places, members and friends of Community of Christ gather in sacred and divinely blessed community to share in laughter, play, worship, singing, and fellowship.

Each person comes with different gifts, talents, wishes, and needs. During reunion, there will be opportunities to witness and share with one another. A significant event is the daily prayer and sharing service. Encourage people of all ages to take part in these services. Encourage everyone to offer prayers, testimonies, or stories. The sharing services can bless everyone's reunion experience.

Here is a suggested order of worship:

1. Gathering and meditative music
2. Short movie clip to introduce the theme
3. Welcoming and opening song
4. Opening prayer

5. Theme talk
6. Seasons of prayer, testimony, and story (interspersed with songs)
7. Closing song
8. Sending forth

Please be open to follow the movement of the Spirit in response to the needs and wishes of the congregation.

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# 1 Signal Communities... *Reflect Christ's Peace*

## Movie Clip Setup

In signal communities, diversity and working in harmony with the Holy Spirit, create an environment in which Christ's message of peace can be best heard.

## Video

*Horton Hears a Who*, scene 29 ("One More Voice")—play through until the Mayor says "We did it!" About four minutes, 30 seconds. (*This is available as a book as well as DVD.*)

## Point

The "Whos" live on a tiny speck of dust and only Horton the Elephant can hear them. Neither community believes each other exists. At this point in the movie, Horton's community is about to destroy the Whos—but as a result of the Who community yelling together "we are here," their existence is recognized. In Community of Christ, we too are trying to break through as signal communities in our neighborhoods. It takes every diverse voice, reflecting Christ's mission of justice and peace, to break through to be heard in our villages, towns, and cities.

## Questions

- Section 163:5a says we should lead the church's mission of restoration through "relevant" gospel proclamation—what does "relevant" gospel proclamation mean to you?
- Horton believed in something that he could not prove to anyone in his community. How do we reflect Christ's peace to those who have never heard this message?
- The Whos shouted together "We are here!" to be heard outside their community. What message should your congregation "shout" to be heard in your neighborhood?

## Hymn Suggestions

"Shout the Tidings of Salvation" *HS* 469  
"Brothers and Sisters of Mine" *HS* 388  
"Bring Forth the Kingdom" *SP* 9  
"Now Sing to Our God" *NS* 40  
"All Are Called" *R-9*

## Prayer Focus

Thank you, Lord, for our relationship with you and the opportunity you have placed in us to share the good news with others.

Help us reflect Christ in all that we do so those who need our attention can be heard.

Help us proclaim a relevant gospel to those who have been disenfranchised from the Gospels' message.

Help us create communities of justice and peace that reflect Christ's love.

# 2 Signal Communities... *Embrace Continuing Revelation*

## Movie Clip Setup

Our belief in continuing revelation is about God being active with and among people. As signal communities, we are lead to listen more attentively to Christ's call to invite all and to be more connected with our communities where God is already at work.

## Video

*Bruce Almighty*, scene 18 ("The Divine Spark")—play through until Bruce is being resuscitated ("Clear—Clear"). About three minutes.

## Point

Bruce has been given God's powers and has made a mess of things including his personal life. Bruce learns that trusting God means having authentic two-way communication. He learns to go beyond pat prayers and his own personal wants and desires. Turning to understand God's will at times requires personal sacrifice and a willingness to see a "greater good."

## Questions

- When we are listening to God—what is the overall theme we hear?
- Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a says "God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge, drawn from the nations of the world, which is characterized by uncommon devotion to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ." How can your congregation better reveal Christ's compassion and peace?

- Being prophetic isn't predicting the future, but preparing it for God's purposes. As a prophetic people, how can we prepare now for God's will to take place in our lives, neighborhoods, and communities?

### Hymn Suggestions

"Fountain of All Revelation" *HS 298*

"We Limit Not the Truth of God" *HS 309*

"I Am Standing Waiting" *SP 27*

"Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence" *NS 31*

"I Have Called You by Your Name" *R-10*

### Prayer Focus

Thank you, Lord, for continuing to give hope and healing to your children today.

Help us discern how your Word is calling us as disciples to new prophetic understandings.

Help us to respond to your Word to us today and act according to your will.

Help us to have open eyes, open ears, and open hearts to your Word revealed to us that compels us to reach out to those in our communities and neighborhoods.

## 3 Signal Communities... Make Responsible Choices

### Movie Clip Setup

Making responsible choices creates a strong example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. As signal communities, we need to choose to make bold decisions that bring God's Spirit into our neighborhoods.

### Video

*Aladdin*, scene 24 ("Back to Normal")—play through until the genie flies away saying "I'm free!" About four minutes.

### Point

Aladdin has a choice to either go back on his word and make a decision based on his own wishes, or

make the selfless decision to set his friend, the genie, free. We also face daily decisions that can either build our own selfish needs or bring freedom to those who are held captive. In the end, Aladdin finds that his responsible choice also proved who he really was—the "diamond in the rough" and then even the "law" couldn't keep him from his dreams.

### Questions

- Aladdin chose to honor his promise to set the genie free. This was a selfless decision. Tell about a time when someone made a selfless decision that had an impact on your life.
- Think of a time when you had to make a responsible choice. Was it difficult? Explain why sometimes making the choice God would want is not always easy.
- How can our congregation make decisions that would definitively have a positive impact on our neighborhoods?
- What responsible choice is God calling you toward today?

### Hymn Suggestions

"Let Your Heart Be Broken" *HS 377*

"Bear Each Other's Burdens" *HS 369*

"To Live at Peace with Others" *SP 17*

"Here I Am, Lord" *NS 12*

"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" *R-15*

### Prayer Focus

Thank you, Lord, for the beauty of creation and the assurance of salvation through your son, Jesus Christ.

Help us respond to your love by making choices that bring blessing rather than harm.

Help us understand that our choices have great power to bring blessing into our neighborhoods and communities.

Help us generously respond to the blessings you have brought to us by becoming a blessing to others.

## 4 Signal Communities... *Pursue Peace*

### Movie Clip Setup

Pursuing peace on Earth sometimes requires taking courageous steps in our own neighborhoods.

### Video

*Pocahontas*, scene 25 (“Sunrise/Savages” part 2)—play through until the Governor shouts “Fire!” About three minutes.

### Point

Amid a potentially violent cultural clash, Pocahontas intervenes and asks her father to choose a path of peace rather than anger and retaliation. She risks her own place among her people to stop the hostility that would erupt over executing John Smith. Christian disciples are also called to respond courageously when peacemaking is needed.

### Questions

- When have you witnessed someone courageously responding to the need to bring peace into a potentially violent circumstance?
- What emotions do you feel when you recognize that you are the person being called to bring peace to a circumstance absent of peace?
- What are some ways you can actively pursue peace in your school, job, home, neighborhoods, and towns or cities?

### Hymn Suggestions

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song” *HS* 157

“How Gentle God’s Command” *HS* 130

“We’re Singing a Peace Song” *SP* 19

“You Shall Go Out with Joy” *SP* 45

“Instruments of Your Peace” *NS* 21

### Prayer Focus

Thank you Lord for being our peace, our safe place, our forgiving and loving God.

Help us be courageous in our efforts to bring peace in the times of conflict in our jobs, schools, families, neighborhoods, and world.

Help us to find “the peace that passes understanding” alive within our own hearts and lives.

Help us be able to find you calling us personally to find peace in our own communities.

## 5 Signal Communities... *Honor the Sacredness of Creation*

### Movie Clip Setup

Honoring the sacredness of creation and focusing on abolishing poverty and ending suffering creates signal communities where Christ can be discovered.

### Video

*WALL-E*, scene 1 (“Out There”)—start after the opening Pixar credit and play through until the scene about the Axiom being the “Final Fun-tier.” About five minutes.

### Point

In the movie *WALL-E*, human greed has had a horrifying effect on Earth over the years. Humans have been forced to leave the planet because of their selfish misuse of its God-given resources. As disciples, we are called to honor the sacredness of God’s creation and end the suffering that will take place when we selfishly use this planet’s resources.

### Questions

- WALL-E finds himself in a future where the world is filled with trash. What are some other implications of our actions if humankind continues to misuse or abuse the resources our planet provides?
- How do some of our actions affect those who live in poverty and those in developing nations? What responsible choices can we make to ensure our needs do not contribute to the suffering of others?
- What are a few things you can do to honor the sacredness of creation in your home, congregation, and neighborhood?

### Hymn Suggestions

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” *HS* 18

“Morning Has Broken” *HS* 22

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace” *SP* 7

“God of the Sparrow” *SP* 13

“This Is God’s Wondrous World” *R-1*



# Signal Communities... Live Christ's Mission

## COMMITMENT SERVICE

Prepare a large picture representing the world. This could be painted on a piece of foam core or cardboard and set on an easel at the front worship center. Place either straight pins or cellophane tape near the easel to use in affixing paper hands to the picture. Prepare enough paper cut-out hands (life-sized) for each participant and place in baskets at the entry to the sanctuary. Also prepare baskets filled with pencils for people to use. As people enter, they will take a paper hand and a pencil. During the welcome ask if everyone received a paper hand and a pencil, then distribute where needed.

### Gathering Songs

"Morning Has Broken" HS 22  
"I'm Gonna Shout and Sing" NS 20  
"Hosanna" NS 14

### Welcome

We praise God and sing our songs of joy for God's presence here. We have been blessed by God's resounding song of love to us and we are encouraged to sing along! We lift our voices, using our bodies and our minds; together we join with saints of all time, praising God.

### \*Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HS 20  
(Include all kinds of instruments; ask all musicians in attendance to join in with whatever instruments are available.)

### \*Opening Prayer

### Responsive Reading

### Focus Moment

Read the story *The Boy Who Changed the World* by Andy Andrews (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2010).

### Ministry of Music

"We Are Your People" (ensemble or choir) SP 34

### Opening Commitments

Ask the congregation to write one or two things they want to commit to doing in the next month, such as adding a daily spiritual practice or reaching out to a neighbor. In advance ask two people to prepare statements of commitment (each two to three minutes long). Before they speak have them come forward individually and affix their paper hands to the picture of the world. Invite the congregation to come forward and add their paper hands to the picture, with or without making statements, as symbolic gestures of commitment to Christ's mission.

### Disciples' Generous Response

*As part of the Disciples' Generous Response, we ask you to integrate the message of "giving to your true capacity" and "sharing equally" to fund the World Church mission initiatives and your Local & Mission Center ministries. Generosity stories are provided to keep the church in touch with how contributions to Mission Tithes focus on the whole mission of Jesus Christ through the five life-changing, church-changing, and world-changing mission initiatives. Please use the stories, testimonies, and up-to-date contribution information as part of your offertory ministry.*



# Signal Communities... Live Christ's Mission

## BAPTISM SERVICE

If the congregation assembles at a lake, pool, or body of water, plan for an ensemble to play music along the path taken to the baptismal site.

Give out wooden beads (from craft store) or enduring principles stones (available from Herald House at [www.heraldhouse.org](http://www.heraldhouse.org)) to several people who will prepare a sentence of support for each baptismal candidate.

### Gathering Music

"As the Deer" *NS 2*

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come" *NS 6*

### Welcome and Call to Worship

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

—Romans 12:1, 2, 4, 5

### \*Hymn

"God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name" *HS 382*

### Affirming Moment

Ask several members of the congregation to come forward and give statements of support for the candidates (for example, "John, I support your decision to follow Jesus and will walk alongside you in your journey.") and then give each candidate a

bead or an enduring principles stone. Beads could be made into a bracelet bound with leather or string, or pebbles could be gathered in pouches to give to each candidate.

### Hymn

"Redeeming Grace Has Touched Our Lives" *HS 351*

OR "Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me" *SP 12*

### Message and Charge to the Baptismal Candidates

### Sacrament of Baptism

During the going in and coming out of the water, play instrumental music (such as, one verse of "Take My Life and Let It Be" *HS 408*).

### Responsive Reading

Leader: We join with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as members of your body, Lord.

**Congregation: We are family, sharing in the mission of Christ.**

Leader: We encourage each other and pray for one another.

**Congregation: We are family, sharing in the mission of Christ.**

Leader: We promise to share in signal communities; growing in our discipleship.

**Congregation: We are family, sharing in the mission of Christ.**

### \*Hymn

"Take the Path of the Disciple" *R-19*

### \*Closing Prayer