Service of Song and Praise

Doctrine and Covenants 165

Preparation

This service provides a time of praise and contemplation using Doctrine and Covenants 165 and Community of Christ Sings. Arrange to have various individuals read the scriptures with expression and volume. The service should flow from scripture to song without interruption. Prior to the Welcome, inform congregants that a basket for their offerings has been placed near the exit door. Include a blessing on the monies given during the Prayer of Blessing.

Welcome

I welcome you in the name of the One who knows each of us intimately. The One who wrote the master symphony we call Earth. Who tunes each ear to hear the harmonies of its people and each heart to feel the rhythms of all creation. May our ears hear the messages of our Creator and our hearts feel the invitation to be loved and to love. Welcome.

Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:1a.

Community of Christ, a divine vision is set before you. Presented over the years through various inspired phrases and symbols, it is expressed now through initiatives in harmony with Jesus Christ’s mission.

“How Shall We Find You”

Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:1b.

As a spiritual venture, boldly follow the initiatives into the heart of God’s vision for the church and creation. Then, in response to growing insight about God’s nature and will, continue to shape communities that live Christ’s love and mission.

“As the Wind Song through the Trees”

Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:1d.

Undertake compassionate and just actions to abolish poverty and end needless suffering. Pursue peace on and for the Earth.

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

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Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:3c.

You do not fully understand many interrelated processes of human creation. Through its wonderful complexity, creation produces diversity and order.
“I Will Talk to My Heart”
Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:3d.
Be not consumed with concern about variety in human types and characteristics as you see them. Be passionately concerned about forming inclusive communities of love, oneness, and equality that reveal divine nature.

“God, We Gather as Your People”

“The Peace of Jesus Christ”
Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:3e.
Oneness and equality in Christ do not mean uniformity. They mean Unity in Diversity and relating in Christ-like love to the circumstances of others as if they were one’s own. They also mean full opportunity for people to experience human worth and related rights, including expressing God-given giftedness in the church and society.

“For Everyone Born”
Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:6a.
Beloved Community of Christ, do not just speak and sing of Zion. Live, love, and share as Zion: those who strive to be visibly one in Christ, among whom there are no poor or oppressed.

“At the Heart of Sacred Calling”
Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:6b.
As Christ’s body, lovingly and patiently bear the weight of criticism from those who hesitate to respond to the divine vision of human worth and equality in Christ. This burden and blessing is yours for divine purposes.

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”
Read Doctrine and Covenants 165:6c.
And, always remember, the way of suffering love that leads to the cross also leads to resurrection and everlasting life in Christ’s eternal community of oneness and peace. Trust in this promise.

“May the God of Hope”
Or “Now Go in Joy”
Prior to the Prayer of Blessing, remind the group that a basket for their offerings has been placed near the exit door. As part of the Blessing, include a blessing on the funds given.

Prayer of Blessing

Sending Forth