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Contents

Introduction ...................................................................................................................................................... 4
Breathe New Life .............................................................................................................................................. 8
Breathe Peace ............................................................................................................................................... 11
Live Witness ............................................................................................................................................... 14
Embody Wholeness ................................................................................................................................... 16
Embrace Formation .................................................................................................................................... 20
Experience Restoration ............................................................................................................................... 23
Introduction

Doctrine and Covenants 156:5 summons the church to explore what it means to “become a people of the Temple” ( Doctrine and Covenants 161:2a). God breathes new life into the church as disciples remember, reclaim, embody, and share the purposes of the Temple. The six Reunion 2018 worship resources in this book invite disciples to focus on the pursuit of peace, witnessing, wholeness, education, and restoration — ministries at the heart of Jesus’ life and mission.

The opening service can be a brief, casual service meant to welcome everyone or can be expanded into a longer service by including a message based on becoming “a people of the Temple” as well as a Communion message. Worship services 2 through 6 each focus on a verse from Doctrine and Covenants 156:5.

156:5a. The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation and for healing of the spirit.

156:5b. It shall also be for a strengthening of faith and preparation for witness.

156:5c. By its ministries an attitude of wholeness of body, mind, and spirit as a desirable end toward which to strive will be fostered.

156:5d. It shall be the means for providing leadership education for priesthood and member.

156:5e. And it shall be a place in which the essential meaning of the Restoration as healing and redeeming agent is given new life and understanding, inspired by the life and witness of the Redeemer of the world.

These worship service outlines, created by current and former World Church staff members and volunteers, are meant to serve as guides for preparing worship services during your reunion. Feel free to adapt these services to meet the needs of your community of members and friends who have gathered to share in fellowship, song, and worship. Instructions for leaders are in italic.

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Make use of the various gifts and talents among those who have gathered for this time of invitation, witness, hospitality, and generosity. Encourage all ages to participate in these services by sharing their prayers, stories, and testimonies. Follow the guidance of the Spirit in response to the needs and desires of your reunion community as you develop these worship opportunities.
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Note: Bible references are from the New Revised Standard Version.

REUNION HYMN
“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” CCS 190 is included in each reunion worship service. Consider incorporating the song in a variety of ways into your services this week: whole-group singing, small-group singing, solo, instrumental, reading the words together, singing only one stanza each day, group of four of various ages reads the words, children’s choir sings, congregation sings or says, “Breathe on me, Breath of God” and soloist/small-group sings or says the rest of the stanza.

BREATHE NEW LIFE THROUGHOUT REUNION
These suggestions connect each day’s worship services: Balloon Messages, Breathing Scents, and Drawing Your Breath. Select one or more of these elements to use through the entire reunion. Watch for the worship segments labeled “Breathe New Life throughout Reunion” and incorporate the activity you have chosen.

BALLOON MESSAGES
Use balloons as a message display each day. Invite each person to inflate a balloon (breathe new life), tie a knot at the end, and attach a string. Each day ask congregants to write a message on the balloon using only part of the space if you are going to use the same balloons each day. (Provide black or metallic permanent markers.) Participants can choose a random balloon each time, read the previous messages, and then add their own message or prayer using the prompts below. The messages join to make a new breath from God.

Use one of these ideas to display the balloons in your worship space.

- Hang the balloons so they can be reached each day to add a new message.
- Tie them to the chairs in your worship space.
- Attach the balloons to a lattice board.
- Tape the balloons to the walls.
- Join five or six balloons together and hang each set of balloons from a rod, ribbon, or rope draped across the front of the space.
- Tie balloons to poles placed either vertically or horizontally and displayed throughout the worship area.

Use these prompts for each day’s message:

Worship 1 — What are your hopes for this reunion?
Worship 2 — How can you pursue peace in your neighborhood or community?
Worship 3 — What can you do to better prepare yourself to witness?
Worship 4 — Which aspect of wholeness — body, mind, or spirit — do you need to focus on in your life? How can you achieve that?
Worship 5 — What do you need to do to become better equipped to serve God?
Worship 6 — What is the first step you need to take to restore a relationship (with a friend, with someone you are separated from, or with God)?

BREATHING SCENTS DURING BREATHE PRayers OR THE PRAYER FOR PEACE
Hand out a scented item to each participant as they enter the worship space each day. Encourage them to breathe in the scent during the Breath Prayer or the Prayer for Peace. They could then be invited to take the scent with them as they leave the service as a reminder to Breathe New Life or they could be asked to add them to a bowl as part of the worship setting to combine the prayers of all members. Be aware of the quantity of the fragrances as well as the air flow within your worship space, as some congregants may experience fragrance sensitivity.

Day 1 — Mint leaves
Day 2 — Cinnamon sticks
Day 3 — Eucalyptus oil dropped on the back of each person’s hand
Day 4 — Wintergreen, peppermint, spearmint, or orange mint candies
Day 5 — Pieces of a scented candle
Additional ideas: cloves; rosemary; almond or vanilla extract; orange, lemon, or lime peels; local plants or flowers such as pine or cedar twigs, lilacs, dianthus, sweet peas, lavender, magnolias.

**DRAWING YOUR BREATH**

Provide each person a Leaf Breathing Handout. (See following page.) Trace the leaf with your finger as you pray to concentrate your focus during a breath prayer or the Prayer for Peace.
Leaf Breathing

Slowly trace the leaf. Breathing in while tracing the right side, and breathing out while tracing the left side.
PREPARATION
This worship service can be used as a welcome to reunion event. The purpose is to create a sense of community for attendees through recalling past experiences, welcoming new attendees, and centering in the Holy Spirit for the week’s activities. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is included in this service; however it can be moved to any worship service depending on your reunion’s schedule.

Consider ways to emphasize community throughout this service. For instance, arrange the chairs with a smaller u-shape formation on the inside of the meeting space facing a larger u-shape formation of chairs on the outside. Or arrange each two rows of chairs facing each other. During Communion this will allow each person to face another person as they join together in taking the Lord’s Supper. Alternatively, ask the congregation to hold their emblems until all have been served and then participate in the Lord’s Supper together as a symbol of unity.

WELCOME AND PRAYER FOR PEACE
Welcoming remarks given by reunion director or reunion pastor, appreciating all for sharing in the community of reunion.

• Hopes for reunion
• Building community
• Spiritual direction
• Message of ministry

GATHERING HYMN OF REUNION
“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” CCS 190

SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST
An invitation suggestion:
In a moment I will invite you to leave the comfort of your seats, turn to your neighbors, shake their hand, and share the peace of Christ by saying, “Peace be with you,” or “God’s peace” or simply, “Peace” and receive the welcoming words in turn, “And also with you” or “Peace to you.” As we spend a few minutes in this sharing, please find at least one person you don’t already know and share the Peace of Christ with them practicing this communal gesture to create a Christ-like community.

BREATHE NEW LIFE THROUGHOUT REUNION
If you have chosen to create the balloon messages throughout reunion, begin the first activity here. If you have chosen to incorporate one of the two breath prayer activities in your worship services, wait until the Breath Prayer later in the service.

SINGING THE PRAYER FOR PEACE
“Prayer of Peace” CCS 164
OR “Let There Be Peace on Earth” CCS 307

Light the Peace Candle as the congregation sings the hymn.
CALL TO WORSHIP
Ask as many as five readers plus a leader to share this reading.

Leader: Life-giving breath.
Breathe in, breathe out.

Reader 1: Breathe Peace. The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation and for healing of the spirit.

Reader 2: Live Witness. It shall also be for strengthening of faith and preparation for witness.

Reader 3: Embody Wholeness. By its ministries an attitude of wholeness of body, mind, and spirit as a desirable end toward which to strive will be fostered.

Reader 4: Embrace Formation. It shall be the means for providing leadership education for priesthood and member.

Reader 5: Experience Restoration. And it shall be a place in which the essential meaning of the Restoration as healing and redeeming agent is given new life and understanding, inspired by the life and witness of the Redeemer of the world.

—Adapted from Doctrine and Covenants 156:5

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to this sacred space where you are invited to “Become a people of the Temple – those who see violence but proclaim peace, who feel conflict yet extend the hand of reconciliation, who encounter broken spirits and find pathways for healing.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:2a

FOCUS MOMENT
What do you think it means to “become a people of the Temple”? How can we breathe new life into our witnessing as we become a people of the Temple?

Ask the congregation to form circles of five or six people to share answers to these questions. Include as many different age groups as possible in each circle. Pause the discussion after two minutes and read the next scripture to provide additional discussion thoughts. Then ask the group to continue their discussion. Continue this format for all scriptures.

Discuss.
Let [the Temple] stand as a towering symbol of a people who knew injustice and strife on the frontier and who now seek the peace of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
—Doctrine and Covenants 161:2b

Discuss.
Become a people of the Temple—those who see violence but proclaim peace, who feel conflict yet extend the hand of reconciliation, who encounter broken spirits and find pathways for healing.
—Doctrine and Covenants 161:2a

Discuss.
... 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 163:8c

Discuss.
God breathes new life into the church and the world as disciples breathe peace, live witness, embody wholeness, embrace formation, and then as a result, experience restoration.

BREATHE PRAYER
Take several minutes to silently commune with God through a breath prayer. If you have chosen to incorporate breathing scents or drawing your breath, begin with this prayer.

A breath prayer format focuses on praying without ceasing. Mindful breathing and a prayer word or phrase focuses attention on God’s presence. Be open to God. Create a space for being with God.

Breathe in and silently pray, “Breathe on me...”

Breathe out and complete the prayer with, “breath of God.”

Breathe New Life—9
HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Eat This Bread and Never Hunger” CCS 530
OR “In the Singing” CCS 519
OR “Eat This Bread” CCS 528

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The tradition of Community of Christ is to understand the Lord’s Supper as a sacrament in which we remember the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ and renew the covenant we made at the waters of baptism. Others who share with us may have different understandings and practices within their own faith and tradition. All who believe in Jesus, whether they are members of Community of Christ or not, are welcome to share in communion. We invite participants to do so as an expression of the faithful unity and love exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ, in whose name we worship.

PREPARATION OF THE EMBLEMS

BLESSING AND SERVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR REUNION

HYMN OF SENDING FORTH

“We Need Each Other’s Voice to Sing” CCS 324
OR “Weave” CCS 327
OR “Summoned by the God Who Made Us” CCS 330

Benediction

God, you are
The Lover, the Beloved, the Loving;
The Source, the River, the Flowing;
The Giver, the Gift, the Giving;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
May you bless us, your servants, with:
Grace, sufficient for the journey to which you have called us;
Mercy for all in us that hinders your work of love;
and
Peace that reveals your coming Kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—Anthony Chvala-Smith
BREATHE NEW LIFE THROUGHOUT REUNION

If you have chosen to create the balloon messages throughout reunion, add the Worship 2 message to the balloons now. If you have chosen to incorporate one of the two breath prayer activities in your worship services, the Breath Prayer is later in the service. See the details for these activities in the Introduction.

SONG SERVICE

Spend 10-12 minutes sharing peace songs as you gather. Choose from the sections in Community of Christ Sings on Justice (282-305) and Pursuit of Peace (306-321) or choose from those listed here keeping in mind different age groups and world views; providing various creative ways for participants to gather in the spirit of peace and participate in the song service.

- Project and sing along with the video, “Peace through All People” www.cofchrist.org/resources/#/930/peace-through-all-people
- “For Everyone Born” www.cofchrist.org/resources/#/930/peace-through-all-people
- “Come and Bring Light” www.cofchrist.org/resources/#/930/peace-through-all-people
- “The Peace of Jesus Christ” www.cofchrist.org/resources/#/930/peace-through-all-people
- “God’s Melody of Peace” www.cofchrist.org/resources/#/930/peace-through-all-people
- “Gonna Lay Down My Sword and Shield” www.cofchrist.org/resources/#/930/peace-through-all-people

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Express gratitude for every person gathered. Welcome folks to reunion, to the week of fellowship, to worship, to encounter with the Holy at any and all moments of the week. Announce the theme and invite participants of all ages to ‘come and see,’ to come and hear the call to pursue peace.

Project the PowerPoint presentation, “The Temple - Dedicated to Peace, Reconciliation and Healing of the Spirit.” Allow for a moment of silence following the last slide (http://www.cofchrist.org/reunion-resources-2018)

GATHERING HYMN

“How Shall We Find You” CCS 10
“God the Sculptor of the Mountains” CCS 21
“Wind upon the Waters” CCS 49

OPENING PRAYER OF GRATITUDE, INVITATION, AND EXPECTATION/ANTICIPATION

INSTRUMENTAL RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Sound a bell or chime (3 to 9 times, depending on the setting)

Light the Candle of Peace

Sing the reunion hymn, “Breathe on Me Breath of God” CCS 190
**Congregational hymn, soloist, duet, or choir**

**INWARD AND OUTWARD: A BREATHE PRAYER**

*Invite all (including children) to sit quietly and comfortably and simply pay attention to our breath and the “Breath of God” as we have sung in the hymn. Use your breath to create a sense of peace and letting go into God. Breathe deeply, slowly, calmly, starting with several cleansing breaths that end in an audible sigh. As you fill your lungs and exhale, feel the tension in your muscles—your entire body—flow out with the air. Continue to breathe in a regular, natural rhythm from your abdomen rather than your chest. Focus on breathing God in, breathing all else out until you feel calm and centered.*

*During the prayer, inhale and exhale the Spirit of God.*
*As you inhale, greet God with “God of Peace” (inhale)*
*As you exhale, ask God to “Reconcile us” (exhale)*
*Share in the breath prayer for a minimum of one minute—preferably two to three minutes. Close the prayer by sounding the bell or chime one time.*

*Share the following prayer for peace.*

**Teach us, we pray,**

Peace-Speaking God,
the language of Shalom.
We have not yet learned
your ancient, unfamiliar tongue.
Our accent is that of the foreigner.
Our gestures are awkward.
Tongues tangle, throats hurt,
and mouths tire of trying
to shape so many new sounds.

One day, slowly, haltingly
may we hear in our own voice
the faint hint of music,
the rhythmic beauty
of the language of peace.
May words be accompanied
by gesture of hands
and movement of feet.
Letter by syllable by word
may we speak the vision
of your new world into being.

Help us say, “forgive me, please,”
to our families. Teach us
to pronounce “healing”
in hospital rooms, to plead
“reconcile” in our places of work,
to proclaim “justice” when we call
our government’s representatives.
Then, in the dark of our own
weary nights, Lord, will you
please whisper in us, “Shalom”?

God, Eternal Word of peace,
speak the language of Shalom through us,
*stanza by stanza into the world, we pray,*
in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

—David Brock

**DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE: AN OFFERING OF PEACE**

And again I say unto you, sue for peace, not only to the people that have smitten you, but also to all people; and lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth; and make proposals for peace unto those who have smitten you, according to the voice of the Spirit which is in you, and all things shall work together for your good.

—Doctrine and Covenants 102:11a-c

**TESTIMONY OF PEACE**

*Invite someone to give a short testament of ways that personal or congregational monetary offerings (and time and talent) have led to peace—possibly between us and another; possibly with persons who have “smitten” them/their congregation. Suggest that the testimony be specific, personal, and not too long, but could serve as a testimony illustrating what will be highlighted in the sermon to follow. Consider a youth or young adult.*

**BLESSING AND RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS**

**SERMON**

*Based on Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a; 161:2a-b; 165:1d*

**Suggestions for message:**

- Study the Temple, a towering symbol that calls the entire church to be a people of Christ’s peace.
- Discern how God breathes life, reconciliation, and healing in us (inward journey), and invites us to share the transforming breath with the rest of the world (outward journey).
- Explore the ways Temple ministries are expressed in disciples who give new life to its goals.
CLOSING HYMN

“Can Steel and Stone and Swirling Spire”  CCS 281

SENDING FORTH

Return to the breath prayer as the Sending Forth. Invite the congregation to remain standing after the hymn and hold hands, or form a large circle and hold hands.

Share in the breath prayer as before. This time inviting members to silently pray.

People of the Temple (as they inhale)

.... proclaim peace (as they exhale)

Sound bell or chime.

Prayerfully sing “Lord, Prepare Me” twice  CCS 280
**PREPARATION**

Provide paper, pencils, crayons, and markers for Focus Moment.

**REUNION HYMN**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”  
*CCS 190*

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.

—1 Peter 3:15

One: Holy One,  
All: you are as near to us as our breath.

One: Touch us,  
All: help us see you in one another.

One: Open our ears,  
All: allow us to hear your voice in the cries of the helpless.

One: Penetrate our hearts,  
All: fill us with your love toward all people.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”


**SONGS OF GATHERING**

Choose two or three hymns

“Praise to the Living God”  
*CCS 8*

“Dios está aquí/God Is Here Today”  
*CCS 150*

“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”  
*CCS 174*

“God of All Time”  
*CCS 270*

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”  
*CCS 623*

**WELCOME AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Invite three individuals to read “We Need Each Other’s Voice to Sing,” *CCS 324* as a welcome and invitation. Position the readers in various places around the worship space. Each reader will read one phrase from each verse.
FOCUS MOMENT
Invite children—or everyone—to create a representation in picture or words that answers the question of who they believe Jesus is as they listen to today’s message. After the message, invite volunteers to share their creations with the congregation.

MESSAGE
These questions are suggested thoughts for today’s message. The questions could also be used to invite the congregation to share together in groups of two or three following the message.

CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS
1. Recall the first time you answered this from Jesus: “Who do you say that I am?” Share what you recall about your answer.
2. Has your answer changed as you have lived your life? What answer would you give today?
3. In Section 164 of the Doctrine and Covenants, we are told, “If you truly would be Community of Christ, then embody and live the concerns and passions of Christ.” What are some ways you are feeling called to live out this invitation?
4. How can we strengthen our faith?
5. What preparations should we make prior to witnessing?

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE
Read Doctrine and Covenants Section 165:1-2a.
Invite someone to share a testimony of how one of the initiatives expressed in this scripture have been expressed in their community.
Invite everyone to respond with their resources to model God’s generosity.

BLESSING AND RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS

CLOSE HYMN
“And All Are Called” CCS 606
OR “You Are Called to Tell the Story” CCS 625
OR “We Are One in the Spirit” CCS 359
OR “Bring Forth the Kingdom” CCS 387

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR OUR WITNESS
PREPARATION

Gather enough small pieces of paper and writing instruments for each person to use in the welcome activity.

Have enough grapes available for each person to have one during the Guided Meditation.

Create bundles of supplies to use during the Focus Moment including Popsicle sticks to represent people, pink erasers or large pink beads (larger than 1.25 inches to prevent choking) to represent pigs, and a toy boat to represent Jesus’ boat. Create enough bundles so that every group of 5–10 people can have their own bundle.

If baptisms are scheduled at this reunion, prepare for this sacrament as needed. Depending on the number of baptisms or confirmations, segments of the worship service will need to be shortened or omitted.

GATHERING SONGS

“As We Gather” CCS 73
OR “All Are Welcome” CCS 276
OR “O God of Vision” CCS 78
OR “Kum ba yah, Seigneur” CCS 75

WELCOME

Pass out small pieces of paper and pens or pencils. Ask the congregation to empty their minds by jotting down to-do lists or anything worrying them. Then set aside the papers for after the worship.

Reunion is a place of renewal and sanctuary; but just like anywhere else, it can also be stressful. (Keeping track of your children! Preparing for the next volunteer activity!) We are at the middle of the week, and you may be tired or just getting comfortable with the routine. But now is the time to connect with God.

Today we will spend time exploring wholeness, which is the unity of three dimensions of our lives: body, mind, and spirit. When your life is whole, you are better able to bring ministry and grace to others.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Use as many as four people of different ages to read Doctrine and Covenants 163:2.

Reader 1: Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life.

Reader 2: Follow Christ in the way that leads to God’s peace and discover the blessings of all of the dimensions of salvation.

Reader 3: Generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the Living Christ who
heals and reconciles through redemptive relationships in sacred community.

Reader 4: The restoring of persons to healthy or righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith.

HYMN OF CENTERING
Reunion hymn “Breathe on Me Breath of God” CCS 190
OR “Come Away from Rush and Hurry” CCS 83
OR “O Living God” CCS 183

BREATHE NEW LIFE THROUGHOUT REUNION
Incorporate the activity chosen from Introduction service: write the Worship 4 balloon message for the week or use one of the breath prayer ideas. See the details for these activities in the Opening Worship outline.

STANDING OR CHAIR YOGA POSES
Ask someone to lead the congregation in easy yoga poses. People can stay seated or stand as they are able. Hold each pose for 3 to 5 slow breaths before moving to the next one. Some simple poses can be found online: https://www.verywellfit.com/chair-yoga-poses-3567189.

- Mountain pose with raised hands: Seated in a chair, settle your body into the chair and steady your feet on the floor. Straighten your spine lifting from your waist, heart lifted and open, shoulders relaxed and released, and crown of head lifting with neck long. Place hands on thighs or on sides of the chair to support spinal lift if needed. Pause and breathe. Inhale gently with awareness, and raise your arms over your head. Pause and breathe. Hold this position for 3 to 5 slow breaths and slowly release.

- Chair spinal twist: Seated in a chair with your knees facing forward, place your left hand on the chair seat behind you and your right hand on the outside of your left knee. On an inhale, reach your head up toward the ceiling and on an exhale, gently turn your shoulders to the left. Switch sides after 3 to 5 slow breaths in this position and slowly release.

- Cat-cow stretch: Seated in a chair with your feet planted firmly on the floor, elongate your back. Cow pose: Place your palms on your knees and on an inhale do a slight backbend by dropping your head back and pulling your chest up and forward. Cat pose: On an exhale from cow pose, round your back and draw in your belly. Gently tuck your chin in toward your chest and expand the area between your shoulder blades. Draw your belly in toward your spine, and up toward your ribs. Switch back and forth between these poses 3 to 5 times.

- Chair Savasana (relaxation pose): Sit with your eyes closed and hands in your lap for a few minutes at the end on your practice. This seated savasana will help your body absorb all the good effects of the poses you have done and transition you into worship.

CENTERING PRAYER
O God who formed us, we pause in our busy day to draw nearer to you. We have stretched our bodies and emptied our minds. We are waiting, listening, open. Help us to be present in this moment. Allow us to find renewal in the awareness of your presence. Amen.

PIANO OR INSTRUMENTAL RESPONSE

GUIDED MEDITATION WITH GRAPE
Pass out grapes to congregation, one per person. Inform them that they will be using the grape for a guided meditation.

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
God is present in and through all things. We also are connected to God and one another. One way to experience that connection is through mindful eating, where you nourish your body but also give thanks for the interconnectedness of creation. Today we will experience the spiritual practice of mindful eating. Take your grape in your hands.

Notice the grape’s cool, rounded shape. Feel its gentle pressure in your hands. Hold your grape and study this bit of God’s creation.

Inhale gently with awareness, and raise your arms over your head. Pause and breathe. Hold this position for 3 to 5 slow breaths and slowly release.

Examine the skin of the grape. Notice its fine striations and speckles, its gradual color shift. Does your grape have any imperfections? Consider what may have touched your grape while it grew and formed.

Pause for 10 seconds.

Thank you, God, for your artistry in even the smallest things.

Imagine the sun that warmed the grape’s flesh. Imagine the rain that washed it and nourished its roots. Imagine the wind that dried the raindrops and caressed the grape.
Pause for 10 seconds.

Thank you, God, for the powerful elements of the Earth. Help us to treat the Earth with tender care.

Now consider the hands of the farmworkers who cut the bunch that contained your grape. The hands that packaged them up and shipped them to the grocer. The hands of the grocer who put them on display and sold them. The hands of those who brought your grape to you.

Pause for 10 seconds.

Thank you, God, for these hands. Bless them and keep them healthy and safe. And remind us of the interweaving of our lives, one with another, despite distance and time.

Put the grape to your lips. Anticipate the texture and flavor of the grape.

Now bite into it.

Pause for 10 seconds.

Thank you, God, for the sweet, juicy grape and the amazing variety of foods, textures and flavors you have given us. Thank you for the nourishment you provide to us in your awesome creation.

Please help us to be mindful in our eating of those who do not have enough to eat. Bring compassion to our hearts for those animals that suffer and die for our consumption.

Help us not to forget the value of a small grape, but to find your presence, your artistry and our interconnectedness within every piece of your creation.

Amen.

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

The Disciples’ Generous Response is a time to remember and give thanks for all that God has blessed you with, and then to offer your own faithful response. We are called to give our time, talent, treasure (tithing), and testimony to our true capacity.

Ask someone to share their story of what reunion has meant to them and how tithing has made it possible—either for the resources that are provided or the ability for someone to attend reunion or the expenses for the location of this reunion.

Please consider your commitment and how you will tithe to your true capacity to support the Mission of Jesus Christ.

BLESSING AND RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Sing today’s prayer for peace. Invite the congregation to stand and do motions that match the words as a body prayer. For the words “before us,” hold hands palms up in front of you; “behind us,” move arms behind body; “under our feet,” point to feet; “within us,” both hands over heart; “over us,” join hands over head; “all around,” fold hands in prayer. Invite someone to stand in front to demonstrate motions. Light the peace candle during or after the hymn.

“Prayer of Peace” CCS 164

FOCUS MOMENT

Read the scripture, Mark 5:1-20, out loud. Consider reading from a children’s Bible.

Allow 5-8 minutes for Focus Moment activity. Ask the congregation to move into small intergenerational groups that include the children. Pass out the bundles of supplies to play out the scripture. Use Popsicle sticks for the people, pink erasers or beads to represent pigs, and a toy boat to represent Jesus’ boat. Have the small groups act out the story with their props/toys. Halfway through the time devoted to this activity, read the scripture a second time.

SERMON

Based on Mark 5:1-20 and/or Doctrine and Covenants 156:5.

If you are celebrating a sacrament of baptism during this service, the baptismal charge to the candidate can be given rather than the sermon.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

Pass out small cups of water to each congregant.

We all know the importance of drinking water for our physical health; but what about our spiritual health? Water can be a tangible way to remind us of God’s presence in our lives and God’s yearning to quench our thirst. Slowly sip this glass of water and remind yourself of your baptism, or the living water Jesus promises, or the water rushing forth out of the desert places of our lives.

—Adapted from www.hmacofchrist.org
based on Isaiah 43:18-21

Practice this once a day for the remaining days of reunion.
CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Baptismal Hymn
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” CCS 499
OR “Come as a Child” CCS 503

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Congregational Hymn
“Baptized in Water” CCS 514
OR “O Christ, My Lord, Create in Me” CCS 507

STATEMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN
“We Are One in the Spirit” CCS 359
OR “We Are Companions on the Journey” CCS 552

OR “By the Well, a Thirsty Woman” CCS 500
OR “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” CCS 499

PRAYERS FOR WHOLENESS

Find a partner or divide into small groups. Share any concerns you have with one another, or choose to hold your concerns in your heart. You may hold hands or face one another. Offer silent or spoken prayers for each of the other people in your group.

CLOSING HYMN

“There is a Balm in Gilead” CCS 234
OR “Let Us Pray for One Another” CCS 186

SENDING FORTH STATEMENT

Let us go forth, renewed and made whole. Courageously offer your testimony of God’s love, and invite people to come home to God’s grace and generosity.

PIANO OR INSTRUMENTAL RESPONSE
PREPARATION

Prepare a worship setting space on a table with an area large enough to add the five items that will be presented during the Call to Worship: a book, a heart sculpture or picture, images of hands, a dove, and a globe.

Three people will be needed for the Focus Moment and should have the opportunity to practice prior to the service.

WE GROW IN COMMUNITY

GATHERING HYMNS

“Uyai Mose/Come All You People”  CCS 84
“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  CCS 99
“We Gather Together”  CCS 127

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, as we worship may we recognize your presence with us. May our hearts and hands, our minds and spirits, be open to you. May we eagerly engage this day all that we are in worship, song, prayer, and learning.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

BREATHE NEW LIFE THROUGHOUT REUNION

If you have chosen to create the balloon messages throughout reunion, add the fifth message to the balloons now.

If you have chosen to incorporate one of the two breath prayer activities in your worship service today, the Breath prayer is later in the service. See the details for these activities in the Introduction.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Five people of different ages, genders, and ethnicities should be ready to enter the worship space. The group should be representative of the reunion congregation. Each person enters bearing an item that will be added to the worship setting.

A musician quietly plays “All Creatures of Our God and King”  CCS 98 as each person enters.

After each person places their item on the table they go to the microphone, read their statement and return to their seats.

First person (carries a book)
We thank God for the opportunity to broaden our knowledge and skills through study.

Second person (carries a heart)
We praise God for the many experiences that deepen our love and compassion for others.

Third person (carries an image of hands)
We confess, God, that sometimes we do not act on behalf of others and for this we ask forgiveness.
Fourth person (carries a dove)
We are encouraged, God, as we respond to the presence and leadings of your Spirit.

Fifth person (carries a globe)
We rejoice in the blessings of community here, in our neighborhoods and villages, and around the world.

GATHERING HYMN OF REUNION
“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” CCS 190

PRAYER FOR PEACE

“Christ taught us that our neighbourhood is universal: so loving our neighbour has global dimensions. It demands fair international trading policies, decent treatment of refugees, support for the UN and control of the arms trade. Solidarity with our neighbour is also about the promotion of equality of rights and equality of opportunities; hence we must oppose all forms of discrimination and racism…

We claim whatever rights and opportunities are available to us only in order to exercise an influence on behalf of whatever we believe to be true and good, especially in solidarity with people everywhere who are on low incomes, disabled, ill or infirm, homeless or poorly housed, in prison, refugees, or who are otherwise vulnerable, powerless and at a disadvantage.”

—The Common Good, a statement from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 1996

Light Peace Candle and stay at candle until conclusion of the hymn.

SING THE PRAYER FOR PEACE
“One Common Prayer” CCS 313
OR “The Peace of Jesus Christ” CCS 317
OR “My Peace” CCS 149

WE GROW IN OUR AWARENESS

FOCUS MOMENT

Two people enter arguing loudly: “I am.” “No I am.” “No way, I said I am!”

They are approached by a third person: “What are you two arguing about?”

Person One: He/She says he/she is the best disciple, but I say I am.

Person Two: But everyone knows I am!

Person Three: Well, what do you think makes a good disciple?

Person One: I can run fast and get in line first.

Person Two: I can talk the LOUDEST!

Person Three: Well, those are certainly things that are helpful sometimes, but being a disciple isn’t really about being first or loudest. It is about serving others, like Jesus did.

Person One: Serving? You mean like helping?

Person Three: Yes, I mean like helping people.

Person Two: I can help people.

Person One: So can I. There are lots of ways that we can help others.

Person Three: That’s great! Let’s go find some ways we can be servant-helpers here at camp.

All three leave together talking about ways to serve.

WE GROW IN GRACE AND GENEROSITY

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

Today we have been learning about what it means to more fully engage our heart, hand, mind, and spirit in service to Christ’s mission. Part of serving is to share generously of our resources, time, talent, testimony, and treasure. At this time, the ushers will come forward and receive our generous response.

Let us pray.

BLESSING

God of wonder, wisdom, and relationship, we spend this moment in awareness of your grace and generosity to your people. May that spirit of grace attend to us as we share our financial resources in the midst of this community, for the purposes of your peaceable kingdom. Amen.
RECEIVING OF OFFERINGS.

GENEROSITY HYMN

“Make Me a Servant”  
OR “According to the Gifts”  
OR “Fanana”  

WE GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING

HOMILY

Based on: Doctrine and Covenants 156:5d, and 163:4c

• What does it look like to equip oneself to serve?  
  (Luke 22:24-30)

• How do we respond to God’s call to carry Christ’s peace into the world?

• What aspects of discipleship and leadership are needed to address poverty, disease, and environmental concerns?

• How are we shaped and formed in community to respond with our hearts, hands, minds, and spirit?

CENTERING IN SONG

“Dios está aquí/God is Here Today”  
OR “Calm to the Waves”  
OR “O God We Call”  

Soloist sings one time through then invites the congregation to join in and sing a second time.

CENTERING IN PRAYER

Use your breath to create a sense of peace and letting go into God. Focus on breathing God in, breathing all else out until you feel calm and centered.

As you inhale, silently say “I want to be” (inhale)

As you exhale, silently say, “God’s living example.” (exhale)

Share in the breath prayer for a minimum of one minute—preferably two to three minutes. Close the prayer by sounding the bell or chime one time.

WE GROW IN OUR COMMITMENT

SENDING FORTH:

We have said we build our Temple as a witness of the Lord Jesus. As important as our usual places of worship are, we need today to experience the power of God’s love and reconciling influence in a new way—and in a place from which we can go forth transformed by that power. …The call today is for a people who will live the life of Jesus prophetically.

—Wallace B. Smith, Herald magazine  
  (June 1990, adapted)

HYMN OF SENDING FORTH

“I Have Called You by Your Name”  
OR “God, Bless Your Church with Strength!”  
OR “Now Go Forth into the World”  

BLESSING STATEMENT

Go in peace.
EXPERIENCE RESTORATION

RESTORATION AS HEALING AND REDEEMING AGENT
LUKE 4:18-19, EPHESIANS 2:11-22, DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 156:5, 163:2B

WORSHIP PREPARATION

Determine the presentation of the Disciples’ Generous Response. If actors will be needed, make arrangements for them to view the video and prepare their scenes prior to the week of reunion.

GATHERING HYMN

“Breath of the Living God” CCS 43
OR “Come Now, You Hungry” CCS 227
OR “God, Renew Us by Your Spirit” CCS 237

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

“Restoration is the divine creative process of connecting each and every disconnect within us, one by one, healing the flow of God in our hearts, in our lives, and in our relationships.”

—Bob Holmes, “A Daily Contemplation”

Leader: We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—

Congregation: members of God’s family, and brothers and sisters to one another.

Leader: There are no outsiders here among us,

Congregation: for we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.

Leader: We are dedicated to the pursuit of peace,

Congregation: to reconciliation and healing of the spirit.

Leader: We will strengthen our faith and prepare for witness,

Congregation: and ensure an attitude of wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

Leader: We will provide leadership education for all

Congregation: and experience restoration.

All: Let’s join together in worship!

—Adapted from Ephesians 2:11-22 and Doctrine and Covenants 156:5

SCRIPTURE READING

The restoring of persons to healthy or righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:2b
OPENING HYMN

“O Living God” CCS 183
OR “Out of the Depths, O God, We Call” CCS 228
OR “Strong, Gentle Children” CCS 233
OR “O May Your Church Build Bridges” CCS 224

RESPONSE

BREATHE NEW LIFE THROUGHOUT REUNION

Add the final message to the balloons or use the breathing scents or leaf breathing handout during the Prayer for Peace. See the details for these activities in the Introduction.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (Soloist or duet) CCS 190

PRAYER FOR PEACE

As we enter a time of guided prayer and meditation, you are invited to offer silent prayers or meditate during the moments of quiet. The Prayers of the People this day begin with ourselves and move outward, in rippling waves to those we know and love, to strangers and enemies, to the entire world, to all creation.

We begin by noticing our breathing. We breathe in Spirit and exhale those things that separate us from you, O God. Breathe in. Breathe out.

Please enter into the silence with me as we pray for peace remembering God’s promise to be with us and to work in us. Listen for the sound of the Beloved’s voice.

God of creation, in the beginning your breath moved over the waters and brought calm and peace to a chaotic world. Breathe into my being this day; bring respite to my frenzied soul. Refresh my frayed sense of self and bring alive my hope for peace through words and actions inspired by your Spirit. Breathe on me, Breath of God.

Pause.

God of reconciliation, 2,000 years ago you breathed and the Word became flesh among us, teaching us the way of forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and peace. Breathe into our relationships this day; allow us to enflesh the teachings of your Son within our family, friends, neighbors, and even our encounters with those we do not yet know. Breathe on us, Breath of God.

Pause.

God of sacred community, your Holy Spirit seeks to blow through the discord, disruption, and disease of the world to bring healing and wholeness once again. Breathe into the peoples and leaders of all nations. Remind us that many of your children lack the basic needs of life, including freedom, space to grow, and love to support them. Breathe on your people, Breath of God.

Pause.

God of all, your planet is gasping for breath, heaving under the pressure and weight of unbridled consumption of resources and greed-driven destruction of your world. The earth groans from forces of chaos that destroy what we have been given as a gift for all creation. Awaken us to our responsibilities to heal and bring peace to our earthly home. Breathe once again over the waters, skies, land, and all that inhabit them, Breath of God.

Pause.

May the awareness of our own breathing connect us to you, O God, and to all that lives because you create it, love it, and call it good. In and through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

Project the video, Change for a Dollar (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DXL9vlUWg) by Sharon Wright, which follows a man as he affects multiple lives with just the change he collects, proving that it doesn’t take much to be the change in someone’s life. Alternatively, ask several people to watch the video prior to reunion and be prepared to act out the scenes.

Following the presentation, ask the congregation to form groups of three or four to discuss the following questions or discuss as a whole group or read the questions aloud and allow time for individual reflection.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

• What situations were restored?
• What relationships experienced restoration?
• What was required for restoration to occur?
• How might your generous response of money, time, talent, or testimony lead to possible restoration for yourself or another?
OFFERTORY HYMN
OR “He Came Singing Love” CCS 226
OR “From You I Receive” CCS 611
OR “We Lift Our Voices” CCS 618
BLESSING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS

SERMON OR SHARING STORIES OF RESTORATION

Based on Luke 4:18-19 and Doctrine and Covenants 163:2b

SERMON SUGGESTIONS

Restoration is a wholistic, ongoing process of disciples engaged in the mending of relationships among themselves, others, God, and all of creation. Sacred communities are spaces in which the ministries of the temple (reconciliation, healing, asserting the worth of persons, protecting the sacredness of creation, and relieving physical and spiritual suffering) are practiced, taught, modeled, and lived out.

SHARING STORIES

Invite four persons to share a 2-3 minute testimony in which they experienced a sense of restoration or wholeness. Or offer the congregation an opportunity to share an experience of restoration in any of these areas.

1. Restoration with self
2. Restoration/reconciliation with another
3. Restored relationship with God
4. Restored relationship with the church

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

“For Thy Gracious Blessing” Sing as a round CCS 126

BENEDICTION

HYMN OF SENDING FORTH

“Restore in Us, O God” CCS 219
OR “The Cause of Zion Summons Us” CCS 386
OR “Christ Has Changed the World’s Direction” CCS 356

SENDING FORTH

The Spirit of the Lord is upon YOU, because the Lord has anointed YOU to bring good news to the poor.

The Lord has sent YOU to proclaim release to the captives.

YOU are called to help recover the sight to the blind.

YOU are called to let the oppressed go free.

YOU are to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

The breath of the living God is living within YOU, bringing life to the ministries to which YOU are called.