Fully Awake and Ready to Respond

REUNION 2017
WORSHIP SERVICES
Seven worship service outlines have been created by a multination team of field writers to serve as guides for preparing worship services during your reunion. Adapt these services to meet the needs of your community of members and friends who have gathered to share in fellowship, song, and worship.

Opening and closing services are available for potentially shorter services to be held as a welcoming event upon arrival and a culminating service just before leaving. The two services are connected by an activity to visually unite those who attend reunion to the community that will be formed by the end of the week. The five additional worship guidelines connect with the five daily lessons.

Incorporate the words of the Mission Prayer in your worship services: “God, where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Grant me the courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen.” (Individual Mission Prayer Cards are available through Herald House at www.heraldhouse.org/cart/edit.asp?p=346941.)

Make use of the various gifts and talents among those who have gathered for this time of spiritual awakening. Encourage all ages to participate in these services to share their prayers, stories, and testimonies. Follow the movement 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: Biblical scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible.

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Awaken!

Where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.

PREPARATION

This worship service is designed as a “Welcome to Reunion!” experience. 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.

Ask participants prior to reunion to share in “Affirmations of Welcome.” Consider asking a youth or someone attending reunion for the first time for the first testimony. Alternatively, rather than testimonies, ask for one-sentence statements from the group.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITY:

- yarn cut into 8–10 inch lengths (20.32–25.40 cm) for each person attending reunion
- fishing net, rod, branch, rope, or pipe

You will need enough yarn cut into 8–10 inch lengths (20.32–25.40 cm) for each person attending reunion. These will be used in both the opening and the closing services. Make sure that there will be one for each person attending the closing service even if they do not attend this opening worship. Distribute the yarn as people gather for worship. If not displaying the yarn pieces, have baskets available by the exits for the knotted pieces of yarn to be placed in after the service.

Consider displaying these visual symbols of community throughout the week until they are needed for the closing worship. Invite guests and reunion attendees to pull their knotted pieces of yarn through the holes of a length of fishing net that has been stretched between two boards or loop the pieces of yarn over a rod, branch, piece of rope, or a copper pipe hanging in your worship space.
**Gathering Music** (choose 2 or 3)

- “Praise the Lord Together Singing”  
  *(sing in unison, then parts, then as a round)*
  CCS 642
- “Seek Ye First”
  CCS 599
- “As We Gather”
  CCS 73
- “God, We Gather as Your People”
  CCS 274
- “Rejoice, Ye Saints of Latter Days”
  CCS 81
- “Weave”
  CCS 327

**Welcome**

*Include first part of the Mission Prayer in the Welcome:*

*God, where will your Spirit lead today?*

*Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.*

**Scripture Reading**

*(Choose one or two scriptures from those listed above.)*

**Call to Worship**

*based on “God Is Here!” CCS 70*

*(Use a variety of ages or voices)*

Reader 1: God is here!
Reader 2: We meet to offer praise and prayer;
Reader 3: to find in fuller measure what in Christ we share.
Reader 1: God is here!
Reader 2: We wait the coming of the Holy Spirit into open minds and hearts.
Reader 3: In silence and speech, we seek newness and renewal for each on here.

All Readers: GOD IS HERE!

**Opening Hymn**

- “God, We Gather as Your People”
  CCS 274
- OR “Jesu, Tawa Pano/Jesus, We Are Here”
  CCS 71

*(Sing in several languages or sing 2–3 times if singing in one language only)*

- OR “Come and Find the Quiet Center”
  CCS 151

**Opening Prayer**

**Music Ministry**

*(solo or group)*

- “Clothe Us in Your Spirit”
  CCS 584
- OR “As the Wind Song through the Trees”
  CCS 42
Affirmations of Welcome  
*(use a variety of ages)*

Leader: (Name), Why are you here?  
Brief testimony or statement about renewing friendships and making new friends

**Congregation Sings:** “Make New Friends, But Keep the Old” (camp song)  
Leader: (Name), Why are you here?  
Brief testimony or statement about how the beauty of creation (or beauty of the campground setting) helps them connect with God

**Congregation Sings:** “For the Beauty of the Earth”  
OR “For the Music of Creation”  
Leader: (Name), Why are you here?  
Brief testimony or statement about how reunion experiences help awaken a renewed sense of the Holy Spirit, or grow deeper in a relationship with God

**Congregation Sings:** “Spirit of the Living God”  
OR “Meet Me in a Holy Place”  
*(congregation sings verses 1–3 and soloist or group sings verses 4–6)*  
OR “O God We Call”  
*(sing 2–3 times)*

Prayer for Peace

*Light the Peace candle.* Today we join together to pray for peace for the continent of Asia. As we pray, we ask for guidance and blessings for all who work to build communities of justice and peace on this continent.

O Lord, our God, How majestic is your name in all the Earth.  
On Earth we praise you, exalt you and rejoice in your love as we welcome it into our hearts.  
Forgive us Lord for our inability to see the ways of peace.  
Teach us to open our eyes. Teach us to see with your eyes,  
So that we may see harmony in discord,  
unity after dissension,  
oneness after strife,  
quietness in racket,  
wholeness in diversity,  
and peace after conflict.  
Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.

—Barbara L. Carter

Hymn of Peace

“The Peace of the Earth”  
*CCS 647*
Focus Moment

*Project or display the video book, Sid the Seed, by Daniel R. Pagan. Online at [https://vimeo.com/7496754](https://vimeo.com/7496754) and at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm12JKhNnWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm12JKhNnWY)*

Sid is a little seed who lived underground. He has two living companions—a spider and a caterpillar—that are making plans to become something great. Slowly his friends leave on their exciting journeys, leaving Sid by himself, longing for his own life-changing transformation.

1. How were Sid, Kim, and Pip the same?
2. How were they different?
3. Why do you think it was easy for Kim and Pip to change or transform, but it wasn’t easy for Sid?
4. Were Sid, Kim, and Pip happy after they went through their transformation?

Director’s Message

*Include these ideas:*
- Hopes for reunion
- Building community
- Spiritual direction
- Message of ministry

Community-building Activity

The presider or reunion director makes a brief statement about the visual symbolism of what each piece of yarn—distributed at the beginning of the service—represents. *(See the graphics below for ideas about this activity.)*

Each strand represents an individual attending this reunion. We come from our separate, individual lives to join together in creating sacred community. We will be joined together and transformed in communal blessing as we engage in this reunion experience this week. As a symbol of our coming together in community, join your piece of yarn with that of two or three others by tying your individual pieces of yarn together. This symbol of our unity will be collected and used in our closing worship at the end of reunion.

Closing Hymn

“All Are Welcome”  
CCS 276

OR “Draw the Circle Wide”  
CCS 273

OR “We Are a Family of Faith”  
CCS 350

Mission Prayer by congregation in unison:

*God, where will your Spirit lead today?  
Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Amen!*
Community-building Activity

VISUAL ELEMENTS FOR ACTIVITY

Distribute pieces of yarn or string to each person

During the opening worship, each person ties their yarn with two or three other people. You will be distributing the tied “knots” at the closing service. Complete the circle and you will have four knots from four pieces of yarn or add additional pieces of yarn throughout the week.

During the closing worship, each person is given a piece of the yarn with a knot representing their connection to the rest of the reunion group. Each person is not alone; they have this reunion experience that joins them with an entire community.
Awaken to God’s Invitation

PREPARATION:

Create a worship center using symbols representing the eight Community of Christ sacraments and the Mission Initiative icons. Consider large ones painted or drawn on poster board or smaller ones cut out of foam board or photographs printed on large sheets of paper. Alternatively, display an electronic version that rotates through the five Mission Initiative symbols and photos of the eight sacraments. Find image ideas on pages 40–41.

Welcome

Open yourselves to a spiritual awakening this week as we worship together in community. Invite the Holy Spirit to awaken your soul to a new awareness of the world around you. Explore a renewed connection with your Creator. Seek a fresh sense of peace. Listen for inspiring thoughts and words. Contemplate all that you take in and consider its personal meaning for your life.

Gathering Hymn

“As the Wind Song through the Trees”
OR “Meet Me in a Holy Place”
OR “Of All the Spirit’s Gifts to Me”

Call to Worship

Light the Peace candle during last line of reading.
Leader: Be respectful of tradition...listen attentively to the telling of the sacred story,
Congregation: for our story of scripture and faith empowers and illuminates.
Leader: Listen carefully to your own journey as a people,
Congregation: for it is a sacred journey.
Leader: Community of Christ, your name, given as a divine blessing,
Congregation: is our identity and calling.
Leader: Discover your future,
Congregation: we will become a blessing to the whole creation.
Leader: The Temple calls the entire church
Congregation: to become a sanctuary of Christ’s peace.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:5, 162:2, 163:1 and 8c, adapted

Prayer for Peace

As we unite in prayer today with brothers and sisters on the North American Continent and around the world, we seek just and peaceful communities on all continents that nurture and uphold the worth and dignity of all persons.

Eternal God,

We thank you for this beautiful world in which we live and for the blessings it offers to us in our daily lives. As we attempt to look more perceptively at the marvels of the universe, may we become even more aware of your presence, your power and your capabilities. Help us to seek to develop a greater sense of peace and appreciation in our lives and a greater depth of faith in you, our God.

Enable us to find more often the courage to let others know that we really do believe in Jesus and what a strength and difference that makes in our lives. May we continue to develop in our lives more of the love, patience, forgiving nature, care, and concern that we see in the life of Christ. May we ever be grateful for the peace that comes as a blessing—a peace that so often passes understanding.

In our better moments, we want the Holy Spirit to move and motivate us so that we may become more willing to give more worthwhile service and to seek for spiritual guidance in our moments of decision-making. Help us appreciate more fully how blessed we are. Encourage us to continue to share with others some of the God-given gifts, which make life so wonderful and so worthwhile. This we pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

—Barrie Fox

Focus Moment

Share the book, What Does It Mean to Be Present? by Rana DiOrio
This book addresses diverse opportunities for how to consciously think and act in the present moment; being more aware of others and their needs; expressing gratitude for the joy that others bring to our lives; and pausing to consider the treasures offered by sensory experiences. Allow everyone to see the pages of the book as it is read.

**Introduction:**

iPhone, Snapchat, Twitter, Netflix, Fitbit, Kik, Vine, Beme, WhatsApp. These words are a constant in many homes, sometimes making it a struggle for people to be present.

- What does being present look like? 
  *(Example: Noticing when someone needs help and taking the time to help them.)*

- Sound like? *(Example: The rain outside your window)*

- Smell like? *(Example: Briny seaweed at the beach)*

- Taste like? *(Example: A bite of orange)*

- Feel like? *(Example: Allowing the rhythm of your breath, in and out, to make you feel peaceful)*

**After reading the book, allow time for discussion. Use some of the following questions as a starting place:**

Did you notice the blue butterfly that reappears throughout the book? What does this butterfly make you think of? *(Example: The simple act of noticing what is occurring around us is an easy way to become more present in our daily lives.)*

How does the world around us change as one season passes to the next? What symbols do you see displayed during various holidays? What changes can you observe in a puppy as he grows into a dog?

Listening, noticing, and being aware of what is happening in the moment are key skills that all of us can develop to be more present every day. By focusing on and enjoying the present, we can make more meaningful use of our time to share Christ’s mission.

**Hymn of Presence**

“To Be Your Presence”

OR “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

OR “Earth and All Stars”

**GOD IS CALLING—MISSION INITIATIVES**

**Scripture Reading**

In response to the Spirit’s guidance, Jesus proclaims his mission when he reads from the Isaiah scroll.

“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.”

Christ’s mission is our mission. All ministries, personnel, and resources of the worldwide church will be focused on the whole mission of Jesus Christ through five Mission Initiatives.

Project the three-minute video clip, The Long Journey, which provides a description of mission. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lLWZtoEPZx8

Or share one of the following readings on mission:
https://missionalleadersdotorg.wordpress.com/2012/06/01/mission-begins-with-encounter/

Invite the congregation to join in the following reading by printing the words on a handout or displaying them on a screen; or you might choose to make it a quiz with the leader asking the questions (What is the Mission Initiative that is Christ’s mission of evangelism? The congregation answers without the benefit of a handout.)

This nine-second video could be shown prior to the reading or quiz.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=32PEbxqplwc

Alternatively, the Mission Initiatives created for the worship center could specifically be pointed out to the congregation.

Leader: Christ’s mission of evangelism
Congregation: Invite People to Christ
Leader: Christ’s mission of compassion
Congregation: Abolish Poverty, End Suffering
Leader: Christ’s mission of justice and peace
Congregation: Pursue Peace on Earth
Leader: Equip individuals for Christ’s mission
Congregation: Develop Disciples to Serve
Leader: Equip congregations for Christ’s mission
Congregation: Experience Congregations in Mission

LOOK TO THE SACRAMENTS

Sacraments have always had an important place in the practices of the Community of Christ. They are acts of the assembled body that symbolize God’s presence with the church and with each disciple. They are not separate from what the church is and what it does. Rather they are at the core of its ministries.

—The Sacraments: Symbol, Meaning & Discipleship, page 11
Invite the congregation to join in the following reading by printing the words on a handout or displaying them on a screen; or you might choose to make it a quiz with the leader asking the questions. (What is a personal expression of faith in Jesus Christ that expresses our commitment to lifelong discipleship by full immersion? The congregation answers without the benefit of a handout.

Leader: A personal expression of faith in Jesus Christ expressing our commitment to lifelong discipleship by full immersion.

**Congregation: Baptism**

Leader: Those baptized of water in an attitude of humility and repentance and as an expression of faith in Jesus Christ may become Community of Christ members through a prayer of...

**Congregation: Confirmation**

Leader: Two ministers lay their hands on a child and offer a prayer asking God to bless the child and the family.

**Congregation: Blessing of Children**

Leader: An opportunity for all who believe in Jesus to reflect on his life, teachings, death, and resurrection and to recommit to following him.

**Congregation: The Lord’s Supper (Communion)**

Leader: A special prayer of blessing for any person who is sick or faces spiritual or emotional challenges.

**Congregation: Laying on of Hands for the Sick**

Leader: Celebrating a couple’s sacred covenant to lifelong commitment in the presence of God and with the church as witness.

**Congregation: Marriage**

Leader: All are called to live out Christ’s mission, but some people are called and ordained to provide ministry and share the good news of Jesus Christ in particular ways. Priesthood members lay hands on the person’s head and offer a prayer asking for God’s blessing through the ministry of the candidate.

**Congregation: Ordination**

Leader: A special prayer of blessing providing words of thanksgiving, assurance, and counsel. Individuals are encouraged to reread the prayer throughout their lives or guidance and assurance.

**Congregation: Evangelist Blessing**

**Hymn of Calling**

“*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*”  
(Soloist could sing the stanzas and the congregation could sing the refrain.)  
CCS 640

OR “God Is Calling”  
CCS 172

OR “At the Heart of Sacred Calling”  
CCS 509
Message
Based on 1 Samuel 3:1–10

- What awakening is God calling you to this week?
- How could you experience the blessing of slowing down and allowing time of rest?
- What are you sensing is the new thing preparing to emerge as you encounter opportunities for mission?
- How could you identify the people in your life who could aid you in understanding God’s call?
- What does it mean to be called by God?
- Where and when is God speaking in the midst of your religious celebrations, your congregational worship activities, and your spiritual awakening? Do you miss hearing God during these times? How can you become better at listening?

Disciples’ Generous Response

All: We say thank you, O God.
Reader 1: For warm houses in cold weather,
Reader 2: for hospitals that take gentle care of sick people,
Reader 3: for good schools where teachers work hard to help us learn.

All: We say thank you, O God.
Reader 1: For friends to play with, parks, pictures,
Reader 2: and a church that loves each one of us.

All: We say thank you, O God.
Reader 3: For bibles, abilities, hymns, and books.

All: We say thank you, O God.
Reader 1: For the freedom of religion and the people who make our reunions such special places to worship.

All: We say thank you, O God.
Reader 2: For all that you have created,

All: We say thank you, O God.
Reader 3: because we can be here together

All: We say thank you, O God. Amen.

Blessing and Receiving of Gifts
**Hymn of Sending Forth**

“Now Go in Joy” CCS 659
OR “Bwana Awabariki/May God Grant You a Blessing” CCS 660
OR “With a Steadfast Faith” CCS 649

**SANCTUARY OF CHRIST’S PEACE**

**Sending Forth**

I am sending you from this service today with an assignment. You may choose one of these five activities or several of them. Each will help to enhance your own spiritual awakening this week. You might only find one time for this assignment or you may be able to do something every day. You may choose to share the benefits of your assignment with others as you chat during meals, or you may choose to keep it to yourself. Whichever “assignment” you choose, be present in those moments. Listen in the silence. Pause and contemplate.

1. **Meditate**—explore our beautiful reunion campgrounds and choose a quiet place where you won’t be disturbed. Relax, put away any agendas and reflect on anything for which you need guidance.

2. **Listen to Music**—choose a place and select music that is relaxing for you. Quiet your mind and listen for the Spirit’s nudging as you listen to the melody, the harmony, the composition.

3. **Exercise**—Practice yoga, stretch, walk, or dance through the campgrounds. Find a physical way to release your stress. Feel the connection to the Spirit both during and afterward.

4. **Write**—Put your thoughts of what the Spirit is saying to you down on paper. Share your thoughts with others at a later time or write only for yourself.

5. **Love**—Share a random act of kindness; smile at someone you haven’t yet met; find a way to help someone this week; express to someone how much you appreciate their ministry this week. Be present in that brief moment of connectedness.

Beloved children of the Restoration, your continuing faith adventure with God has been divinely-led, eventful, challenging, and sometimes surprising to you. By the grace of God, you are poised to fulfill God’s ultimate vision for the church.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9a

**Closing Mission Prayer**

*God, where will your Spirit lead today?*
*Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.*
*Grant me courage to risk something new*
*And become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen.*
Fully Awake and Ready to Respond

Awaken to Spiritual Transformation

Colossians 3:12–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:28; Doctrine and Covenants 161:3d; 164:9b; 163:8a, c; 164:5; Luke 7:44–47

Welcome

Praise Hymns (Choose 2 or 3)

“Praise the Lord Together Singing” (Repeat or sing as a round) CCS 642

“Now Sing to Our God” CCS 108

“I Will Sing, I Will Sing” CCS 112

“Jesu, Tawa Pano/Jesus, We Are Here” CCS 71

Call to Worship

Leader: As God’s chosen ones, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Congregation: May Christ be in us!

Leader: Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other.

Congregation: May Christ be in us!

Leader: Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Congregation: May Christ be in us!

Leader: And let the peace of Christ rule in you; let the word of Christ dwell in you; sing hymns to God with gratitude;

Congregation: May Christ be in us!
Leader: And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

All: Amen.

—Adapted from Colossians 3:12–17

Open Hymn
“"I Will Talk to My Heart” CCS 168
OR “Open My Heart” CCS 171

Invocation
Response

Prayer for Peace
We seek God’s healing peace for the people of the South American continent. May our prayers for peace inspire us to take actions, which promote the health and well-being of all God’s children.

Light the peace candle during Ministry of Music.

Ministry of Music
“God Weeps” CCS 212
(Congregation sings or reads the words)

Prayer
Dear God of the entire universe,
How wide is your watching!
How intimate is your concern for us.
Please attend to the secret prayers and longing of each one present here today.
Despite our weakness, amid our humanness, and even from our earth-bound thoughts, you step in and bring the impossible miraculously to fruition!

Thank you for the blessings that, when we stop to look around us and within us, these blessings are so present and near.
Blessings of hope, ministries of love, moments of unspeakable joy, and a sense of peace infuse us with light because the Name of wholeness is Jesus.

Help us feel and understand this Immanuel, God with us.
God with us!
Thank you dear Almighty One that you constantly invite us, invite even us, to the wonders of the manger and the waters of baptism.
Renewal, growth, and transformation is ours to be, because YOU ARE.
Amen.

—Jewell Bolton
Focus Moment

Scripture Reading

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

—Romans 8:28

Read and discuss one of the following books:


Main Ideas: When transformed, we often give without thought of self; each time we give away a piece of ourselves, we are transformed anew. Paul writes that everyone can be made a new creation in Christ. The tree graciously and freely gives of herself literally to the point of becoming nothing more than a stump in the ground.


Main Ideas: Each day a square is changed, its “perfectness” is disrupted, and then it transforms itself into something unexpected. The square's experience of change and adaptation can help listeners consider how they respond to changes in their lives.

Questions for either book:

1. Have you ever felt like the square or the tree when something happened to change your situation or alter your life over which you had no control?
2. Does the change make a difference if you feel God had a part in the change?
3. How did you respond to the change? How did the square and the tree respond to change?
4. Is change always good?

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

—2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer

May all our hearts be receptive to the transformation that results from knowing the love of God. And may we become evermore visible in the world as we learn how to wear the love that we have inherited. Amen.

Words of Transformation

Leader reads the scripture from the front of the sanctuary. The four readers each pause for 20 seconds before standing and reading their words from various places around the room. Make allowances for their voices to be heard. The leader pauses for 30–60 seconds to allow time for reflection before reading the next scripture. Describe these steps to the congregation before beginning.

Leader: Understand that the road to transformation travels both inward and outward. The road to transformation is the path of the disciple.
(Doctrine and Covenants 161:3d).
Reader 1: I have come to understand that all of Creation is spiritual, even the resurrection, for it points to a spiritual transformation. The circle becomes complete when we return to the beginning of life through our death, which brings us back to the Creator. A new person has emerged; the true self has made the circle. (John Etcheson, “My Transformation in Christ,” www.CofChrist.org/evangelist#!/1686/my-transformation-in-christ)

Leader: 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 wholehearted response to the call to make and steadfastly hold to God’s covenant of peace in Jesus Christ. (Doctrine and Covenants 164:9b)

Reader 2: The story of God’s transforming work in the world did not end with the testimony of the biblical writers. It continued in the life and witness of the whole Christian church, as well as in other places. The sacred story is the all-encompassing saga of God’s redeeming action in the world. (Sharing in Community of Christ, page 10, or www.CofChrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/Sharing-in-Community-of-Christ-3rd-edition.pdf)

Leader: Transformative encounters with the Eternal Creator and Reconciler await those who follow its [the Temple’s] spiritual pathways of healing, reconciliation, peace, strengthening of faith, and knowledge. (Doctrine and Covenants 163:8a)


Leader: It is imperative to understand that when you are truly baptized into Christ you become part of a new creation. By taking on the life and mind of Christ, you increasingly view yourselves and others from a changed perspective. (Doctrine and Covenants 164: 5)


Congregational Response

“Spirit of the Living God” CCS 567
OR “Into My Heart” CCS 573
(sing 2 or 3 times)

Sermon

Based on Luke 7: 44–47
1. Discuss the evidence of transformation by the woman in the scripture.
2. Was there any evidence of transformation by Simon?
3. Why did the woman feel such freedom to express her love and gratitude for Christ?
4. How does transformation enable, empower, or compel you on a journey of spiritual awakening to live fully into Christ’s mission?

**Disciples’ Generous Response**

*Read “Sometimes We Wait, Expecting God” CCS 304*

**Blessing and Receiving of Offerings**

**Closing Hymn**

“Friend of the Streetwalker” CCS 289
OR “At the Heart of Sacred Calling” CCS 509
OR “Draw the Circle Wide” CCS 273

**Closing Mission Prayer**

*God, where will your Spirit lead today?*
*Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.*
*Grant me courage to risk something new*
*And become a blessing of your love and peace.*
*Amen.*

**Response**
Acts 1:8; Luke 24:47–49;
Doctrine and Covenants 38:7b–c; 92:2a–b; 163:8b–c; 165 1b–c

PREPARATION

*If the hymns chosen will not be familiar to most in attendance, practice them prior to the Gathering Hymn or ask a small group or soloist to provide ministry of music using those hymns.*

Gathering Hymn

“All Are Welcome”   CCS 276
OR “Gather Your Children”   CCS 77

Welcome and Call to Worship

*Use this as an enthusiastic, “eyes wide open” prayer.*

Leader: The Mission Prayer calls us to be fully awake and ready to respond.

God, where will your Spirit lead today?

Congregation: **Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.**

Leader: Grant us the courage to risk something new.

Congregation: **And become a blessing of your love and peace.**

All:  **Amen.**

Opening Hymn of Praise

“All Teach Me, God, to Wonder”   CCS 176
OR “We Are the Singers Who Celebrate Jesus”

(Teach this hymn prior to the service if it is not well-known. Alternatively, ask a singer and guitarist to share this as Ministry of Music.)

Invocation

Focus Moment

Preparation: Use four readers dressed in period clothing

New Testament Reader #1: ...repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:47–49).

New Testament Reader #2: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Congregational Hymn or Solo:

“When Holy Ghost Shall Come in Power”

1830s Reader #3: Wherefore, for this cause I gave unto you the commandment, that you should go to the Ohio; and there I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high, and from thence, whatsoever I will, shall go forth among all nations, and it shall be told them what they shall do (Doctrine and Covenants 38:7b–c).

Present day Reader #4: 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. Lovingly invite others to experience the good news of new life in community with Christ. Opportunities abound in your daily lives if you choose to see them (Doctrine and Covenants 165 1b–c).

Congregational Hymn or Solo:

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

Prayer for Peace

May God’s spirit of peace unite us in our worship and sustain us as we pray for just and lasting peace for the people of the continent of Australia this day.

Light the Peace candle.

Prayer:

O Prince of Peace. You have called us to pursue peace and establish the cause of Zion. We understand this as the call to share your peace in all of its personal, interpersonal, community and worldwide dimensions. Help us invite others into our quest for justice and equality. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.

—Anthony J. Chvala-Smith, Understanding the Way, page 67, adapted
Peace Response

“One Common Prayer”  CCS 313
OR “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”  CCS 196
OR “Let There Be Peace on Earth”  CCS 307

Sermon

Based on Acts 1:8; Luke 24:47–49; Doctrine and Covenants 38:7b–c; 92:2a–b; 163:8b–c

• Explore the relationship between Spirit, mission, and invitation.
• Discuss Community of Christ’s long history of being led (and pushed) by the Spirit into mission.
• Share examples of a people not just remembering the sacred story but living it again.
• Examine restoration as a healing agent.

Ministry of Music

Play the video, “There’s an Old, Old Path” sung by Andy Fernuik at 2016 World Conference. [Website link]

Alternatively, sing as congregational hymn, CCS 245

Prayer of Confession and Commitment

Print or project these words or have them read aloud twice with a pause between the two readings. Allow time for the members of the congregation to reflect individually on this prayer and question.

We confess, Lord, that too often we hesitate to go into the world and share the invitation to your grace. Our fears and distractions keep us from moving forward in your name. Today we want to respond and generously invite people to Christ. Give us courage and boldness to meet this commitment. Amen.

Whom will you invite to Christ?

Hymn of Confession and Commitment

“Let Our Earth Be Peaceful”  CCS 371
OR “Go, Make of All Disciples”  CCS 363

Disciples’ Generous Response

We are called to pursue our mission to “proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace” through five life-changing, church-changing, and world-changing Mission Initiatives. Because we have been so greatly blessed by God’s generous grace, we can’t help but generously share our witness, resources, ministries,
and sacraments in return. Through the Mission Initiative, Experience Congregations in Mission, we are called to become congregations that are true and living expressions of Jesus Christ in world.


OR invite someone to share a testimony about following Christ’s mission.

Following the testimony:
Right now we have the opportunity to share joyfully all that we are and have to support Christ’s mission of evangelism, compassionate ministries, and the pursuit of justice and peace. Our giving is a response to God’s grace in our lives. Each time we give, lives are changed and Christ’s mission moves forward.

**Blessing and Receiving of Offerings**

**Hymn of Sending Forth**

“God of the Future”  
OR “Sing a New World into Being”  
OR “The Summons”  
OR “Come and Bring Light”

—**Doctrine and Covenants 161:7**

**Benediction**

**Sending Forth**

The Spirit of the One you follow is the spirit of love and peace. That Spirit seeks to abide in the hearts of those who would embrace its call and live its message. The path will not always be easy, the choices will not always be clear, but the cause is sure and the Spirit will bear witness to the truth, and those who live the truth will know the hope and the joy of discipleship in the community of Christ. Amen.
Gathered with the circle of the faithful:

Congregation: those who have long been on their way to spiritual awakening and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.

Leader: We gather, praising God and sharing thanks for all who have shaped our faith:

Congregation: those who taught us the dance steps of love and peace, and those who showed us how to play the instruments of joy.

Leader: The God who is greater than we will ever comprehend,
Congregation: becomes one of us, and is humbled.
Leader:  Echo the words of Jesus:
Congregation: I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

What a Wonderful World


This book illustrates beauty and harmony in the world with a celebration of brightness, wonder, and hope to be shared by all. Discuss how the sacraments of the church are often celebrations of hope and joy.

Provide the children, or all who wish to participate, paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Ask them to create their own illustrations of God’s wonderful world of blessings, joy, hope, happiness, and celebration. Tell them that they will be asked to bring their creations to the front during the Disciples’ Generous Response.

Sacraments Reading adapted from Doctrine and Covenants 158:11c
Use two readers or more.

Reader 1: Our body is worn and weary. We have made so many changes in such a short time. We feel your presence but long for you to heal us.

Reader 2: Look especially to the sacraments to enrich the spiritual life of the body. Seek for greater understanding of my purposes in these sacred rites and prepare to receive a renewed confirmation of the presence of my Spirit in your experiences of worship.

Reader 1: Our body is sad and grieving. We reach times of shortfall so frequently and lose the full ministry of those who have devoted themselves to the church. We wonder what comes next.

Reader 2: Look especially to the sacraments to enrich the spiritual life of the body. Seek for greater understanding of my purposes in these sacred rites and prepare to receive a renewed confirmation of the presence of my Spirit in your experiences of worship.

Reader 1: Our body is confused and unsure. We do not know how to relate to the culture around us and the needs that cry to us from every direction. We do not know where to start.

Reader 2: Look especially to the sacraments to enrich the spiritual life of the body. Seek for greater understanding of my purposes in these sacred rites and prepare to receive a renewed confirmation of the presence of my Spirit in your experiences of worship.

Hymn of Commitment

“I Know Not What the Future Hath”  CCS 246
OR “At the Heart of Sacred Calling”  CCS 509
OR “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”  CCS 640
An alternative would be to ask a soloist to sing the stanzas and the congregation the refrain.

Invocation

Response

Focus Moment

Project or display printed images of Community of Christ’s eight sacraments. Display each for at least 20 seconds, while instrumental music is played. During this display of the eight images, share the following in a deliberate way, aligning the statements with the slides.

Sacrament. To make sacred. To draw heaven and creation close and uplift our everyday lives.

A sacrament is a symbol and a sign. A symbol of God’s covenant love with us, with a sign of water, touch, wine, or bread.

A sacrament takes the stuff of everyday life and makes it vibrate with unseen harmonies.

A sacrament reminds us of who God is, of what God desires, of what we are made for.

Sacraments challenge us to be our better selves. To share the goodness we have experienced from God and community with others.

Sacraments challenge us to recognize our limits in the face of the divine. To see ourselves as vessels, not the source.

Sacraments take our hopes and fears and melt them down into a greater vision of wholeness and possibility—God’s shalom.

Sacraments leave us bigger than they found us. Let us give thanks for these great gifts.

Confession

Too often we have gone it alone, dear God. Too often we have trusted our own strength. Too often we have hidden our vulnerabilities and suffering. We confess our selfishness and pride and turn toward you.

Hymn of Confession and Forgiveness

“Lord, Lead Me by Your Spirit” CCS 209

OR “O My Soul, Bless Your Creator” CCS 220

OR “Ososŏ/Come Now, O Prince of Peace” CCS 225
Prayer for Peace

*Light the peace candle.*

Along with sisters and brothers around the world, we lift up the people of Africa today. May their movements toward interdependence and peace be blessed richly by God’s healing and creative presence.

Spirit of Life,

We pray for peace in our homes, our communities, countries, and leaders worldwide. We pray in our hearts that you will use us here today as instruments of your peace. We seek your guidance and loving inspiration in our quest for worldwide peace. May we as God’s disciples become those makers, lovers, and keepers of this peace. Amen.

—Cheryl Feist

Ministry of Music

“God Is Here!” CCS 70
OR “Come and Find the Quiet Center” CCS 151
OR “In My Life, Lord” CCS 602

Message


• How are the sacraments related to spiritual awakening?
• How are reconciliation and community-building deepened through the sacraments?
• What is the relationship between the sacraments and mission?

Alternatively, select three members to offer testimonies, each of them about a time when they were touched by the Holy Spirit through participation in a sacrament. If possible, have each testimony center around a different sacrament. Seek out those of different ages.

Alternatively, if there is a baptism or confirmation planned for the week, offer a charge to the candidate(s) and perform the sacrament at this time.

Alternatively, if your community is in need of refreshment and consolation, offer a time of administration where more than one station is available for people to receive the laying on of hands from the elders.

Disciples’ Generous Response

*Ask a younger person to read the following statement:*

We give thanks for God’s blessings of peace and encouragement in this sacred space. In this time when we offer our financial gifts, let us offer our hearts to God as well, to be sacred tabernacles in this world in which God may dwell and bless others. Let us make this vow through our prayer of blessing on the gifts.
Ask those who created pictures of joy, hope, and happiness to bring them forward to be displayed. Ask three or four to describe God’s wonderful world of joy and blessings in their drawing.

**Blessing and Receiving of offering**

**Closing Hymn**

“God Who Cares for All Creation”  
OR “God of Grace and God of Laughter”  
OR “The Peace of the Earth/La paz de la tierra”  

**Benediction**

**Response**
Fully Awake and Ready to Respond

Awaken to Living Sanctuary

Doctrine and Covenants 162:1a–b; 163:8a–c; Genesis 28:10–22; Acts 9:1–19

PREPARATION

Gather a chime or singing bowl to be used in the Call to Worship. Create a spiral or pathway for the meditation walk at the end of the service. Make the aisles at least two feet wide on the floor in the worship space with images from the Temple’s Worshiper’s Path projected or displayed on eight stations or tables evenly spaced along the pathway. Each station should have a tangible expression representing the images:

- The Sacred Grove (see www.pinterest.com/pin/242490761156149282/ for grove ideas made with lunch sacks)
- The Burning Bush (a candle—perhaps an electric candle for safety reasons)
- The Prodigal (scratchy cloth, snack food representing the feast, which could be given to the children—or to everyone—as they stop at this station)
- The Cross (small wooden crosses)
- Tree of Life (tree branches)
- Ikebana (flower arrangement)
- Dark Night of the Soul (bowl of black rocks)
- Living Water (bowl of water)

Make enough copies of the Meditation Walk handouts (pages 35–36) for each person.

Plan for a practice time for those participating in the Focus Moment: Visual Testimony of Awakening.
Gathering Hymn

“This Is God’s Wondrous World”  CCS 136
OR “Seek Ye First”  CCS 599
(Encourage singing different languages.)
OR “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”  CCS 139

Welcome and Call to Worship

Readers ring chime or bell as marked.

Reader 1: Chime  Listen, O people of the Restoration—you who would become a prophetic people, embodying in your life together the ministries of the Temple.

Reader 2: Chime  Listen to the Voice that speaks from beyond the farthest hills, from the infinite heavens above, and the vast seas below.

Reader 1: Chime  Listen to the Voice that echoes across the eons of time and yet speaks anew in this moment.

Reader 2: Chime  Listen to the Voice, for it cannot be stilled, and it calls you once again to the great and marvelous work of building the peaceable kingdom, even Zion, on behalf of the One whose name you claim.

Together: Chime  Listen.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:1a–b

Hymn of Rejoicing

“Kum ba yah, Seigneur”  CCS 75
OR “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  CCS 87
OR “Listen for the Call of God”  CCS 343

Opening Prayer

“Each a Living Sanctuary”

Whirling, swirling skyward
–here, in this sacred space we sense your Spirit, God,
–not because the other places where we walk, talk, and live out our daily lives are less sacred.
Every sanctuary large or small, humble or ornate
–every living room, field, forest, mountain stream dedicated to your praise and peace awakens us to your presence.
We come expectant.
We come in search of you, of ourselves,
of those we know and do not know
who need to be blessed and to be your blessing.
How many feet have journeyed
this Worshiper’s Path, God?
How many faces, races, friends, families, strangers?
Heads bowed in silence.
Hearts filled with hope and anticipation.
Upward. Inward. Slowly, reflectively,
  winding their way into spiraling space.
Bringing you here, meeting you here
  –taking you with them, God.
Opening themselves, once again,
  to your ever-abiding presence at all corners of life.
And somehow awakening to the wonder that they, too
are your temple
  –each a living, loving sanctuary of peace,
  reconciliation, and healing of the Spirit.
May this shining symbol escape its footings and foundation.
May it wander far and wide in crepe soles,
  sandals, high-heels, bare-feet, and sneakers
  –its walls wrapped in suits, saris,
  shirts and sundresses.
Let its face be a rainbow of cultures,
  young and old, weak and strong
  –each a living sanctuary of Christ’s peace.
And may those who never enter its doors, become its doors
  welcoming all they meet with the
  gift of grace and holy acceptance.
In Jesus name, Amen.

—Danny Belrose

**Response**

“In My Life, Lord”  
CCS 602

OR instrumental response

**Focus Moment**

Visual Testimony of Awakening
Soloist or ensemble sings from back or side of sanctuary “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” CCS 415 OR “We Are One in the Spirit” CCS 359. A person rests on the ground where they can be seen by most of the people, propped up on an arm in the center of the spiral or pathway. After each of the first three (or four verses) a person walks up and joins the person in the center in an attempt to awaken or lift him or her up, then stands just behind after one attempt (the accompanist gives an extra two bars between verses to accommodate this motion). On the next to the last verse, the person rises to kneeling, then stands on the last verse, and joins hands in the center of a line of the friends facing the congregation. If they are singers, those who are holding hands can join in on the last verse or the congregation could join in singing the last verse.

Prayer for Peace

Light the peace candle.

On this day, along with sisters and brothers around the world, we hold the people of Europe in our hearts. We pray that their love of life and culture will overflow into love of each one they encounter, no matter how different they may be.

Spirit of Peace,

We have gathered before you now, in prayer, to ask your blessing of peace upon us as individuals, as a congregation of saints, and as a body of Christ. We are aware of many international, as well as local problems that need our help and dedication. Help provide us with the strength and love to be effective peace-makers in our community and world. Provide us with the concern and concentration to bring your kingdom to those corners of the Earth needing it most.

We know, Lord, that the way to peace is through your glory, and we pray that with your loving Spirit, together we can make this world a better place. We ask that your loving arms surround us as we leave this sanctuary, so we may become beacons of light to the world, and that it may be made safe for your kingdom of everlasting love. Let all our talents and energy go toward the making of your kingdom on Earth.

In Your most holy name we pray, amen. —Cara Tubbesing Borkowski

Hymn of Confession

“Can Steel and Stone and Swirling Spire” CCS 281
OR “What Wondrous Love Is This” CCS 454
OR “When the Poor Ones/Cuando el pobre” CCS 290 or CCS 291

Disciples’ Generous Response

We offer our gifts. Our lives are enriched by countless blessings. In this moment we are breathing, blood is rushing through our veins supporting our organs and our intellects, we are surrounded by people of good will in a place that is meaningful to us, and we
have the love of God calling us into deeper communion. We cannot count the gifts we have received. What we can do is to respond quickly and graciously to this love of God that shapes our lives and give our monetary gifts to support sacred spaces such as this. We can send mission funds into the field to further God’s call to true shalom.

**Hymn of Preparation**

“O God We Call”  
OR “Listen in the Silence”  
OR “Alleluia”

**Message and Invitation to Meditation Walk**

We pray to see life as it is, to understand it and to make it better than it was. We pray so that reality can break into our souls and give us back our awareness of the Divine Presence in life.

—Joan Chittister

- Share a story that models awakening to the harmony that is already around you—a sacred awakening.
- Choose a scripture passage such as Genesis 28:10–22 or Acts 9:1–19.
- Choose an account such as Joseph Smith Jr. in the grove.
- Share your personal experience—in a holy space like the Temple or in everyday life.
- At the end of your message, invite each person to make the journey on the meditation walk that awakens us to Living Sanctuary. Encourage them to touch and feel and share the items at each station. Make sure each person has a copy of the Meditation Walk on pages 35–36.

*People should move to the station closest to them as there is no beginning or ending station. Each station should have copies of the Meditation Walk. Invite people to walk past one another in either direction and to make way for one another in harmony, moving inward and outward.*

*This element will be the longest of the service, and will depend on the size of the spiral or pathway and the size of the assembly. When participants have been to each station, they are to return to their seats and meditate over the last reading.*

**Music for the Journey**

As the message ends, have a soloist sing one or more of the following hymns. Then continue with instrumental music until all have finished walking.

— The Path for Our Walking”  
OR “I Sought the Lord”  
OR “Come and Find the Quiet Center”  
*(These words could also be sung to the tune, Beach Spring used for CCS 46)*
Sending Forth

The Temple’s symbolism and ministries call people to reverence in the presence of the Divine Being. Transformative encounters with the Eternal Creator and Reconciler await those who follow its spiritual pathways of healing, reconciliation, peace, strengthening of faith, and knowledge. Vital to this awakening is the understanding that 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 163:8a, c, adapted

Closing Hymn

“Amen, Siakudumisa!/Amen, Sing Praises to the Lord!”
(Sing in several languages.)

OR “God of Grace and God of Laughter”

OR “Living Stones”

Benediction

Response
MEDITATION WALK

_Slowly, quietly, and prayerfully, journey along the stations pausing to reflect on the significance of the messages you have understood this week._

**The Sacred Grove**

Pause in the silence. Listen to the Voice that speaks from beyond the farthest hills. Sanctuary—a place set aside as sacred and holy, especially a place of worship. What can you do to further prepare your life to be a sacred and holy place of worship as you journey through your daily activities?

**The Burning Bush**

Take a deep breath and let it out.
Breathe in and repeat these words: _We sense your Spirit, God._
Breathe out: _This is our sanctuary._
Breathe in: _Dedicated to You._
Breathe out: _Awakening us to your presence._

**The Prodigal**

Place yourself fully within the story of the Prodigal Son. Become an onlooker, a participant in the narrative. See the younger son return home to his family. Feel the itchy clothing he wore, the sweat rolling down his brow, the rumble of his hunger. Imagine his feelings when he was away from his family. He came back expectant. Love and acceptance are communicated in many different ways.

Reflect for a few minutes on how God’s grace has been extended to you.

Offer a prayer to be fully awake and ready to respond.

**The Cross**

We are poised to be Christ’s hands and feet, reaching out through compassionate ministries that serve those in need and stop conditions that diminish the worth of persons. Reflect on how we can fulfill God’s ultimate vision and advocate for systemic change.

_God, where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen._
**Tree of Life**

As you observe the extension of the tree branches, contemplate the extension of God’s love to all.

O God, the source of our common life, we long for connection. Breathe on us Breath of God.

With those we live beside whom we have failed to approach, we long for connection. Breathe on us Breath of God.

With those we have only heard of, whose struggles we try to imagine; we long for connection. Breathe on us Breath of God.

With those whose lives are linked with ours, whose common air we breathe, we long for connection. Breathe on us Breath of God.

—Janet Morley (adapted)

**Ikebana**

Observe the levels of flowers creating a feeling of heaven, humanity, and earth in harmony. Every sanctuary, every field, forest, and mountain stream awakens us to God’s presence. Pause to contemplate how your spirit has been awakened this week. How have you experienced thinking and acting in the present moment?

**Dark Night of the Soul**

Listen to the Voice, that sometimes difficult invasion of God’s grace that opens us to new realms of spiritual experience. Ask yourself the deeper questions about what God might be up to in your life. What can you learn through being more present in this moment?

**The Living Water**

Awaken to the wonder of faces, races, friends, families, and strangers. Each is a living sanctuary.

In his book *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*, Henri J. M. Nouwen writes, “Prayer requires that we stand in God’s presence with open hands, naked and vulnerable, proclaiming to ourselves and to others that without God we can do nothing.”

Touch the water and offer a silent prayer.
RESPOND!
Closing Commitment Service

Gathering Music
Choose two or three hymns. Sing each one several times.

“Amen, Siakudumisa!/Amen, Sing Praises to the Lord!” (Sing in several languages) CCS 109

“Yo quiero ser/I Want to Be” (Sing in several languages) CCS 498

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” CCS 86

“As We Gather” CCS 73

Welcome and Invitation to Worship
Choose one of the scriptures listed above, followed by reading Stanza 2 of “Breath of the Living God/Soplo del Dios viviente” CCS 43.


Grant me the courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace.

PREPARATION
Gather the yarn pieces from the opening worship and divide them into pieces so that every person will have a piece of yarn with a knot. Distribute the yarn as people are gathering for worship.

Doctrines and Covenants 158:11c; 165:1a–e; 162:1a–b; 163:8a–c; Genesis 28:10–22; Acts 9:1–19; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17, 31

Respond!

Grant me the courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace.
OR if audio-visual projection is not available, use “Wind upon the Waters” CCS 49, or “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” CCS 50 or “God of Still Waiting” CCS 58 as a reading or a congregational hymn.

**Hymn**

“Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning”  
OR Use one of the hymns not used above

**Congregation Responsive Prayer**

Leader: O God, thank you for the blessings received at this reunion...

Side 1: for friendships new and renewed.  
Side 2: for the beauty of God’s sacred creation.  
Side 1: for new understanding of our call to respond to Christ’s mission.  
Side 2: for the presence of the Holy Spirit in all of our activities.  
ALL: Thank you, God, for your love. Amen!

**Disciples’ Generous Response**

Provide a statement on the reunion budget status.

**Blessing and Receiving of Offering**

**Hymn of Grace**

“With Gift That Differ by Your Grace”  
OR “Of All the Spirit’s Gifts to Me”  
OR “God, Whose Grace Redeems Our Story”  

**Presider or Director’s Closing Statement**

Make a short statement about the pieces of yarn, which represent the unity and connectedness of this reunion experience and the network of disciples we have lived with in harmony. The knot is a reminder of being in sacred community after we separate. We are joined together in Christ’s mission even in those times we feel alone in our ministry. Having received such blessings, how will you risk something new and become a blessing of God’s love and peace?

**Testimonies and Sharing**

Lead with brief thoughts from the guest minister, reunion director, or presider. Then ask others to share a brief testimony or statement from their reunion experience. Be sure children and youth have an opportunity to share.
How have you been awakened to...

- God’s Invitation
- Spiritual Transformation
- Unfolding Mission
- Sacramental Living
- Living Sanctuary

**Peace Hymn**

“Prayer of Peace”  
*CCS 164*

*Stanza 1—solo; Stanza 2—women; Stanza 3—men; Stanzas 5 and 6—all*

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

*Scripture Reading:* 1 Corinthians 10:16–17, 31

**Statement of Invitation to the Table**

**Hymn of Preparation**

“Come, Know My Joy, the Maker Says”  
*CCS 518*

OR “God Extends an Invitation/Nuestro Padre nos invita”  
*CCS 520*

OR “I Come with Joy, a Child of God”  
*CCS 533*

**Blessing and Serving of Bread and Wine**

**Ministry of Music**

*(Soloist or group sings during the serving)*

“Is There One Who Feels Unworthy?”  
*CCS 526*

**Prayer of Blessing for Mission**

*Ask an evangelist to give this blessing of our time together. Reference could be made to the yarn activity, reminding those gathered that as we engage in mission, we carry with us the spirit of our time together. Our experiences in spiritual awakening will hold us as we leave this space enhanced in our sacramental living. Each of us will go, but we are not alone in our mission. We are knotted (joined) together, like our yarn, in the mission of Jesus Christ.*

**Closing Hymn**

“Go Forth”  
*CCS 654*

OR “Send Me Forth”  
*CCS 651*

OR “Community of Christ”  
*CCS 354*

**Congregational Response**

“God, Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen!”
SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Images mentioned in the worship service on previous pages can be found at the following dropbox link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ds07wwzyxomoc/AABG0uVKAtPGYZtZoG-rmqcPa?dl=0

MISSION INITIATIVES ICONS

SACRAMENTS IMAGES

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- The Lord’s Supper (Communion)
- Blessing of Children
- Marriage
- Ordination
- Laying on of Hands for the Sick
- Evangelist’s Blessing
WORSHIPER’S PATH IMAGES

THE SACRED GROVE

THE PRODIGAL

TREE OF LIFE

DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

THE BURNING BUSH

THE CROSS

IKEBANA

THE LIVING WATER