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CONTENTS

Introduction to Reunion 2019
Following the Spirit…A Deeper Journey........................................................................................... 4

Opening Worship Service – Following the Spirit............................................................................. 6

Worship 1 - Called into the future…Where is the Spirit leading?.................................................. 10
Worship 2 - Embracing new life…What is forming in us? ................................................................. 13
Worship 3 - Companions on a journey…How do we nurture what is emerging? ................. 19
Worship 4 - Growing deeper…How can we free our full capacity?.............................................. 26
Worship 5 - Becoming blessing…What are the next faithful steps? ................................................. 30

APPENDIX

“Where Does Your String Go?” ........................................................................................................... 33
Hand template....................................................................................................................................... 34
INTRODUCTION

The overall theme for Reunion 2019 was developed from the following statement taken from President Steve Veazey’s September 2017 address, “A Time to Act!”

“Our chief purpose is to birth, nurture, and multiply communities of disciples and seekers engaged in spiritual formation and compassionate ministry and action.”

From that statement, the theme for Reunion 2019 worships, “Following the Spirit,” was developed along with the focus for each individual service.

• Welcome – Following the Spirit
• Worship 1 – “Called into the Future...Where is the Spirit leading?”
• Worship 2 – “Embracing new life...What is forming in us?”
• Worship 3 – “Companions on a journey...How do we nurture what is emerging?”
• Worship 4 – “Growing deeper...How can we free our full capacity?”
• Worship 5 – “Becoming blessing...What are the next faithful steps?”

President Veazey continued in his address, “The word of calling, hope, and possibility is that new ways of understanding, communicating, and living the gospel in response to changing circumstances already are happening in Community of Christ. The church’s future is related directly to our willingness to go where the Spirit is calling us to go.”

As you develop your worship services for Reunion, modify the services that have been provided so they fit your audience. Include the elements of worship that speak to your congregants and rearrange each service as needed. A baptism is included in one service and the Lord’s Supper is part of another one, however, these sacraments can be included in any of the services as they fit your time of gathering.

Each service includes two elements designed specifically for Reunion, “Do It for Peace” and “This Time Next Week – Community Building Activity.” Adapt these activities from the direction given below so that they meet your needs.

DO IT FOR PEACE

In addition to praying for peace during the daily worship services, encourage an active participation idea for everyone to share in during this week of Reunion. Choose one activity for each day and present it to the congregation during a morning or evening worship. Ask them to complete the activity prior to the next worship service. Select one of the presentation ideas below to allow sharing of what was done for peace during the previous 24 hours.

• Meditation – Begin your day with minutes of meditation. Choose to sit in silence or meditate on ways to bring peace to your part of the world. If the beginning of the day doesn’t work for you and you already have hurried mornings, pause somewhere during the day and meditate on peace.
• Design a creative peace sign on a paper plate and carry it with you for the rest of the day. Explain your peace idea to those you come in contact with. (Creating the peace sign could also be completed during a worship service.)
• Sing a peace song such as: “Peace like a River,” “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” or “My Peace” as you move around the reunion grounds. Listen for others singing their peace song and join in.
• Respect Mother Earth – Our earth’s resources are finite, but ideas for caring for these resources are unlimited. Find a project to live more sustainably while at Reunion. Care for the planet with one of the following ideas or come up with your own ideas and share them with others. Turn your computer off every night. Recycle (if your campground doesn’t recycle, set up your own recycling station and take the materials home with you to your local recycling center). Don’t waste napkins (if everyone in the USA used one less napkin a day, it could save a billion pounds of space...
in landfills). Reuse water bottles. Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth. Turn off lights when you are not in the room. Don’t use plastic carrier bags, coffee stirrers, or straws.

- **Acts of Service** – Volunteer to help someone. Do something to brighten another’s day or bring comfort to them. Not only does this help them but it also uplifts your consciousness bringing peace to both of you.

- **Be Happy** – dance while standing in line for lunch, tell a joke to group of people not in your same age group, sing on your way to class. How does that create world peace? Two Harvard researchers suggest that your joy spreads to your friends and then on to their friends helping all three groups move through negative feelings and creating a more peaceful world.

- **Think the best** – Start believing that all people want the best and try to do their best on a daily basis. The child who was noisy while you were trying to sleep last night may be getting a new tooth. The teenager who wouldn’t participate in the campfire may be lonely. The older adult who spoke sharply to you at lunch yesterday may not be feeling well. Find an opportunity to think the best about others.

- **Smile** at everyone you pass by.

**PRESENTATION POSSIBILITIES**

- Set aside a specific amount of time during the worship service to allow people to share what they did for peace since the last worship service.
- Provide a tri-fold display board and markers. As people to briefly write about their action for peace on the display board each day. Position the display board so it can easily be written on and easily be read. Encourage people to stop to read the messages. Larger reunions may need to have a separate display board for each day of reunion.
  - Choose a time and location that best fits your Reunion such as having the display board on a table set up next to the meal lines. People can record their actions and read what others have done while waiting for meals.
  - Set up the display board near the entrance to the location for worship services and ask people to share their actions on the display boards and to read what others have done as they are entering the worship space.

**THIS TIME NEXT WEEK**

**Community Building Activity**

Invite those attending Reunion to send a picture to the Reunion Director ahead of time of what they see when they look out their front or back door or their window at work or their volunteer location or somewhere else they spend a significant amount of time. Use these during the week in the “This Time Next Week” segments of each worship service. Divide the photos by the number of worship services you will have this week. Display an equal number of photos projected on a screen during each worship or print the photographs and display them on poster boards. The pictures can be identified as they are shown, or everyone can guess who sent in each photo, or they can be viewed in silence while all silently offer a prayer for members of their community.

Ask one or two individuals during each worship service to share what they will be doing this time next week. They can include high points and struggles, the ordinary and the extraordinary; their faith journey, their faith practices, their need for support, or their interaction with the community.

An alternate prompt for those sharing during this time of relational growth would be to ask them to share something about themselves that others may not know: “I played the oboe in school,” “I would like to finish my degree in Business.” “Long-distance swimming is my favorite sport.” This Community sharing provides a brief connecting point among those who are attending the Reunion.

Read the scripture John 1:14 during this segment of worship.

The pictures and brief sharing of lives will serve as visual prayers that help us to imagine Jesus moving into our neighborhoods.
INTRODUCTION
This resource can be used as an opening worship service, a welcome to reunion from the reunion director, or a gathering service held the first morning, afternoon, or evening of reunion. Other elements can be added, such as the Lord’s Supper.

This outline can be turned into a longer worship service by incorporating a sermon based on this statement from President Steve Veazey’s September 2017 address, “A Time to Act!”.

“The future church is being formed by a basic concept: Our chief purpose is to birth, nurture, and multiply communities of disciples and seekers engaged in spiritual formation and compassionate ministry and action. This basic blueprint—spiritual formation, community, compassionate ministry and action—is true to the vision of Christ. Everything else, like organizational structure, resources, funding methods, congregational forms, etc., should support this primary purpose."

GATHERING HYMNS
Choose two or three hymns to sing as the congregation gathers.
“Jesu, Tawa Pano/Jesus, We Are Here” CCS 71
OR “As We Gather” CCS 73
OR “Come Away from Rush and Hurry” CCS 83
OR “God of Grace and God of Laughter” CCS 100
OR “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” CCS 105
OR “Sing to the Lord No Threadbare Song” CCS 111

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The Spirit of the One you follow gathers us to worship
People: And builds us up in love and peace.
Leader: The Spirit of the One you follow seeks to abide in the hearts of those who would embrace its call
People: And live its message.
Leader: The Spirit of the One you follow assures us that the path will not always be easy
People: And the choices will not always be clear, but the cause is sure.
Leader: The Spirit of the One you follow will bear witness to the truth
People: And those who live the truth will know the hope and joy of discipleship
All: In the community of Christ.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:7, adapted
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

I invite you to leave the comfort of your seats, turn to your neighbors, shake hands, and share the Peace of Christ. Choose any of these welcoming words such as “Peace be with you,” “God’s peace” or simply, “Peace.” The typical responding words of welcome are “And also with you” or “Peace to you.” Please try to find at least one person you don’t already know and share the Peace of Christ with them as we join together this week in community.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“We Are a Family of Faith”  CCS 350
OR “Community of Christ”  CCS 354
OR “We Need Each Other’s Voice to Sing”  CCS 324

WELCOME

Welcoming remarks given by reunion director or reunion pastor, appreciating all for sharing in the community of reunion, extending love, hope, and friendship. All are welcome and all are loved. Discuss the worship elements for the week including the “Do It for Peace” activities and the “This Time Next Week” activities described in the Introduction.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Light the prayer candle.

Prayer for Peace

Holy One, as we gather together we thank you for this opportunity to be in this space that is so meaningful to us. Help us to reset our agendas as we follow the Spirit into a deeper journey this week.

Guide us as we refocus our hearts and minds. Transform our hearts to see your peace and allow that peace to then rain down on us. Give us peace by making us agents of peace. Guide us as we sow peace throughout our small part of your world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 28:20 and John 16:7

FOCUS MOMENT


Our take on the invisible string is that it stretches from us to God. Help children first imagining a string connecting two people in two different places — and then an invisible string that connects them to God.

We never walk alone because God is always with us. We find throughout the Bible an active, always-present God who genuinely seeks to be in relationship with us. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus promises us that he will be with us until the end of time. Jesus also promises us in John 16:7 that in his absence he
has sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to guide and be with us. It is the Holy Spirit, much like the invisible string, that assures us we are never alone and that we are always connected to the One who loves us. Through the invisible string, the Holy Spirit connects us to God who loves us and is with us always and forever.

Discussion Questions:

*Use some or all of these questions to further discuss the book.*
- Talk about a time you felt alone. Why did you feel alone?
- Do you have an invisible string? Who holds the other end of the string?
- When you felt alone, to whom did you reach out for connectedness?
- How do you believe you would have felt if you had no one to reach out to?
- Does our faith assure us of connectedness? In what ways?
- Given that we are assured of God’s constant presence, how should we respond to anxiety caused by the prospect of being separated from those we love?

Divide into small groups (or each person can complete their own sheet) and give each group one handout, “Where Does Your String Go?” along with markers or crayons. Each group (or individual) creates their own poster showing how their invisible string connects them using words or pictures or an idea they come up with on their own. When posters are completed, share them with the congregation. Invite one person from each group to display the poster and share their discussion. Alternatively, the groups can tour through the congregation observing each poster as they go.

**MESSAGE**
Based on President Veazey’s address, “A Time to Act!”

**PASTORAL PRAYER FOR REUNION**

**HYMN OF SENDING FORTH**

“Siyahamb’ Ekuhanyen’ Kwenkhos’/
We Are Marching in the Light of God” CCS 95
OR “The Trees of the Field” CCS 645
OR “I Wish God’s Love to Be with You” CCS 663
OR “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” CCS 648

**SENDING FORTH**

Poured Into Our Hearts
Like a cup
like a chalice
like a basin
like a bowl

when the Spirit comes
let it find our heart
like this
shaped like something
that knows how to receive
what is given

that knows how to hold
what comes to fill

that knows how to gather itself
around what arrives as
unbidden
unsought
unmeasured
love.

—Jan Richardson, *The Painted Prayerbook*; janrichardson.com
CALLED INTO THE FUTURE
WHERE IS THE SPIRIT LEADING?

WORSHIP 1

JOHN 1:14; 20:19–22, PSALM 118:24, LUKE 10:1-12, DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 162:8C

PRELUDE

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK - COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY

See directions in Introduction.

WELCOME

Project one of these video clips as part of the Welcome.

- I’m From the Future! from Back to the Future. (Wouldn’t it be nice if someone would visit us from the future to let us know how to create the future church in the present?!)  
- Lightening Experiment from Back to the Future (God calls us into the future. Sometimes our best laid plans may not work out! But God walks with us.)  
- The Great Reversal from Leading Congregations in Mission. (Considering membership in the church in a new way.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and moved into the neighborhood.”

—John 1:14, The Message

HYMN

“God of the Future”  
OR “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”  
CCS 360  
CCS 347

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19–22

CENTERING PRAYER

Follow these directions for cultivating new understandings, ways of being, and living Christ’s mission through a centering prayer. This is one way to follow Jesus’s example for taking time for rest and renewal to be with God and to be faithful to God’s purposes. Or, see missionalleaders.org and search for “centering prayer.”

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”  
OR “Come and Find the Quiet Center”  
CCS 190  
CCS 151
FOCUS MOMENT

Share the book, *The Berenstain Bears Love Their Neighbors* (Stan and Jan Berenstain; Zonderkidz: 2009; ISBN-13: 978-0310712497). This book is a clever retelling of the Good Samaritan. If the book is too long for the time allotted, you can summarize the story and show the pictures. After sharing the story, ask for ideas about how participants can help their neighbors (raking leaves, visiting an elderly neighbor, walking a neighbor’s dog).

SPECIAL MUSIC

- Dream Small by Josh Wilson
- “Christ Has Changed the World’s Direction!” CCS 356

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Light the peace candle.

Do It for Peace

Choose an activity from the Introduction to be completed prior to tomorrow’s service.

Prayer for Peace

SHARING OUR STORY

Invite people to turn to a neighbor and answer the question: What have been some of the most life-giving experiences for you in this church? OR - When have you most experienced the presence of God in this church?

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

Psalm 118:24: “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Invite the congregation to spend a few moments taking note of things for which they are grateful today. The leader can suggest: It didn’t rain during pool time; We had delicious lasagna for dinner; The sunset was gorgeous. Remind people that even the smallest moments of life are gifts from God. We need to be actively aware and grateful for the good we are experiencing in the present moment. Everything is a gift!

—Community of Christ Let Gratitude Show You the Way, adapted

How will we respond as we recognize that every small thing is a gift from God?

Blessing and Receiving of Offering

SERMON

Based on Luke 10: 1-12
Jesus instructs his disciples to go out into the neighborhoods and not to wait for people to come to them. They are to meet people where they are. Consider questions such as: How is God calling us into the future? Where is the Spirit already at work? How is God at work in change? Where is the Spirit leading?

**CLOSING HYMN**

“God Is Calling”

OR “Christ Leads!”

**SENDING FORTH**

Continue your journey, O people of the Restoration. You have been blessed thus far but there is so much yet to see, so much yet to do. Go forth with confidence and live prophetically as a people who have been loved, and who now courageously choose to love others in the name of the One you serve. Amen.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:8c

**RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**
EMBRACING NEW LIFE
WHAT IS FORMING IN US?

WORSHIP 2

ROMANS 8:28, 35, 37-8; ACTS 2:46-47, 4:32-37; NUMBERS 6:24; ISAIAH 43:19;
4 NEPHI, DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 164:9D

PREPARATION

- Provide fruits, vegetables, loaves of bread, or flowers for one item per person for the Focus Moment; enough baskets to hold all fruits and vegetables; and a vase with water in it for the flowers.
- Communion emblems prepared
- Small bags for each young child with grapes and gluten-free crackers
- Paper Hands – one cut-out hand and a pencil for each person. The hands may afterwards be formed into the shape of a tree and labeled “OUR GIVING TREE IS GROWING!”

WORSHIP CENTER

Place a variety of empty woven baskets on the worship center table and one vase filled with water in preparation for creating a worship center during the service.

Suggestion for a later meal: Have duplicates of the loaves, fruits, vegetables, and flowers in the kitchen. Suggest to kitchen staff that the fruits could be made into a fruit salad, and the vegetables could be made into a vegetable soup served with loaves of bread sliced and ready to eat. The flowers can form a bouquet on the serving table.

GATHERING

As congregation members enter give each one a separate type of fruit, vegetable, bread loaf or flower and explain that these will be used during the Focus Moment. Invite children and youth to help hand out these items as well as a hand silhouette cutout to each person.

PRELUDE

* Invite a child or youth to sing or play
  * “There’s an Old, Old Path” CCS 244 or 245
  * OR “Speak, O Lord” CCS 66
  * OR “Lord, You Have Brought Us” CCS 76

CALL TO WORSHIP

Scripture Reading

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

—Romans 8:35, 37-38
Reading
God is Becoming in Us

Leader: How can we—one small group
be fully open
for the wonder of a new creation
within our gathering?

Congregation: May we see God creating
a living wholeness
vibrant with joy,
energized with discussions
of hope and new vision.

Leader: May we be open to learning
through disagreements,
open to seeing fresh possibilities.
Let us sense the blessings
that come from birthing new directions.

Congregation: May we move our fears
Into the hard work of building,
letting our hearts move our hands
to embrace diversity and plans that
free our dreams into reality.

OPENING HYMN
“Lord, You Have Brought Us” CCS 76
OR “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” CCS 99

OPENING PRAYER

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK – COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY
See directions in Introduction.

FOCUS MOMENT

Speaking from the altar where a number of empty baskets and a vase of water are placed, share:

“Our baskets are lovely. These baskets are for displaying and holding. At the moment they are empty. Each of us has a gift for this altar. Take a moment and admire your neighbours’ fruit, vegetable, bread loaf or flower.

Separately these items are held in delicious anticipation or maybe even admired from afar. But what happens when we bring our gifts to this altar?

Hold your flower, fruit, or vegetable and consider the following:
What gift of mine does this represent? What part of community—small or large—can I offer? What compassionate action can I offer my community? Will it be something new? Can it help my community move, grow, or emerge into a more Christ-like vision?

Now, please give your fruit, vegetable, loaf, or flower to someone near to you. Exchange your items. Hand your item to them and say, “Here is my gift. It represents a blessing to Christ’s community.”

Ask children and youth to bring the fruits, vegetables, loaves, or flowers to the altar. Ask someone to receive and arrange the gifts in the baskets and vases as the next hymn is sung.

We are blessed to create anew! Feel the anticipation and wonder of creating afresh the vision.

**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

**HYMN**

“Sing of Colors/De colores”

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

**PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*Light the peace candle.*

Do It for Peace

*Choose an activity from the Introduction to be completed prior to tomorrow’s service.*

Have a child sound a chime nine times (3 sets of 3 chimes) calling people to prayer. Ask a youth to light the Peace Candle.

Today’s Remembrance

*Ask two confident, youthful readers for Remembrance and Prayer*

Today we remember all those who are struggling and who find peace seems far off, such as those in war-torn nations, those who are suffering civil wars, those who have recently heard distressing news and, yes, those who are yearning for daily rest in mind and body.

Today’s Prayer for Peace

Slowly, hesitantly the knowledge of the presence in our lives of our Creator begins to dawn. We open the eyes of our soul and see your all-encompassing compassion and healing love. A morning of hope is brightening.
We leave behind our refusals, our grumpiness, our badmouthing of neighbours, our deep festering hurts, our resentments, our failed dreams. We cast these down! We let them go...and feel the tingle in the breath of freedom.

And hark! What is coming? The sight of a Savior. Oh, my God! Our Savior is riding on a donkey with dusty feet. Oh Hosanna, my Lord! You are coming in this time of renewal.

We rise! We come to worship you! Hosanna!

Your face turns to love us. We bow inside our souls as we realize you know us. You understand us as we are. You touch our brokenness and cleanse. We connect with your Spirit.

We move! Love springs forth from our hearts! Kindness is the daily message of our mouths. Faith permeates our souls. We feel the anointing of our heads with the conviction of your amazing, amazing grace. Amen.

COMMUNION THOUGHTS

A talk based on creating community anew.
OR based on birthing or nurturing a community – its joys and pains and possibilities. May refer to our church history in Kirtland, Ohio as we desired to recreate Acts 2 & 4. The concept of community has been a passion for our faith community.

OR Testimonies
Based on compassionate ministry forming community. Invite two or three to share their testimony on how someone’s hospitality touched them and drew them into community or how they moved into community and found a reason to ‘Praise God’ again.

COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation
Sing as the emblems are prepared
“Come, Know My Joy, the Maker Says” CCS 518
OR “In the Singing” CCS 519
OR “Bread of the World” CCS 527

Blessing and Serving of the Bread and Wine
Consider including the young children in communion fellowship by providing small bags of real grapes and tiny gluten-free crackers. These can be given to the children by a young adult or deacon while elders are serving the emblems.

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE
Scripture Reading:
If you truly would be Community of Christ, then embody and live the concerns and passion of Christ.

—Doctrine & Covenants 164:9d
Sharing and Empowering
Consider what you can bring to our community that will help us form a new body of Christ. Think of the four T’s—time, talent, treasure, testimony—what will you be giving? Write on the paper hands you received what you will be doing to help us grow. We are kingdom builders with our hands. Put these hands in the offering baskets with your offerings.

Reading
Wrapped in God’s arms and clothed in the mantle of God’s love:
Give voice to the silence of those who have no voice.
See one another into visibility.
Hear one another into speech.
Care for one another into wholeness.
Love one another into the future.
Outdo one another with kindness.
Honor one another with justice.
Empower one another with peace.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Amen.

—©Helen Bruch Pearson, 2018
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Blessing and Receiving of Offering
Remind people to include their paper hands
Hymn of Generosity
Sing as the offering is received.
“There’s a Church within Us”
OR “We Are Children of Creation”

SCRIPTURAL BLESSINGS
From the assurance of Numbers 6:24 hear the words:
The Lord bless you and keep you...
May you feel the presence of God keeping you near. Be not afraid to listen to and respond to a new direction birthing within yourself and within your community.

Feel the promise of Isaiah 43:19 (The Voice)
Watch closely: I am preparing something new; it’s happening now, even as I speak, and you’re about to see it. I am preparing a way through the desert; Waters will flow where there had been none.

BENEDICTION HYMN
“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”
OR “Great and Marvelous Are Thy Works”
COMMUNAL BENEDICTION

Let us continue in community by saying the Lord’s Prayer together. Listen carefully to what it advises us to do in bringing the kingdom more nearly in our lives:

Our Father which art in heaven,
    Hallowed be thy name.
    Thy kingdom come.
    Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
    Give us this day, our daily bread.
    And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive others.
    Suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
    For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

SENDING FORTH STATEMENT

Dear ones of Community of Christ,

Little did we know yesterday what was emerging.
Our important routines and faith seemed solid.

And yet ...
How small and insignificant do those routines seem now.
We move toward a bigger picture of truth and reality.

As the possibilities of a new direction and peace grow within,
Conceiving a tiny dream has become a heartbeat of hope.

May we embrace wonder as we explore our faith.
Let us develop a new and blessed space of shalom.

Be not fearful of stepping into the light that shines out of Zion.
Move out in anticipation of dynamic harmony and wholeness.

POSTLUDE
COMPANIONS ON A JOURNEY
HOW DO WE NURTURE WHAT IS EMERGING?

WORSHIP 3

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9, MATTHEW 14:13-21, MARK 6:38,
DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 161:4A-B

PREPARATION

Supplies for Call to Worship: Pots, soil, scooping utensils, seeds, and water.

Prior to the service ask a child, older child, teenager, young adult, adult, and senior adult to work in pairs of different configurations to plant seeds. Pairs plant the seeds together as the leader asks the questions and the congregation responds. Alternatively, the leader can ask people to form small groups and respond to the questions within their group.

Focus Moment: Invite two or three people from different age groups and allow enough time for them to practice their readings ahead of time.

Weaving Body Prayer: A body prayer is any prayer that incorporates movement. Visual weaving patterns emerge through movement as the prayer is being given or as it is being sung by the congregation. See directions at the end of this worship service script for a Weaving Body Prayer. The weaving rod will need to be built and participants will need to practice prior to the service.

Baptism: This service includes a baptism if one is to be performed during reunion.

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMNS

Choose one or two hymns.

“Siyahamb’ Ekukhanyen’ Kwenkhos’/We Are Marching in the Light of God”  CCS 95
OR “Now in This Moment”  CCS 96
OR “Praise the Lord Together Singing” Sing in unison first, then in a round.  CCS 642
OR “Jesu, Tawa Pano/Jesus, We Are Here”  CCS 71
Encourage the congregation to sing in languages other than their own.

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK—COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY

See directions in Introduction.

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The pairs of helpers begin to plant the seeds in front where everyone can observe their work.
We are called to create fertile soil for the future church to emerge and grow, as it is and as it will become.

What do seeds need in order to grow? *Congregation responds.*

As time passes, what should you do to tend to the needs of the growing plant? *Congregation responds.*

What do people need as they grow? *Congregation responds*

How can we tend to each other in the different stages of our lives? *Congregation responds.*

*Following the responses, invite children and youth to stand. Invite congregation to look upon these young friends, then continue reading.*

Do not neglect the smallest among you, for even the least of these are treasures in God's sight. Receive the giftedness and energy of children and youth, listening to understand their questions and their wisdom. Respond to their need to be loved and nurtured as they grow. ...Be mindful of the changing of life's seasons, of the passage from the springtime of childhood and youth to the winter years of life.

—Doctrine and Covenants 161:4a-b

*Invite the rest of the congregation to stand with children and youth and continue Doctrine and Covenants 161:4a-b.*

Embrace the blessing of your many differences. Be tender and caring. Be reminded once again that the gifts of all are necessary in order that divine purposes may be accomplished.

*Invite everyone to mingle with those nearby; offering hugs, handshakes, and smiles in support of one another.*

**HYMN OF INVITATION**

“There’s a Church within Us”

OR “We Are Pilgrims on a Journey”

**INVOCATION**

**RESPONSE**

**FOCUS MOMENT**

Will You Walk With Me?
Select two or three people from different age groups and ask them to read or memorize the following examples of times a spiritual friend or mentor was longed for. Statements can be personalized for each reader. Selected children stand with an adult for support. The rest of the participants face the congregation and share their need. Allow each question or need to hang for several seconds between speakers. After each group finishes, they move off to the side. When all groups are finished, they all mingle in the front of the sanctuary, offering themselves as spiritual companions to one another. They continue whispered or mimed conversations as the first stanza of the hymn is sung and then take their seats.

First child stands with a grandparent-like person.
First child: Grandma (Grandpa), what is God like?

Second child stands with an older youth.
Second child: Will you go on a hike with me? I’m curious about something I saw the other day.

Third child stands with an adult.

Several youth stand together.
First youth: I want to play with the other kids here, but they all seem to have their groups and I don’t know how to fit in.
Second youth: I play volleyball. I scan the audience to see if anyone has come to watch me. My parents try to make it to my games, but sometimes I wish people from my congregation would come.
Third youth: I have lots of questions about God and my relationship with God. Does anyone have time to help me explore my questions?

Several young adults stand together.
First young adult: I’m a doer. I go to church, but I wonder if I can be of more service in my community and in the world. I would love to find people who also have the desire to work outside the walls of the church.
Second young adult: It was easier to believe in God when I was little. Now I don’t know what I believe. Is there someone who sees me struggling?
Third young adult: I am feeling a call to ministry. I need someone to mentor me so I will be more ready to respond if I receive a call.

Several adults stand together.
First adult: I am facing an important decision. (Choose an example such as buying a home, changing jobs, how to help find housing for an aging parent who lost their spouse, etc.) I need someone who can help me see this decision from all perspectives.
Second adult: I know of seekers looking for a church community. How can we prepare to welcome and nurture them?
Third adult: I am a pastor. Our congregation has decided to sell our building. I’m worried that we will lose some members of our congregation but I am excited about the potential for serving in ways we haven’t thought of yet. I need advice from someone who has had experience with this.
Several senior adults stand together.
First senior adult: I used to have lots of energy and found many ways to serve my congregation. As my energy wanes and my capabilities change, I worry that eventually I will be overlooked entirely.

Second senior adult: I have been faithful for many years. I have experiences and stories I long to share.

Third senior adult: My children live out of town. Many days I sit alone in my house. I yearn for friendship and company.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*Light the candle of peace.*

*Do It for Peace*

*Choose an activity from the Introduction to be completed prior to tomorrow’s service.*

**HYMN OF CALLING**

“We Are Companions on the Journey”
OR “Called by Christ to Love Each Other”
OR “Lord, Prepare Me”

**SERMON**

Companions on a journey based on 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Questions for the speaker to consider:

- What happens when we nurture one another?
- How do we discern a vision of what is emerging?
- What has emerged in you as you reflect on the possibilities to companion and nurture another?
- To whom do you sense you are being called to be a spiritual friend during this reunion or in the place in which you reside?
- Who could aid you in your spiritual journey? How will you let that person know?

*If you are celebrating a sacrament of baptism during this service, substitute the following elements:*

**Words of Challenge and Guidance for Baptism**

Based on the story of Jesus’ Baptism: Matthew 3:13-17
OR Nicodemus’ visit to Jesus: John 3:1-7

**TESTIMONIES**

*If a child is being baptized, ask that child who helped him or her decide to be baptized. Invite the person they name to share a testimony about their journey together.*

*If an adult is being baptized, have that adult tell of how he or she was mentored or came to the decision to be baptized.*
BAPTISM

BAPTISM HYMNS

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”  
_Stanza 1 upon entering the water; stanza 2 upon exiting._  
OR “Now in This Moment”  
_Stanza 1 upon entering the water; stanza 2 upon exiting._  
OR “Make Me a Servant”  
_Sing once upon entering the water; sing again upon exiting. Encourage the congregation to sing in languages other than their own._  
OR “Come as a Child”  
_Stanza 1 as the child enters the water; stanza 2 upon exiting._

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

Based on Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:38

Thoughts: Feeding the Multitudes

A little boy had been nurtured to have a heart of generosity and was willing to share what he had brought. Even the smallest offering of friendship, support, time, talent, testimony, and treasure may make a difference in a person’s life and in the mission of the church.

Blessing and Receiving of Offering

HYMN OF BLESSING

“Weave”  
_Congregation sings the hymn as a Weaving Body Prayer - instructions below._  
OR Someone weaves using a loom. (Consider having the loom partially finished so the pattern can be seen.)  
Children can be weaving hand looms beside the person using the larger loom.  
OR “All Are Called”  
OR “The Summons”  
OR “Clothe Us in Your Spirit”

BENEDICTION

WEAVING BODY PRAYER

Preparation:
You will need a rod approximately 10 feet tall, well secured in a base. Older children can sit at the base of the rod to hold it for added support. The rod may be made of wood, strong PVC pipe, or metal and needs to have a non-rotating cap to which an even number of streamers made from ribbons or lengths of fabric or ropes (one for each participant) can be attached. Instead of a cap, the streamers of ribbon, fabric, or rope can be stapled or taped securely to the rod.
If using ribbons or lengths of fabric, they should be 2-3 inches wide in three or four different colors. The streamers should be twice the length of the rod and should be durable so as not to tear. Make sure that there is enough space for the participants to move around the rod. You may choose any number of participants, but there must be an even number. Twelve is a good size for the body prayer. Use fewer if you have less space.

To begin, participants stand four steps away from their streamers, which are coming down from the rod outward onto the ground/floor.

Practice multiple times prior to the service, especially if using children. Children need to be tall enough to lift their streamer over the head of the people moving in the opposite direction, though adults and teens can squat slightly to accommodate height differences. The weaving pattern is over, under, over, under. On the count of “over,” the dancer raises the streamer slightly so the participant coming in the opposite direction can duck under. On the count of “under,” the participant ducks under the streamer of the person coming in the opposite direction.

Weaving Body Prayer with congregation singing “Weave,” CCS 327 as shown below.

Refrain
Weave, ...together. Walk clockwise.
Weave...and love. Continue walking clockwise then turn in an individual circle.
Weave, ...together. Walk counter-clockwise.
Weave...in love. Continue walking clockwise then turn in an individual circle

Stanza 1
We...textures, Walk to center with arms up.
we...colors, Back up with arms down
each...the other, Walk to center with arms up.

But...one another, Pick up streamer and back up 
in...tapestry. Face partner, so half the circle is facing clockwise and the other half is facing counterclockwise. Hold the streamer with inside hand.

Refrain
Weave, ...together. Weave...love. Begin weaving by going over and under as you move around the circle.
Weave, ...together in love. Continue weaving by going over and under as you move around the circle.

Stanza 2
We...instruments Back up (arms down)
playing...melodies, Step toward partner (arms up)
each one...key. Step toward partner (arms up)
But we...symphony, Back up (arms down) Turn in individual circle clockwise. Turn back counter-clockwise holding ribbon above head.

Refrain
Weave, ...together. Weave...love. Continue weaving by going over and under as you move around the circle.
Weave, ...together in love. Continue weaving by going over and under as you move around the circle.

Stanza 3
Moments ago...only diversity. Turn in individual circles clockwise then turn counter-clockwise.
Now...great family. *Step toward partner, hands in prayer, bow. Step back and get ready to weave.*

Refrain
Weave, ...together. Weave...love. *Continue weaving by going over and under as you move around the circle.* Weave, ...together in love. *Finish weaving.*

Pianist plays a residual
Weave, ...together. *Pin or tape ribbon to rod with heart or place ribbon at bottom of rod.*
Weave...love. *Turn to face congregation. Hold hands and smile.*
   *Remain still for the benediction.*

—“Weave” ©1979 Rosemary Crow
GROWING DEEPER
HOW CAN WE FREE OUR FULL CAPACITY?

WORSHIP 4
MATTHEW 28:18-20, 25:35; ACTS 1:8

LIFT UP YOUR VOICES

SONG SERVICE
Choose two or three hymns.
“O Senhor é a minha força/In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” CCS 129
OR “Learn from All the Songs of Earth” CCS 141
OR “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” CCS 86
OR “For the Music of Creation” CCS 97
OR “Sing to God as Sings the Ocean” CCS 104
OR “Now Sing to Our God” CCS 108
OR “Sing to the Lord No Threadbare Song” CCS 111

IN THIS PLACE, ALL ARE WELCOME

STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO ALL
Statement might be guided by today’s lesson: “When people come to a community the welcome will create the connection. If a community is grounded in Christ’s principles of love, people will come as their authentic selves and will be willing to trust, to share, to bond, to work with, to contribute. It is the responsibility of the community to provide a welcoming and loving space for each member to be themselves and create joy, hope, love, and peace with others.”

READING
A rabbi once asked his students:
“How can you tell that night has ended and the day is coming?...It is when you can recognize the stranger as your sister or brother. Until you are able to do so, it is still night.”

—The Jewish Hasidic tradition

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK—COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY
See directions in the Introduction.

HYMN OF INVITATION
“God of All Time” Stanzas 1 and 2 CCS 270
OR “Gather Us In” Stanzas 1 and 2 CCS 72
OR “O God of Vision” Stanzas 1 and 2 CCS 78
READING
All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35). Proper honor must be shown to all, especially to those who share our faith (Galatians 6:10) and to pilgrims.

—The Rule of St. Benedict

HYMN OF INVITATION CONTINUED
“God of All Time” Stanzas 3 and 4 CCS 270
OR “Gather Us In” Stanzas 3 and 4 CCS 72
OR “O God of Vision” Stanzas 3 and 4 CCS 78

PRAYER FOR PEACE
Light the peace candle

Do It for Peace
Choose an activity from the Introduction to be completed prior to tomorrow’s service.

Invite Congregation to pass the peace with a handshake or hug and a phrase such as “the peace of Christ” or “shalom.”

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
Solo, duet, or congregational hymn to end the sharing of the peace.
“The Lord Be with You” CCS 74
OR “My Peace” CCS 149

PRAYER OF WELCOME, PEACE, AND GRATITUDE

REPENT: FREE YOUR CAPACITY

CALL TO REPENTANCE
Creative reading of God Weeps CCS 212.
Organize a Reader’s Theater group prior to the service to read the four verses in a moving way. Readers Theater is a dramatic presentation of a written work. The reading parts or phrases within the hymn are divided among the readers. No memorization, costumes, or blocking is needed. As an alternative, the congregation could participate in a responsive reading of the hymn. Consider asking someone creative with imagery to create a PowerPoint illustrating “God Weeps” to be shown with the reading.
Examples:
Reader 1 or Leader: God weeps at love withheld
Reader 2 or Congregation: at strength misused,
Reader 3 or Leader: at children’s innocence abused,
Reader 4 or Congregation: and till we change the way we love,
All: God weeps.
PRAYER OF THE HEART/THE JESUS PRAYER

The leader of prayer should use as few words as possible to explain the prayer. If possible, hold silence for 5 minutes while people pray.

- The Jesus Prayer is also known as the Prayer of the Heart. Rather than praying with just the head, the prayer of the heart seeks to engage the whole human person in prayer.
- Before you begin, choose the version of the Jesus Prayer that feels right for your congregation. The traditional form of the Jesus Prayer appropriates the petition of the beggar on the road to Jericho, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God (or Son of David), have mercy on me, a sinner.” However, shorter phrases that focus on the name of Jesus and the desire for God’s mercy are more appropriate. “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me;” or “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me;” or “Jesus, have mercy on me” capture the essence of the prayer and are easily adapted to the rhythm of one’s breathing. Simply invoking the name “Jesus” or the single word “mercy” (as in Centering Prayer) also are recommended alternatives.
- Find a comfortable prayer-meditation position. Let your breathing become relaxed and easy. Allow the rhythm of your breath to gradually slow and deepen.
- Let the words “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me” (or an alternative phrase) take form in your mind. Imagine yourself looking into your heart and carrying your thoughts from your head down into your heart.
- Gradually fit the words of the prayer to the natural rhythm of your breath. For example, internally say the words “Lord Jesus Christ” as you inhale and “Have mercy on me” as you exhale. Alternatively, you might breathe in with silence and then mentally utter the prayer phrase with each breath out. You also can try softly vocalizing the words.
- Continue silently praying the Jesus Prayer together for a minimum of five minutes. Draw the prayer time to a close by sounding a chime or verbally praying a statement of thanks and amen.
- Invite people to gradually refocus attention on the group as they end their prayers and open their eyes.

READING

[This is] the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations...Christ in you.

—Colossians 1:26–27

HYMN OF REPENTANCE

“I Will Talk to My Heart” CCS 168
OR “Open My Heart” CCS 171
OR “Kyrie Eleison” CCS 184
OR “Lord, Have Mercy” CCS 197

DEESEN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP

SERMON

Scriptures to consider:

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

—Matthew 28:18-20
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

The sermon might address how a person and/or a congregation can live a life of invitation and hospitality. Testimony of the birthing, nurturing, and multiplying of communities of disciples and seekers could be offered.

Questions to consider in the sermon preparation include these drawn from today’s lesson.

- What is God inviting you to risk as a faithful witness? What is God inviting your congregation or community to risk?
- When have you or your congregation experienced blessing by risking a new spiritual practice, a new relationship, or a compassionate action?
- In what ways do you need courage to respond more fully to Christ’s mission?
- How can you seek courage to respond more fully to Christ’s mission?

**HYMN OF REFLECTION**

*Congregational hymn, small group, or choir.*

“Draw the Circle Wide” CCS 273
OR “To Be Your Presence” CCS 351
OR “God of the Future” CCS 360
OR “Grace Moves in Rhythms” CCS 375

**GIVE GENEROUSLY**

**DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE**

*Based on “bear witness of Christ through invitation, Christ-like hospitality, and generosity.”*

*Thoughts might include a testimony by a recently baptized or ordained person who came to Christ through the invitation, hospitality, and generosity of another person or a congregation.*

Blessing and Receiving of Offering

*Prayer for offering could include gratitude for God’s generosity in our lives and gratitude for the people and communities who demonstrate God’s generosity.*

**GO...BE LOVE FOR THE WORLD**

**HYMN OF CALLING**

“Christ Has Called Us to New Visions” CCS 566
OR “God, Whose Grace Redeems Our Story” CCS 570
OR “Sing a New World into Being” CCS 576
OR “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” CCS 605

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**
AWAKEN

PREPARATION

For the Focus Moment gather a variety of materials that can be used to make a small church building such as tissue boxes, shoe boxes, poster board, large wooden blocks, or pieces of cardboard and heavy duct tape. Also gather several large stuffed animals or dolls.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Community of Christ,” your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole of creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

THIS TIME NEXT WEEK—COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY

See directions in the Introduction.

OPENING SONG

“Siyahamb’ Ekukhanyen’ Kwenkhos’/We Are Marching in the Light of God” CCS 95
OR “Wind upon the Waters” CCS 49

INVOCATION

MUSICAL RESPONSE

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

How often are you awake to God’s blessings in your life? There once was a delivery driver who, after cordially delivering his package, surprised his customers by saying, “Have a grateful day!” So often we expect to hear, “Have a great day!” What does it mean to have a grateful day? What are you grateful for today? How can you respond to God’s grace with generosity?
Incorporate these ideas into a Disciples’ Generous Response talk or ask the questions and allow the congregation to supply the answers.

Blessing and Receiving of Offering

Hymn of Generosity

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky” CCS 301
OR “We Serve the Prince of Peace” CCS 348
OR “My Gratitude Now Accept, O God/Gracias, Señor” CCS 614/615

PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Light the peace candle.*

Do It for Peace

*Choose an activity from the Introduction to be completed before Reunion is over.*

Peace Prayer

RADICAL SHIFT

*What does church mean to you?*  
*Project Radical Shift, a video from Leading Congregations in Mission*

RISK

FOCUS MOMENT

*Invite children up front or have the congregation break into small groups so everyone can participate. Gather materials to build a small church building. It doesn’t need to be complex. The goal is to build a building large enough to fit all the stuffed animals and dolls of disparate size inside. If you have time, see if an actual person can fit inside too.*

*Talk about how church doesn’t have to be a building, and that sometimes a building might hinder our outreach to different folks. Challenge the congregation to go outside their church walls to risk something new for Christ! Invite them to share their ideas.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“There’s a Church within Us” CCS 278
OR “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound” CCS 347

SERMON

*Based on Acts 2, Pentecost and the baptism of the 3,000*  
*After Jesus’ death and resurrection, how did the disciples put aside their fear and risk something new? How did the Spirit guide them? Once the 3,000 were baptized, the new community began living with all things in common, sharing blessings equally.*
COMMITMENT TO RISK SOMETHING NEW
Give each person a sticky note or piece of paper. Ask congregants to write down ideas of how they will commit to become a blessing or risk something new when they return home after reunion. Have the congregation bring their statements forward to place them on a picture of a church building; if it’s small enough, hopefully the commitments will spill out of the building.

SONG OF COMMITMENT
“All Are Welcome” CCS 276
OR “Kanisa Litajengwa/Oh, Who Will Build the Church Now?” CCS 338

BLESS

PASTORAL PRAYER OR BLESSING
Ask someone to offer a pastoral prayer or a prayer of blessing on the reunion as everyone leaves the sacred space to return to daily life.

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

MUSICAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
WHERE DOES YOUR STRING GO?

HANDOUT
HAND TEMPLATE