LIVING JESUS...
LIVING PEACE

Community of Christ
Sharing/Worship Formation
## CONTENTS

Introduction to Reunion 2020—Living Jesus … Living Peace ................................................................. 4
Letter to Sharing Services Facilitators ................................................................................................. 5
Letter to Worship Coordinators ........................................................................................................ 8
Opening Worship or Opening Gathering ......................................................................................... 10

**Day One—On the Way**
Sharing Service ................................................................................................................................. 13
Worship ............................................................................................................................................. 18

**Day Two—Living Jesus Today**
Sharing Service ................................................................................................................................. 22
Worship ............................................................................................................................................. 27

**Day Three—The Audacity of Shalom**
Sharing Service ................................................................................................................................. 30
Worship ............................................................................................................................................. 34

**Day Four—Toward the Peaceful One**
Sharing Service ................................................................................................................................. 38
Worship ............................................................................................................................................. 43

**Day Five—Living Hope**
Sharing Service ................................................................................................................................. 48
Worship ............................................................................................................................................. 53

**Appendix**
Color Me Interesting ....................................................................................................................... 58
Who Is in Our Group? .................................................................................................................... 59
Truth or Dare .................................................................................................................................. 60
Describing Peace ............................................................................................................................ 61
Road Signs ....................................................................................................................................... 62
INTRODUCTION TO REUNION 2020
LIVING JESUS…LIVING PEACE

The 2020 Reunion Sharing Services and Worship Services are planned in coordination to complement and provide opportunities for reflection, new understanding, and practices throughout the day.

While we try to provide a variety of worship styles, practices, and opportunities for multiple ages, the focus of these worship services is to create a cycle coming out of the Sharing Services to help us reflect and continue to grow into the themes, ideas and questions posed and practiced throughout the day. Read the Letters to Facilitators for both Sharing and Worship | Community Formation experiences for deeper vision of these experiences.

Amazing community formation can result from worship experiences. There is no one size fits all. Be prayerful for the group that assembles at your reunion. Be mindful of the needs, the questions, the opportunity for growth and service. Intentionally going deeper connects us with the Spirit who guides in this transformational way of Christ.
SHARING SERVICES | COMMUNITY FORMATION

Dear facilitators,

Thank you for your ministry and willingness to provide spiritual leadership in the reunion experience. Since the primary focus of these formational experiences is spiritual practice, sharing together, and forming community, the role of spiritual leadership is especially important.

Spiritual leaders are attentive to the movements happening within the community. They are sensitive to how the Spirit is at work in the congregation and where the movement of the Spirit may might be leading. They create a low-stress, hospitable space for people to gather that is free of judgment. Spiritual leaders are more invitational than instructional, trusting that the Spirit is the true facilitator of the experience, and our job is to open a space where the Spirit can move, speak, reveal, and transform.

This means that especially when facilitating practices or inviting congregational sharing, a sense of right timing is important. Maybe someone will gather their courage to share in a few more moments of silence left open to them. Or perhaps the lengthy sharing of the body needs to draw to a natural conclusion so that we can move with the flow of where the Spirit is leading next. Spiritual leadership is the work of discernment amid communal spiritual facilitation, feeling out when the time is right to stay with what is happening and when it is right to move the community along.

Consider asking a few evangelists or spiritual companions in your community to be especially prayerful on the periphery of these sharing services, to hold the space in love for the community as a way of emphasizing that our time together is an opportunity to be formed in the Spirit in sacred community.

These services are designed to engage multiple ages through practice, singing, and conversation. Not every practice will be geared toward every age, but our goal is to develop a culture of deep listening, spiritual attentiveness, and intergenerational awareness and sharing throughout the week. Our assumption this week in these sharing services is that intentionally being Christian community together is the foundational spiritual practice!

My 2½-year-old daughter recently used an end table as a podium. She excitedly started inviting us all to sit and asked for “celebrations.” It dawned on me that she was repeating what she saw in our Sunday morning church experience during the Celebration portion of our worship when we share our joys and concerns. Next, she moved to the coffee table and reverently picked up a candy dish. She offered the candy dish to each of us as though she were serving communion. When had all partaken of the sacramental caramels, she returned it to the table, went back behind her “podium” and opened the hymnal to sing a song.

My toddler was playfully imagining an entire worship experience! It was a tremendously important moment of awareness for me that the youngest among us are paying close attention even when don’t realize it! None of these elements was particularly age specific but they were rituals, practices, rhythms that she had picked up on as being important to our congregational family. They were forming her, and she remembered them.

While we try to include entry points for multiple ages, our primary focus in this guide is to create a rhythm that lives into each day as sacred community. We hope all ages will deepen throughout the week from time together in this rhythm and will come to expect the moments of reading our covenant, sharing in practice, listening to one another’s stories, and discerning God’s invitations. Using this rhythm as a guide, adapt the materials as
necessary for your context and use your imagination as you find entry points for multiple ages that we might have overlooked! Our daily rhythm for communal formation is:

We Gather – How will we be together?
We Pray – How is God present among us now?
We Practice – How are we called to grow together?
We Share – Where is God at work in us?
We Discern – What is the Spirit’s invitation for our day?

We also will be using this week to explore the story of the disciple’s journey to Emmaus through the lens of the 2020 guiding question: “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?” Asking this question each day is an intentional part of the design of this resource. The continuity of the question through each experience is itself a reminder that it can be asked every day in our own lives and has multiple expressions. It is a question to be lived rather than simply answered.

Living this question is an example of how we walk The Way of our discipleship in the realities of our lives and world. Each day there will be a road sign along The Way that helps us reflect on God’s invitations and guidance for our lives, personally and communally. You will find ideas in Day One for creating a worship center that can be used for the whole experience of the week.

Each day will begin with a reading of our community covenant. If this starts to feel redundant to you or others, take a moment to ask if we have fully embodied it yet! We find that returning to an intention for how we will be together each day sharpens our awareness of our interactions (and reactions) in sacred community and forms us powerfully in deeper, safe, Christ-like relationships of vulnerability, mutuality, and trust. Each day there will also be an opportunity to reflect on one part of the covenant and how it has been experienced and lived in our daily lives.

Community Covenant

We will honor the worth of every person. We want every person, of every age, to feel welcomed and loved in this community. (When have you felt truly loved and welcomed by another person?)

We will listen deeply. We trust that God is present in every person’s story. It is not our job to fix or give advice. (When have you felt like someone was really listening deeply to what you had to say?)

We will practice curiosity. There is more to every person than what we can see. If we start to judge or feel defensive, we will turn instead to wonder. (What does it mean to be curious about one another’s lives in a sacred way?)

We will share openly. It takes courage to share our stories with one another. We support one another as we risk deeper sharing. (When have you shared something important to you with someone else? How did it feel?)

We will be fully present. God is already among us. We will be present to God and one another in this time of sacred community. (When was the last time you felt truly present and awake to life?)

Finally, a word of thanks to Sierra Pacific Mission Center President Shandra Newcom for her creative work for this resource. Many of the practices, prayers, and readings you will encounter in this guide are hers! It is a blessing to share with gifted colleagues and spiritual friends!
I believe that something deeper and life-giving is seeking to emerge when we gather in intentional and attentive sacred community. Let each element be but a vessel for that Spirit yearning to incarnate among us. Be mindful of the life journey of each one as we walk this transformational Way of Christ this week.

Peace and blessings,
Katie Harmon-McLaughlin
spiritual formation specialist, Community of Christ
Dear facilitators,

Thank you for your willingness to facilitate and coordinate these community formation experiences through the 2020 reunion worship experiences. Being sensitive to the Spirit’s leadings, noticing the formation of your specific community, and providing a safe space to praise God, to question our path, to grow in the Spirit of the One who calls us is a very special gift. Spiritual leaders are more invitational than instructional, trusting that the Spirit is the true facilitator of the experience, and we provide the opportunity to open a space where Spirit can move, speak, reveal, and transform.

The 2020 Reunion Sharing Services and Worship Services are planned in coordination to complement and provide opportunities for reflection, new understanding and practices throughout the day.

While we try to provide a variety of worship styles, practices, and opportunities for multiple ages, the focus of these worship services is to create a cycle coming out of the Sharing Services to help us reflect and continue to grow into the themes, ideas and questions posed and practiced throughout the day.

Often there are more songs, worship elements, and practices suggested than time allows. Be sensitive to include all ages as we worship together. Six worship outlines are included. The first is a suggestion for an opening worship centered around introductions to reunion and orientation for reunion. Worships One through Five are designed to flow from the Sharing Services that traditionally occur earlier in the day.

As mentioned with the Sharing Services information, this week we will be using the 2020 guiding question: “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?” to explore the story of the disciple’s journey to Emmaus. This question is in the Sharing Services material and again in the Worship Services outlines. We encourage planners to ask this question multiple times. Challenge reunion participants to hear this question anew each time in reflection of the daily theme, or through experiences of the day.

Suggested books for Focus Moments can be found in most local libraries or purchased through retail stores or online. After reunion, these make excellent additions to any congregational library. These stories are valuable for all ages.

Worship settings suggest a path. Be creative. Use the road signs that correspond with daily themes to add connections. The path could be a part of the entire worship space. How do we symbolically experience, “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?”

Worship outlines indicate hymns that can be a part of a specific children’s lesson or youth lesson. Consider inviting children to lead these hymns, and invite young people to share their class experience through the worship elements. Connecting with teachers of the children and youth programs so all are aware of how these elements overlap makes for a more inclusive worship experience.

Amazing community formation can result from worship experiences. There is no one size fits all. Be prayerful for the group that assembles at your reunion. Be mindful of the needs, the questions, the opportunity for growth and service. Intentionally going deeper connects us with the Spirit who guides in this transformational way of Christ.
In closing, reflect on the 2019 Words of Counsel from Community of Christ Presidency Stephen Veazey, “... go with conviction into the locations of your discipleship and be the peace of Christ. As you do, you will discover a variety of ways in which spiritual community forms and flows as expressions of the gospel of peace. Trust what is being born. Have faith in divine purposes. Persist in Hope. Amen.”

With grace and peace,
Susan Naylor
worship and leadership formation minister
OPENING WORSHIP | OPENING GATHERING

Introduction
This service can be used as an opening worship service, a welcome to reunion from the reunion director(s) or with orientation/getting to know you. This Service of Gathering provides an opportunity for the group to interact and get to know one another. One activity is to print the attached grid on a variety of colors of paper. Cut into squares and mix into a basket or bowl. This is something that can be prepared in advance.

Worship Center Preparation
Create a “path” at the front of your gathering space that can be used for the whole week. You might choose to line it with stones, plantings or flowers, candles, or something personal representing your reunion community.

Gathering Songs (choose three or more)
- Campfire songs:
  - “We’re All Together Again, We’re Here We’re Here”
  - “Make New Friends, But Keep the Old”
  - “Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello (We Are Glad to Meet You)”
- Community of Christ Sings
  - “As We Gather” CCS 73
  - “Rejoice, Ye Saints of Latter Days” CCS 81
  - “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” CCS 86
  - “Now in this Moment” CCS 96

Welcome
Remarks given by reunion director or reunion pastor, thanking all who intend to share in the community of reunion, extending love, hope, and friendship. All are welcome and all are loved.

Call to Worship in Community
Leader: We have come to this place as individuals, each with varied backgrounds, abilities, interests, and goals, yet we gather to celebrate community.
People: We are called to be the church in the world. We are not a building; we are people. We are not spectators; we are participants in this life which God gave us.
Leader: Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.”
People: Together we celebrate God, because being many, in Christ we are one.
Unison: We praise and celebrate our God. As we worship, we act out again what it means to live as Christians in this age.

—Gary McLean
Prayers and Readings for Worship, page 18
Sharing the peace of Jesus Christ

Invite the group assembled to leave the comfort of their seats, turn to your neighbors, shake hands, and share the peace of Christ. Choose “Peace be with you,” “God’s peace,” or simply, “Peace.” The typical responding words are “And also with you” or “Peace be with you.” It might be helpful to project these phrases electronically or print them on a large poster.

Try to find at least one person you don’t already know and share the peace of Christ with them as we join this week in community. Introduce yourself as you greet one another in Christ.

Prayer for Peace

Light the prayer candle at the end of the path depicted in the worship setting for the week.

Prayer for Peace

Hymn of Response

“My Peace” (sung twice) CCS 149

Scripture Reading

Again, you are reminded that this community was divinely called into being. The spirit of the Restoration is not locked in one moment of time but is instead the call to every generation to witness to essential truths in its own language and form. Let the Spirit breathe.

Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you. That Spirit is even now touching alive the souls of those who feel the passion of discipleship burning deeply within. Many others will respond if you are persistent in your witness and diligent in your mission to the world.

— Doctrine & Covenants 164:2e-3

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

— John 14:6

Introductions

Introduce the guest minister

Offer the guest minister an opportunity to share briefly about the reunion experience theme and what Living Jesus … Living Peace might mean to us this week.

Introduce other reunion coordinators and leaders

This time could include teachers for specific age groups, special event coordinators, dining hall coordinator, afternoon recreation, those who could offer evangelist ministry, ministry of sacrament of laying on of hands, worship and music coordinators, etc.

Singing Our Joy

This is the day, (this is the day)
That the Lord has made, (that the Lord has made)
We will rejoice, (we will rejoice)
And be glad in it, (and be glad in it)

This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, (this is the day)  
That the Lord has made.  

—Call-and-response campfire song

Who Is on Our Path?  
For this reunion experience we’re Living Jesus … Living Peace. Who is on this journey with us? Maybe we came with our family. Maybe came with a friend. Or, maybe we are stepping out and don’t know anyone yet. In these next few minutes, reach out and get to know a new name and a new story. This is how we’ll do that.

Two suggested mixers are below; use one or use an activity that works for your ministry area. Mixers usually bring about groans of anxiety, but something happens when we start to share something about ourselves with one another. Be sensitive to your group, but also challenge the group to reach out of their comfort zone just a little. Maybe there’s an incentive or prize at the end.

- Color Me Interesting  
- Who is In Our Group?  

Singing on our Journey  
“God’s Melody of Peace”  

Pastoral Prayer for Reunion  
Go with Christ

(This reading could be divided among several different individuals; one person for each line or a smaller group reading multiple lines.)

Christ be with me  
Christ before me  
Christ behind me  
Christ in me  
Christ beneath me  
Christ above me  
Christ on my right  
Christ on my left  
Christ where I lie  
Christ where I sit  
Christ where I arise  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me  
Christ in every eye that sees me  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
Salvation belongs to the Lord.  
Amen.

—Of Water and Spirit (adult), page 53,  
Herald Publishing House, 2014
DAY ONE — ON THE WAY
SHARING SERVICE

Scripture: Luke 24:15-17

Materials
Posters and markers
Paper, pens, or crayons
Path materials (below)

Sign
Winding road

Worship Center
Create a “path” at the front of your gathering space that can be used all week. You might choose to line the path with stones or other materials. Place battery-operated candles along the way to give it a more worshipful or contemplative feel. You might place some plants (real or artificial) along the path, too. Each day a different road sign will be added to the path as we move closer to Jesus, the peaceful one. We recommend printing out each road sign (at the back of this resource) and gluing them to cardstock or cardboard. You can place them along the path on the ground or you can attach them to wooden sticks or rods to make them look more authentic. Use your creativity and do what will work best in your own ministry setting.

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs
“Now Sing to Our God” CCS 108
“Amen, Siakudumisa” CCS 109

Welcome
Welcome to this time of sharing and community formation. We are blessed by our diversity of age and life experience. We trust that God is present with us now and will be revealed as we get to know one another and explore the Spirit’s invitations for our personal and communal spiritual journey. This year, Community of Christ is exploring a guiding question that was posed by President Stephen Veazey from the 2019 World Conference, “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One? Or are we retreating from Jesus by reverting to our old humanity and its destructive ways of interacting with others and creation?”
Our reunion experience—specifically these worshipsexperiences will be an opportunity to explore and live into this question more deeply. We welcome every person, of every age, and pray that we will be attentive to making space for every voice to be heard. Let’s begin by singing our intention to be fully present with one another.

**Song**

“Jesu, Tawa Pano”

**Community Covenant**

For Day One, invite a person (or several people) to read our community covenant. We recommend writing the covenant on posters or projecting it so that it is seen as it is read.

We will return to this covenant each day as a reminder of how we want to be together as we form sacred community. We will also explore a different part of the covenant each day and how it has meaning in our lives.

*We will honor the worth of every person.* We want every person to feel welcomed and loved in this community, no exceptions.

*We will listen deeply.* We trust that God is present in every person’s story. It is not our job to fix or give advice.

*We will practice curiosity.* There is more to every person than what we can see. If we start to judge or feel defensive, we will turn instead to wonder.

*We will share openly.* It takes courage to share our stories with one another. We support one another as we risk deeper sharing.

*We will be fully present.* We will be present to God and one another in this time of sacred community.

**Reflecting Together**

Find a partner of a different age or generation to share with for 2 minutes. Today we will focus on the first part of our covenant: Share about a time when you have felt truly loved and welcomed by another person.

**Song**

“Dios está aquí”

**WE PRAY**

Welcome, God.
We welcome you to this sacred space.
We welcome you to the heart of each one.
We welcome you—celebrated in our gathering, honored in our sharing, loved in our community.
With gratitude we pause and with hope we listen.
Tune our attention to you.
Plant courage in our actions.
Guide our feet for the road ahead.
Welcome, God! We are here!
Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”

— Luke 24:13-17

**WE PRACTICE**

**Sign:** Winding Road Ahead!

*Place the sign somewhere visible in the worship center.*

Each day we will use a different sign. Today’s sign reminds us that being on the way has twists and turns. It is rarely a straight and simple path. We will be reflecting on the ways our own journeys have twisted and turned throughout our lives.

**Spiritual Timeline**

*Invite each participant, using a piece of paper, to create a path representing their life on the way. This can be a straight line, a curvy line, a line going up and down (representing mountain top experiences and valleys), etc. Play instrumental music as participants spend about 5-8 minutes working on their timelines. Invite them to do this as reflectively as possible, while emphasizing that sacred sounds from the youngest among us will be welcomed as part of the joy of practicing in intergenerational community.*

**Directions**

Following the way of Jesus takes many forms and happens throughout a lifetime. At times the way can appear clear, at times cloudy or uncertain. We might recognize Jesus on the journey, or he might be hidden from us. We might find our place within community or we might find ourselves alone.

Using a pen or markers, mark your timeline showing the important moments of your spiritual life. You can begin at any point but have the ending point be today. Some of the moments you might highlight are: baptism or confirmation, sacramental moments, moments of doubt or fear, moments when you have been invited or welcomed into community. There is no limit to what you can add—it depends on how you identify the events on your timeline. Try not to get too detailed. Use a word, phrase or image for each moment you mark. You might want to add years to further identify your experiences.

**Adapting for Children**

Invite children to draw their timeline, as well. Draw pictures of times you felt happy and loved or that something important happened. Draw pictures of times you were sad, or something difficult happened. How is Jesus a friend in all these times?

**Song**

“I Will Sing, I Will Sing”

CCS 112
WE SHARE

Small-Group Sharing
Form intergenerational groups of 4-5 people and share your timelines with one another.

- What did you choose to include?
- As you reflect on your timeline, what do you notice?
- When do you feel you are moving closer to Jesus, the peaceful One, through life events, choices, or actions?

To close this time, have one member offer a prayer for their group, offering gratitude for the time of sharing.

Large-Group Sharing
Bring the large group back together by singing a familiar campfire or short gathering song.

Possibilities: “Jesus in the Morning,” “Alleluia”
(Intentionally invite younger members to share their drawings and comments with the community. Open sharing to all ages.

- How did it feel to create your timeline?
- Where do we find Jesus in our journey reflections?
- What has it looked like in your life to be on the way?

WE DISCERN

Each day we will reflect on our essential question posed by President Stephen Veazey at the 2019 World Conference: Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?

Show the video inviting reflection on this question

- YouTube — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-BKnOr6hVw&feature=youtu.be

Discernment Question
How will you move closer toward Jesus, the peaceful one, today?

Invite a few moments of silent reflection. Consider inviting the children to come to the front and ask them to see how long they can be silent as they think about this question. The first day it might 20 seconds, then 45 seconds, then a minute, and so on.

The Community Responds
Invite the group to share their answers in a few brief words. (Examples: by listening to others, by helping clean up after a meal, by having lunch with someone I don’t know, etc.)

Song
“Fanana” CCS 596

Read the translation in the hymnal before singing in Chichewa. If possible, include drums or percussion instruments as you sing (and maybe even dance) to this song.
Closing Prayer

*Invite someone to offer a prayer or read the one offered below.*

God of the Way,
As we continue our life journey, we know that the road behind us has been long and winding. We know that the road before winds too. We are grateful for our path so far and we look, with excitement, forward to what’s next. Continue to call us, God. May we hear you and respond.

Amen.
DAY ONE — ON THE WAY
WORSHIP SERVICE

Luke 24:13-17

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.

Worship Center Preparation
Continue with the worship center from the Sharing Service earlier in the day OR create a path at the front of your gathering space that can be used for the rest of the week. Use a battery-operated pillar candle at the end of the path; this can be used for the Peace Candle lighting each day if you wish. Recommend using the different road signs suggested in the daily Sharing Service outline. Place each sign a little closer to the end of the path as the reunion experience progresses. Use your creativity and do what will work best in your ministry setting. Another suggestion for today would be to include pictures of different kinds of pathways. Everyone’s path is different, looks different, has different views, and different twists and turns. These could be on PowerPoint or printed and hung around the room. The youth lessons used an activity about these different paths today. This could be an opportunity for a section led by a young person regarding what path speaks to you.

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs (Choose two or more)

“Uyai Mose (Come All You People) CCS 84
“Draw the Circle Wide” CCS 273
“God, We Gather as Your People” CCS 274
“Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!” (“There’s No One Like Jesus”) CCS 121*
“Weave” CCS 327*

*These were part of today’s children’s lessons.
Reflection on the Way
“A Way of Life is a work in progress. Jesus did not invite people to ponder a theory, join an association, or receive elite member status in a special club. He invited them into something much more radical: a whole pattern of living marked by his own self-emptying. This lifestyle required everything. No region of human life was to be left untouched by who Jesus was and what he represented.” (A Way of Life, page 12)

During this reunion experience, let us look for Jesus in our everyday living. Let us actively live with Jesus and live in peace. Throughout this experience we will look to the story of the Road to Emmaus and other gospel stories. Today we’ve entered this worship experience reminded by the sign that the road is often winding. But, as we discover and remember, Jesus walks with us.

Scripture of Praise and Thanksgiving

All Readers: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Reader 1: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
Reader 2: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Reader 3: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
Reader 1: For the Lord is good;
Reader 2: His steadfast love endures forever,
Reader 3: and his faithfulness to all generations.
All Readers: Praise ye the Lord! Amen.

—Psalm 100, adapted

We Sing on Our Journey
“We Are Companions on the Journey” CCS 552

Prayer for our Journey

FOCUS MOMENT


This is a story about a young boy asking his grandmother where God is in their city. Where love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are, there too is God. An ordinary day in his city opens this young boy’s eyes to God’s Spirit at work all around him.

When we intentionally look for God, God is found everywhere.

Discussion Questions
Use some or all these questions.

- What was grandma’s advice as to where to see God?
- Where did the boy see God? How many ways were there to see God?
If we intentionally look around our space right now, what do you see that you think others might overlook?
Where do you see God?
How will we look for God this week in our reunion experience?

SCRIPTYE REFLECTION

This scripture passage is brief, but it could be enacted by three people during the reading. The travelers could start at the back of the worship space and wind their way slowly, pausing to sigh, look around, and then continue.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.

— Luke 24:13-17

Singing on Our Journey
“On the Journey to Emmaus” CCS 272

Sharing Our Stories
Reflecting on the earlier Sharing Service activity today, ask two or three individuals to tell their story of where they encountered Jesus today. This could also be a point in the service reflecting on the different path pictures. Invite young people who used this part of their lesson to lead thoughts on what path speaks to them, and invite smaller groups to share their thoughts.

Message
Based on Luke 24:13-17, are we being intentional on our journey? Are we seeking to be closer to Jesus in our life events, choices, or actions?

GIVING GENEROSLY

Scripture

If you truly would be Community of Christ, then embody and live the concerns and passion of Christ.

— Doctrine & Covenants 164:9d

Blessing and Receiving of Offerings

DISCERNING REFLECTION

Show the video inviting reflection on the guiding question: Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?

- YouTube — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-BKnOr6hVw&feature=youtu.be

Singing on Our Journey
“Take the Path of the Disciple” CCS 558
Pastoral Prayer for Our Continuing Journey

Sending Forth

The challenges and opportunities are momentous. Will you remain hesitant in the shadows of your fears, insecurities, and competing loyalties? Or will you move forward in the light of your divinely instilled call and vision? The mission of Jesus Christ is what matters most for the journey ahead.

— Doctrine & Covenants 164:9e-f
DAY TWO — LIVING JESUS TODAY
SHARING SERVICE


Materials
posters
markers

Sign
Pedestrian crossing

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs
“Jesus Is the Rock for You and Me”
(« Jésus est le rocher de ma vie ») CCS 265
*Suggestion: Start slowly as everyone gets familiar with the tune and then see how fast you can sing it!

“God Within God Around” CCS 20

Welcome
The love, message, and embrace of Jesus Christ are broad beyond measure. By their very nature they must be shared widely, or they are not being shared at all. They are not limited to just me, “my kind of people,” or some preferred nation, culture, or race. If we truly are moving toward and with Jesus, then the church community constantly will venture beyond all kinds of perceived boundaries and horizons to invite others to drink deeply of Christ’s life-giving water in loving community.

— Stephen M. Veazey, 2019 World Conference closing sermon

Let’s turn our attention again to our community covenant as we become this kind of loving community together.
Community Covenant

*Invite children to hold posters with the covenant written on them. Ask an older child or a young person to read each one.*

**We will honor the worth of every person.** We want every person to feel welcomed and loved in this community, no exceptions.

**We will listen deeply.** We trust that God is present in every person’s story. It is not our job to fix or give advice.

**We will practice curiosity.** There is more to every person than what we can see. If we start to judge or feel defensive, we will turn instead to wonder.

**We will share openly.** It takes courage to share our stories with one another. We support one another as we risk deeper sharing.

**We will be fully present.** We will be present to God and one another in this time of sacred community.

Reflecting Together

Find a partner of a different age or generation to share with. Today we will focus on the second part of our covenant: When have you felt like someone was really listening deeply to what you had to say?

**Song (choose one)**

“The People Walk” (“Un pueblo que camina”)  
“Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands”  
CCS 92  
CCS 309

WE PRAY

**Dramatic Reading: Luke 24:28-32**

**Reader One:** As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

**All:** They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?”

**Reader Two (a young person):** I was in the lunchroom and there was a kid who stood in line beside me and my friends. We were talking about things that had been happening at school that day. She was listening and started asking us questions. It seemed like she didn’t have many friends and she might be new. As we got our lunch, we started walking to our table and my friends and I decided to ask her to sit with us. I realized that we made her feel welcome and it felt good to include her. I wonder if that is how the disciples felt when they welcomed Jesus.
All: Were not our hearts burning with us while he was talking to us on the road?

**Reader Three:** I was rushing around after work, running some errands. I was going to be late to a meeting and was stuck in traffic. All I had to eat for dinner was a granola bar that was on the front seat of my car. I glanced out the window and noticed an older man sitting on the corner with a sign that read, “Homeless vet, anything helps.” I was instantly moved with compassion and I rolled down the window. “I don’t have any cash,” I said, “But you can have my granola bar.” He said, “God bless you.” I rolled up the window and then traffic started moving. As I drove away, my heart flooded with love and I felt God’s presence with me. I wondered if I had just encountered the Living Christ on the road.

All: Were not our hearts burning with us while he was talking to us on the road?

**Reader Four:** Things had been hard at church. We were making tough decisions and the relationships in our little congregation were feeling tense. It was a regularly scheduled potluck and I realized that I was at a table with the man I disagreed with the most. I mean, we disagreed on everything—the congregation’s future, politics, theology—but as we sat face to face, we started talking about how his mom was struggling with cancer and I saw tears in his eyes. I picked up the basket of dinner rolls and was flooded with memory of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Could the Living Christ have been in my own community all along?

All: Were not our hearts burning with us while he was talking to us on the road?

**Song of Response (choose one)**

- “Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome” CCS 277
- “Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!” CCS 121
- (“There’s No One Like Jesus”)

**WE PRACTICE**

**Road Sign**

Today we are focusing on being present to embody Christ’s love and peace in relationship with others. Our road sign is the reminder of pedestrians crossing. (*Place road sign in the path.*) We sometimes get so busy or focused on what is happening in our own lives that we miss the people and situations that open to us each day to encounter the Living Christ. What does it look like for you to be more present to God, your family and friends, and all the sacred others you encounter in everyday life?

**Small-Group Sharing**

You are invited to form small groups of 4-5, including people of different ages. On your poster board, write “presence” vertically. In your small group, write an acrostic poem. Each letter in the word will represent what being present means to you or where you experience the presence of God or the Living Christ in the world. Be creative! (There are lots of Es in presence, so you are welcome to use words that have the letter E in them if you can’t find enough that start with that letter!)
For example:

People
Relationships
tEam
Souls
Encounter
Nice
Community
frEedom

Large-Group Sharing
Invite each group to share their poem with the larger group. Be attentive to invite younger members to share!

Song
“There’s an Old, Old Path” CCS 244 or 245

WE SHARE
In the large group, invite reflections from today’s experience.

• When have you experienced your heart burning within you?
• How are you called to be more present to the Living Christ in the world around you?

Song
“God Within, God Around” CCS 20
Return to this song as a response to the time of sharing.
Consider leading it without asking people to turn to their hymnals since it is short and will be familiar. Sing through several times, prayerfully.

WE DISCERN
Each day we will reflect on our essential question posed by President Stephen Veazey at the 2019 World Conference: Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?

Discernment Question
How will you move toward Jesus, the peaceful One, today?

Invite a few moments of silent reflection. (Consider inviting children to come to the front and ask them to see how long they can be silent as they think about this question. The first day it might 20 seconds, then 45 seconds, then a minute, and so on.)

The Community Responds
Invite the group to share their answers in a few brief words. (Examples: by listening to others, by helping clean up after a meal, by having lunch with someone I don’t know, etc.)
Closing Song

“Now Let Our Hearts within Us Burn” CCS 658
« Kum ba yah, Seigneur » CCS 75

Closing Prayer

Invite a participant to offer a prayer or use the one offered below.

Christ of the lunch line,
The street corner,
The potluck table,
Christ in the ones I love,
Christ in the ones I struggle to love,
Christ in every city, town, and village.
Christ on every path and road,
Christ in each encounter,
Each moment, each decision,
Awaken us to your presence.
Let Our Hearts Within Us Burn.
Amen.
DAY TWO — LIVING JESUS TODAY

WORSHIP SERVICE


As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

Worship Center Preparation

We now have two road signs on our path. Yesterday was a winding caution sign. Today we’re reminded to Slow down and be present with one another. Find a way to include some of the acrostic poetry from the Sharing Service reflecting how we will be present with one another. Include a table set with bread, fruit, and juice that will be a part of the Call to Worship invitation.

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs (Choose two or more)

“Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia” (“Praise Ye the Lord”) campfire song
“Great and Marvelous Are Thy Works” CCS 118
“Earth and All Stars” CCS 102
“God is Here” CCS 70
“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!” CCS 34

Call to Worship

Read the scripture slowly and ask several individuals to enact what is being read. Use the table prepared with bread, fruit, and juice to share as part of the enactment.


We See Jesus

“Look at this Man, Born of God” CCS 26
Welcome
Welcome to our time of worship. Our theme is Living Jesus Today. We’ve reflected on slowing down and being present with one another. In our Sharing Service, we wrote acrostic poems about being present. By being intentional today, where did you see Jesus, or did you find yourself being intentionally present at some time today?

Invite volunteers to share where they’ve seen Jesus today. This could be “popcorn” style of sharing, quick up, and response.

As we continue in worship, be mindful; be present; be aware of the Living Jesus Today.

We Sing Together
“Who Is This Jesus” CCS 38

Prayer of Invitation

We Reflect Together
Lighting the Peace Candle

We Sing Our Prayer for Peace
“Prayer of Peace” CCS 164*

*This hymn is part of today’s children’s lessons.

FOCUS MOMENT


The Kissing Hand is a story for anyone who needs reassurance as they navigate life. In reading this book we saw the connection in the relationships in the book, and with Jesus who is always with us. It is an unforgettable way of communicating the message that all of us most need to hear — “You are Loved.”

Discussion Questions
Use some or all of these questions.

• Why was Chester worried?
• What was the secret his mother told him?
• Can you think of times you could use a “kissing hand”?
• Who have we been talking about today that always is with us?

Maybe if we had a “kissing hand” it would help us remember Jesus’s love and that Jesus is always present with us. We’re not going to kiss everyone’s hand here, but could you help me in sharing these heart stickers to remind us of Jesus’s love and care for us?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Then Our Eyes Were Opened …
Open Your Eyes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHRTBccnAW8&feature=youtu.be
Sharing Our story

OR
Ask one or two individuals to tell their story of when their eyes were opened.
OR
Before the message, invite the group assembled to share in groups of two or three when their eyes were opened today. Be mindful of the stories of children and young people in this experience.

GIVING GENEROUSLY

Scripture

Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. Give generously according to your true capacity. Eternal joy and peace await those who grow in the grace of generosity that flows from compassionate hearts without thought of return. Could it be otherwise in the domain of God, who eternally gives all for the sake of creation?

— Doctrine & Covenants 163:9

All things are sacred, for use with thanksgiving
Boundless resources for each to employ;
Strength for the body and soul’s fuller living;
Spirit and element bonded in joy.
Now let the saints hail so rich a foundation,
Forged in our heritage, living today;
God who persists in the promised salvation
Goes on before us and shows us the way.

— CCS 607

Blessing and Receiving of Offerings

DISCERNING REFLECTION

Show the video inviting reflection on the guiding question: “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?”
- YouTube — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-BknOr6hVw&feature=youtu.be

Our Journey Continues with Song

“We Are Pilgrims on a Journey” CCS 550

Sending Forth

On the path, we go together, let the Spirit gently lead.
We proclaim Jesus as Savior and find joy, hope, love, and peace!

— CCS 558

Go in Peace
DAY THREE — THE AUDACITY OF SHALOM
SHARING SERVICE

Scripture: Road to Emmaus

Materials
envelopes
strips of paper cut from “Truth or Dare” (see appendix, page 60)

Sign
Steep Incline

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs
“Kanisa Litajengwa”
“Come and Fill”
“Come, Holy Spirit, Come”

Welcome
If we as Community of Christ truly are “on our way to him,” then Jesus’s passions and concerns will visibly be our passions and concerns (Doctrine and Covenants 164:9d). Any gaps between our views and his vision will be resolved as we move toward him! Not by trying to conform him to us. That’s what it means to be “on our way” to him! It is ongoing personal and communal spiritual transformation in Christ as a lifelong adventure!

—Stephen M. Veazey, 2019 World Conference closing sermon

Let’s turn our attention again to our community covenant to be “on our way” to him in our interactions with one another this day.
Community Covenant

*Invite children to hold posters with the covenant written on them. Ask an older child or young person to read each one.*

**We will honor the worth of every person.** We want every person to feel welcomed and loved in this community, no exceptions.

**We will listen deeply.** We trust that God is present in every person’s story. It is not our job to fix or give advice.

**We will practice curiosity.** There is more to every person than what we can see. If we start to judge or feel defensive, we will turn instead to wonder.

**We will share openly.** It takes courage to share our stories with one another. We support one another as we risk deeper sharing.

**We will be fully present.** We will be present to God and one another in this time of sacred community.

Reflecting Together

Find a partner of a different age or generation to share with for 2 minutes. Today we will focus on the third part of our covenant: What does it mean to be curious about one another’s lives in a sacred way?

WE PRAY

Reader 1: As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. (Luke 24: 28-29)

Reader 2: The disciples could have let Jesus keep walking on the road. They could have sighed relief that they no longer had to entertain a stranger in their grief.

Reader 1: They didn’t have to invite him to stay. They didn’t know if he was safe. They didn’t know his background or where he was from or where he was going.

Reader 2: They could have thought— now is not the time to be entertaining strangers. We are too tired. We have been walking for too long. We need a break.

Reader 1: But they invited, urged Jesus, to come in for dinner, to stay with them.

Reader 2: And their risk of hospitality revealed the Risen Christ.

Reader 1: So it is with us.

Reader 2: We have many reasons not to invite him in.

Reader 1: But then we might miss the breaking of the bread…

Reader 2: And the astonishing realization that our hearts were burning within us all along.
Reader 1: God, grant us the courage to boldly risk seeking you and inviting you in all people and places.

Reader 2: Stay with us, Christ, here and now. We invite you in. We urge you to stay.

Readers 1 and 2: Amen.

Singing Together (choose one)
“Sometimes We Wait, Expecting God” CCS 304
“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” CCS 367

WE PRACTICE

Taking Bold Risks for Shalom
In *Learning to Walk in the Dark* Barbara Brown Taylor writes about the terror of taking the trash out to the end of the driveway in the pitch black of night as a young girl. She describes the importance of practicing bravery in safe places so that we can live more boldly in our everyday lives. The Audacity of Shalom invites us to into brave discipleship for the sake of the world. The definition of audacity is “a willingness to take bold risks.” Doing kind things for others, working for justice, trying to make the world a better place, can indeed be risky and requires immense bravery.

*(Place road sign in the worship center indicating steep incline ahead.)*

We will have an opportunity to practice courageous discipleship in safe and loving community this morning and then to reflect on how God calls us to take bold risks for shalom in our everyday lives.

Small-Group Truth or Dare

In small intergenerational groups of 5-6 people, have two envelopes (one for “truth” and one for “dare”) that are filled with prompts (see appendix). Each person in the group can choose to take a bold risk for shalom by responding to a truth or dare. All of the truths and dares are written to bring us together in loving community and not to embarrass anyone! After everyone has had a turn, reflect in the small group what it felt like to take “little bold risks” together in loving community by sharing about ourselves and risking in relationship with others.

Watch Video
Dave Heinze, “Risking Something New”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67BgtFBsLSk&feature=youtu.be

WE SHARE

Large-Group Sharing
*In the large group, reflect on these questions. Be especially mindful of making space for the youngest voices among you!*
- How did it feel to take “little bold risks” together today?
• When have you felt prompted to take a bold risk (or be brave) for peace, justice, shalom in your life?
• What feels risky to you about the kingdom of God?

Sing Together
“One Common Prayer” CC5 313

WE DISCERN

Each day we will reflect on our essential question posed by President Stephen Veazey at the 2019 World Conference—Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?

Discernment Question
How will you move closer toward Jesus, the peaceful One, today?

Invite a few moments of silent reflection. (Consider inviting the children to come to the front and ask them to see how long they can be silent as they think about this question. The first day it might be 20 seconds, then 45 seconds, then a minute, and so on.)

The Community Responds
Invite the group to share their answers in a few brief words. (Examples: by listening to others, by helping clean up after a meal, by having lunch with someone I don’t know, etc.)

Closing Prayer
Mission Prayer Song (include Daniel Harmon recording)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60y8OFR8LwY&feature=youtu.be

Project words on a screen or use large posters so everyone can recite them together.

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.
DAY THREE—THE AUDACITY OF SHALOM
WORSHIP SERVICE

Luke 7:37-50

And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him — that she is a sinner.” Jesus spoke up and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” “Teacher,” he replied, “speak.”

“A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Worship Center Preparation

We now have three road signs on our path. Today we’ve added the sign depicting a steep incline. If possible, find a way to place congregational seating in a bold way. If it’s normal to sit in rows, is it possible to sit in a large or concentric circle? Is there a specific formation that fits the idea of living boldly? In this worship there is a handwashing opportunity. Depending on the size of your group, provide for multiple handwashing stations. Consider a basin, a small pitcher or cup for pouring, several small towels for drying.
WE GATHER

Gathering Songs (Choose two or more)

- “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” CCS 99
- “Called to Gather as God’s People” CCS 79
- “For Everyone Born” CCS 285*
- “Peace of Jesus” CCS 318
- “God of Every Generation” CCS 361

*This hymn is used in today’s children’s lessons.

Call to Worship

Risking Something New

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67BgtFBoLSk&feature=youtu.be

Welcome

Today we’ve focused our journey with the peaceful One on being bold, taking little bold risks for peace, justice, and shalom. Beyond our Sharing Service did you try something bold today? Did you see someone else being bold? Invite the group to answer spontaneously with their observations or actions.

When we speak of The Audacity of Shalom, the idea of being audacious seems outside our comfort zone. But, if we believe we are moving toward Jesus the peaceful One, and we believe it is possible for all creation to live in peace, then we can’t just talk about it. We must be bold, even in small ways to bring about God’s kingdom of peace.

As we continue to worship, think about what actions, what words will you share going forward beyond this reunion experience to continue living God’s peace here on earth?

Lighting the Peace Candle and
Prayer for Peace and Invitation

Musical Reflection

Suggest using There Is a Joy in the Journey by Michael Card. YouTube is a resource for this video.

OR

Replay Risking Something New from the Call to Worship

OR

“Come and Bring Light” CCS 287

(solo or small ensemble)

FOCUS MOMENT

Boldly We Reflect Together


This book is a story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child’s confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens. This is a story for anyone who’s ever had an idea that seemed a little too big, too odd, too difficult. It’s a story to inspire you to welcome that idea, to give it some space to grow, and to see what happens next.
As we’ve explored The Audacity of Shalom today, this story makes the connection that amazing things happen when we risk, when we step out boldly, when we believe that peace is possible.

Discussion Questions
Use some or all of these questions.
- Have you ever had an idea that you thought nobody would like?
- What happened in this story when people thought the idea was no good or weird? What did the child do?
- Was the child brave?
- What is a brave thing you can do to make a difference in this world?

Now listen to another story of a brave and bold woman who came to Jesus.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Reading
A Woman Anoints Jesus’s feet
Luke 7:37-50

Musical Reflection
“God Who Cares for All Creation”       CCS 14
This could be used as special music. A small group could learn this and sing it in unison, or in a round. If a small group or soloist isn’t available, read the words as a reflection. Several people could be included reading individual verses.

Message – The Audacity of Shalom
Scripture based on Luke 7:37-50

The message should lead into a time of risking and boldness with the practice of the washing of hands. Evangelists, pastors, mission center leaders, more mature young people can be used in pairs at the handwashing stations. Invite those who will wash and dry individual hands to go to their stations and model this practice for the congregation. As meditation music plays, invite individuals as they feel led to go to a station and offer their hands to be washed and dried. On completion, they should return to their seats. When it seems all those who wish to participate have done so, the station leaders can return to their seats too.

Prayer of Blessing for Bold Hands
and Brave, Audacious Acts for Peace

GIVING GENEROUSLY

When we faithfully respond to the ministry of Jesus Christ we become accountable to one another, God, and ourselves. Our response to God’s gifts of love and grace is to serve others and let generosity become part of our nature.

—Choose Generosity: Discovering Whole-Life Stewardship, page 33

Blessing and Receiving of Offerings
DISCERNING REFLECTION

Show the video inviting reflection on the guiding question: “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?”

- YouTube — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-BKnOr6hVw&feature=youtu.be

Our Journey Continues with Song (choose one)

- “Called by Christ to Love Each Other” CCS 577
- “Sing a New World into Being” CCS 576

Sending Forth

By the grace of God, you are poised to fulfill God’s ultimate vision for the church. b. 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 & Covenants 164:9a-b

Be bold.
Be brave.
Audaciously work for peace.
Amen.
DAY FOUR — TOWARD THE PEACEFUL ONE
SHARING SERVICE

Scripture: Road to Emmaus

Materials
handout
blank paper
pens and crayons

Sign
Intersection

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs (choose two or more)
“All Are Welcome”       CCS 276
“For Everyone Born”      CCS 285
“We Call Out to You”     CCS 299
“Come, Holy Spirit Come” CCS 154

Welcome
Welcome! Today’s theme is “Toward the peaceful One.” We return our attention to President Stephen Veazey’s words and our guiding question.

Scripture testifies that all creation waits “with eager longing” (Romans 8:19) for peaceful humanity to appear on the world stage to turn the tide of hate, agony, and destruction. With that in mind, the central question raised by our text looms even larger. Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One? Or are we retreating from Jesus by reverting to our old humanity and its destructive ways of interacting with others and creation?

As we continue to live into this question, let’s turn again to our community covenant—a tangible way of embodying the peaceful one in our interactions with one another in this time.

Community Covenant
Invite children to hold posters with the covenant written on them or project the reading below. Ask the congregation to join in a responsive reading as we speak aloud our covenant together.
Congregation: We will honor the worth of every person.
Leader: We want every person to feel welcomed and loved in this community, no exceptions.

Congregation: We will listen deeply.
Leader: We trust that God is present in every person’s story. It is not our job to fix or give advice.

Congregation: We will practice curiosity.
Leader: There is more to every person than what we can see. If we start to judge or feel defensive, we will turn instead to wonder.

Congregation: We will share openly.
Leader: It takes courage to share our stories with one another. We support one another as we risk deeper sharing.

Congregation: We will be fully present.
Leader: We will be present to God and one another in this time of sacred community.

Reflecting Together
Find a partner of a different age or generation to share with. Today we will focus on the fourth part of our covenant: When have you shared something important to you with someone else? How did it feel?

Singing Together
“This Is My Song”  CCS 389

WE PRAY

Invocation
Describing Peace: Poems

Using the handout in the appendix, page 61, invite the group to take a few minutes to write or draw what comes to mind for them as they imagine peace with their five senses. Children may be especially creative with these prompts. Consider intentionally pairing with children who can’t yet read or write to capture their responses, or to invite the children to come to the front during this practice and ask them to respond. Do this in silence, or play instrumental music in the background.

Peace Looks Like:
Peace Feels Like:
Peace Tastes Like:
Peace Smells Like:
Peace Sounds Like:

Invite anyone who has interest to share their peace poem so the whole community can hear. (These will be short, but you may not be able to make time for everyone who wants to share.)
WE PRACTICE

Moving Toward the Peaceful One

Give each participant a blank piece of paper and a pen or crayon.

On a piece of paper, draw a large circle that encompasses most of the page. In the center, write “Jesus, the peaceful One.” We will be engaging in a visual examen of the past several days that we have been together at reunion. For the next couple of minutes, write or draw as many moments as you can remember since you arrived. Reflect on your attitudes, interactions with others, self-talk, actions, behaviors, etc. As you reflect, record these memories within the circle based on your sense of when you were moving closer to Jesus, the peaceful One — and when you felt further away.

After a couple minutes, invite participants to form small intergenerational groups of 5-6 to share what they wrote. Have them hold their paper in their hands and review what they remembered and recorded.

Questions for small-group reflections:
• How did you decide where your memories should be placed in proximity to Jesus, the peaceful One, at the center?
• What was your experience? Was this practice challenging? Revealing?
• What is the Spirit inviting you to notice about your everyday discipleship?

Invite the group to return their attention to the larger community. Next, invite them to notice the circle.

The circle represents God’s love and grace that we are never outside of. At the center of this love and grace is Jesus, the peaceful One. Our discipleship invites us to live closer and closer to the center of God’s love and grace for the sake of all creation. And yet — even if we are on the periphery we are still in that circle. Even if we ignored the rules and wrote outside of the circle, God’s love and grace is bigger than the whole page. Take a few moments to see again what you wrote, and what you didn’t write, and to imagine every part of your life in these last several days being held in that larger love and grace that is beyond our comprehension, that we can never fall outside of.

Read the scripture from Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
This is the important paradox of our faith. We can never be separated from love of God in Christ. Yet, as the living embodiment of Jesus in the world today, we can move further away or closer to the peaceful One through our attitudes and actions in everyday life. Both the circle and the center matter to our faith.

*Place the sign in the worship center, at an intersection.*

Today’s sign represents the intersection of our everyday lives with our discipleship. We always have choices we can make about what direction we will walk and how we will live as we seek to embody Jesus, the peaceful One in all we do.

**Sing Together**

“In My Life, Lord”  
CCS 602

**WE SHARE**

*Invite responses from the large group as we reflect on our experience of this time together today. Be especially mindful of the youngest voices among us who have wisdom to share.*

**Large Group Reflections**

Notice if you feel called to respond to one of these questions.

- When do you notice yourself moving closer to Jesus, the peaceful One, and when do you sense you are moving further away?
- What is the Spirit’s invitation to you in today’s practice?

**WE DISCERN**

*Each day we will reflect on our essential question posed by President Stephen Veazey at the 2019 World Conference: Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?*

**Discernment Question**

How will you move closer toward Jesus, the peaceful one, today?

*Invite a few moments of silent reflection. (Consider inviting the children to come to the front and ask them to see how long they can be silent as they think about this question. The first day it might be 20 seconds, then 45 seconds, then a minute, and so on.)*

**The Community Responds**

*Invite the group to share their answers in a few brief words. (Examples: by listening to others, by helping clean up after a meal, by having lunch with someone I don’t know, etc.)*

**Sing Together (choose one)**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”  
CCS 605

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”  
CCS 499

**Closing Prayer**

Reader 1: While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them. (Luke 24:15)
Reader 2: Jesus, come near to us as we seek to come near to you. Sometimes we miss seeing you in our everyday lives. As we seek to live your peace more completely, we are grateful that you walk beside us.

Reader 1: As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us.” (Luke 24:28)

Reader 2: You are beside us, ahead of us, behind us, with us. We are grateful that even as we try to move closer to you, you are always close to us.

Reader 1: Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:35)

Reader 2: Open our eyes to your presence as we walk the roads of our faith in everyday lives. Keep us awake to the intersections where we make decisions about who we will be and how we will live your peace with others. Give us the courage to share the good news, to tell what is happening on the road.

Readers 1 and 2: Walk with us today as we desire to walk closer to you. Amen.
DAY FOUR — TOWARD THE PEACEFUL ONE
WORSHIP SERVICE

Luke 24:13-17, 28-31

The Walk to Emmaus

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him …

Worship Center Preparation
We now have four road signs on our path. Today we’ve added the sign depicting an intersection. A suggestion would be to arrange the chairs for this worship experience to reflect this style of intersection. Place the Communion table in the center. It would be ideal to have a lower table so all can see the entire group across the table. OR place chairs in a circle with the communion table in the center. Road signs from the week can symbolically lead or point the path toward the table.

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs (Choose two or more)

“He Came Singing Love”

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”*

“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the Morning”

“Friend of the Streetwalker”

“Lord Prepare Me”

CCS 226

campfire song

CCS 289

CCS 280

*This song was used in today’s children’s lessons.
We Remember the Question
Show the video inviting reflection on the guiding question: “Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?”
- YouTube — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-BKnOr6hVw&feature=youtu.be

Welcome
Today our intentional focus has been on following Jesus, moving toward the peaceful One. We explored that focus with a spiritual practice in the Sharing Services, and hopefully throughout the day you’ve been drawn to an idea that leads you to the path with the Jesus. As Tony Chvala-Smith wrote in *A Way of Life*, “Grace calls us to discipleship, and discipleship is nothing less than radical obedience to Jesus.” As we worship now, hear the call to radically, audaciously follow Jesus.

Call to Worship
Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.  
— Psalm 86:11-12

Sing Praises
“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”  
CCS 92

Prayer of Invocation

Choral Response
“Give Thanks” (refrain only)  
CCS 134
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks.

Lighting the Peace Candle
God, our creator, within the word peace we discover the essential elements for lasting peace.

PERSISTENCE coupled with patience.  
EACH PERSON is valued by the creator and we must do likewise.  
AGENCY is a gift, which you freely gave, which must be wisely and carefully utilized.  
CHEERFULNESS, COMMITMENT, CARING, CONNECTEDNESS  
EVERLASTING describes your love and watch care for all your creation. Let us judiciously exercise our assigned stewardship.  
We pray these things in the name of the one who taught us always to pray. Amen.

— Prayer written by Chuck Williams, adapted
FOCUS MOMENT


It doesn’t take much to spread a little peace. Seeds of peace are all over the world — in a shared smile, a helping hand, a compassionate voice. Reach out your hand — and your heart. Help spread a little peace.

As we’ve been talking about Living Jesus … Living Peace this week, this book reminds us that peace is within each of us. As we’re moving toward the peaceful One, we have peace to share with everyone we meet.

Discussion Questions
Use some or all of these questions.

- Where did you see peace being shared in this story?
- Have you done anything to share peace like what was talked about in this book?
- This week we’ve been talking about being the Living Jesus in our world; how do others see Jesus in us?
- Our world is full of colorful images and stories waiting for us to pay attention. How do you see peace in our world?

Simple, inexpensive kaleidoscopes can be purchased online. These might make an interesting take-away reminder to see the vibrancy of peace in our world.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Scripture Reading
Try to use a variety of readers. Read with intentionality, and at a measured pace. Let the words sink in between phrases.

Reader 1: Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,
Reader 2: and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
Reader 3: While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,
Reader 1: but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
Reader 2: And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad
Reader 3: As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.
Reader 1: But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.
Reader 2: When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Reader 3: Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him …
Musical Reflection

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” CCS 31
This could be another piece of music OR use this hymn with a choir, small group, or soloist singing the first two lines with the congregation singing the last two lines as a response for each verse.

Message: “Toward the Peaceful One”

Song

“The Peace of Jesus Christ” CCS 317

WE RESPOND

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Communion Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Preparation of the Emblems

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome at Christ’s table. The Lord’s Supper (Communion), is a sacrament in which we remember the life, death, resurrection, and continuing presence of Jesus Christ. In Community of Christ, we also experience Communion as an opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant and to be formed as disciples who live Christ’s mission. Others may have different or added understandings within their faith traditions. We invite all who participate in the Lord’s Supper to do so in the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Blessing and Serving of the Bread and Wine

Suggestion for serving would be to invite those who would partake to come to the table. Priesthood servers would serve the bread and wine from the center of the room. There would be two or four stations depending on the size of your group.

It is suggested that this is part of the service is the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. It could also be an Emmaus Meal with everyone sitting at tables or use other creative ideas to share together in Table Fellowship.

GIVING GENEROUSLY

Through the call to be generous disciples, our response is to reclaim that same vision and passion for the whole mission of Jesus Christ today. We are poised to share the peace of Jesus Christ with those who are waiting to hear the redeeming words of the gospel.

We are poised to be Christ’s hands and feet, reaching out through compassionate ministries that serve the poor and hungry and stop conditions that diminish the worth of persons.

We are poised to be true and living expressions of the life, ministry, and continuing presence of Christ in the world.
We are poised to restore Christ’s covenant of peace, even the Zion of our hopes. The hope of Zion will become a reality when we live Christ’s peace and generously share his peace with others. Through our generosity today, we are becoming a prophetic people characterized by uncommon devotion to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ!

— Sharing in Community of Christ, fourth edition, page 23, adapted

**Blessing and Receiving of Offerings**
*In remembrance of the Lord’s Supper, during the receiving of offerings provide opportunity to focus on Abolish Poverty, End Suffering, the Mission Initiative that includes Oblation and World Hunger ministry.*

**Our Journey Continues**
“Community of Joy”

CCS 631

**Sending Forth**
Scripture testifies that all creation waits “with eager longing” *(Romans 8:19)* for peaceful humanity to appear on the world stage and turn the tide on hate, agony, and destruction. With that in mind, are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?

**Together We Pray**
*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.*
DAY FIVE — LIVING HOPE
SHARING SERVICE

Scripture: Road to Emmaus

Materials
Blank Paper
Posters (medium-sized)
Pens or Crayons
Markers

Road Sign
U-turn

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs
“Sizohamba Naye” (“We Will Walk with God”) CCS 377
“Bwana Awabariki” (May God Grant You a Blessing) CCS 660

Welcome
Welcome! Today’s theme is “Living Hope” and we once again turn our attention to President Stephen Veazey’s words as we welcome one another into this sacred time and space. As we reflect on our reunion experience, notice what is evoked for you in response to this invitation:

“As for this faith community, I continue to feel the Holy Spirit urging us to go much deeper and further in exploring, embodying, and sharing the peace of Jesus Christ in all the locations and vocations of our lives. As we do, we will discover the essential meaning of restoration. We will discover our best selves and brightest future. We will discover all the surprising ways that Christ-inspired community weaves diverse people together as expressions of the gospel of peace. And, we will discover deep community in Christ as a wellspring of living water, rising and revealing the currents of God’s grace flowing through our lives. May the love and peace of Christ urge us on in our quest for such community and bless us until we meet again!”

— Stephen M. Veazey, 2019 World Conference closing sermon

In the spirit of discovering deep community, let’s turn our attention one more time to our community covenant as an intentional reminder of the ways we want to be together:
Community Covenant

Invite children to hold posters with the covenant written on them. Ask members of multiple generations to read them.

We will honor the worth of every person. We want every person to feel welcomed and loved in this community, no exceptions.

We will listen deeply. We trust that God is present in every person’s story. It is not our job to fix or give advice.

We will practice curiosity. There is more to every person than what we can see. If we start to judge or feel defensive, we will turn instead to wonder.

We will share openly. It takes courage to share our stories with one another. We support one another as we risk deeper sharing.

We will be fully present. We will be present to God and one another in this time of sacred community.

Reflecting Together
Find a partner of a different age or generation to share with. Today we will focus on the fifth part of our covenant: When is the last time you felt truly present and awake to life?

Singing Together
“Seek Ye First”

WE PRAY

Invocation
Paper Airplane Prayers

Give each member of the congregation a blank piece of paper and a pen or crayon. Ask everyone to write or draw a message of hope, some words of encouragement, that could be shared with someone else.

After a minute or so of drawing and writing, invite the congregation to turn their message into a paper airplane. If it’s possible in your space, ask that the congregation form two lines on opposite sides of the gathering space to toss their paper airplanes to one another. Some will go further than others. Participants might need to walk across the room to pick up another person’s airplane and receive a message of hope.

Invite some of the participants to read aloud what they received in the paper airplane they picked up. End this time of sharing with an “Amen.”

WE PRACTICE

Spiritual Practice: Praying with Scripture
As we prepare to enter a time of praying with scripture, we place our final road sign along the Way. (Place the U-turn sign in the road.)
In the Emmaus text, the disciples changed course when they realized the presence of the Risen Christ. Instead of going on, they returned to Jerusalem to share the good news of the resurrection of Jesus. While this sounds joyful, we also know that it was a great risk. Religiously and politically, it was a hostile, tense, and dangerous environment. Yet the encounter brought such hope that their plans were disrupted, and they returned anyway.

As we focus on Living Hope today, we are aware that sometimes the Spirit breaks through our grief, uncertainty, sorrow, or apathy with a renewed vision of what life can be. We remember the phrase borrowed from the Womanist tradition: **God makes a way out of no way.** Maybe this Christ-way we are walking together is the way **out of no way** that God is making through us and through all of history. As we pray with the Emmaus text this morning, let’s reflect on the encounters we’ve had with the Risen Christ and how we are also invited to return with hope to even the hard places in our lives and world.

*(Invite a musician, or use a recording, to play instrumental music very softly in the background as this practice is led. They might play the next hymn, “How Many Times We Start Again” as the piece of music to make a strong connection between these worship elements.)*

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.

**In the silence notice your own longing for God. When this week have you found yourself longing for God, Christ, Spirit to stay with you?**

*(Pause for about a minute of silence with instrumental music playing softly in the background.)*

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

**In the silence, notice when your heart has burned within you this week. When have you discovered the surprising presence of Christ revealed through ordinary actions, conversations, and relationships?**

*(Pause for about a minute of silence with instrumental music playing softly in the background.)*

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

In the silence, notice how the Spirit has been joyfully disruptive in your life. Just as the disciples changed their plans and returned to Jerusalem instead of going on, when have you made a U-turn in your discipleship and changed course because of the Spirit’s prompting?

(Pause for about a minute of silence with instrumental music playing softly in the background.)

Sing Together or Invite a Soloist to Sing
“How Many Times We Start Again” CCS 560

WE SHARE

Invite the congregation to share testimonies and reflections as a large group. Pose these questions and project them if possible. Let the congregation know that they are invited to respond to either question. Be especially mindful of opportunities to include children and young people.

- What is the Spirit’s invitation to you from this time of prayer?
- Where do you find hope?

Sing Together
“Spirit of the Living God” CCS 567

WE DISCERN

Each day we will reflect on our essential question posed by President Stephen Veazey at the 2019 World Conference: Are we moving toward Jesus, the peaceful One?

Show the guiding question video again
- YouTube — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-BKnOr6hVw&feature=youtu.be

Today’s Discernment Question
How will you move closer toward Jesus, the peaceful one, today?

Invite a few moments of silent reflection. (You may consider inviting the children to come to the front and ask them to see how long they can be in silence as they think about this question. The first day it might be 20 seconds, then 45 seconds, then a minute, and so on.)

The Community Responds
Invite the group to share their answers in a few brief words. (Examples: by listening to others, by helping clean up after a meal, by having lunch with someone I don’t know, etc.)

Singing Together (choose one)
“The Canticle of the Turning” CCS 404
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” CCS 53

Closing Prayer
Invite each member of the congregation to write in big letters on a large piece of paper the phrase “We Shall…” with a response following. Examples can be found in the hymn, We Shall Overcome, CCS 261. This song was a protest and encouragement of the American Civil Rights Movement.

For our closing prayer, we will be listening to a recording of “We Shall Overcome” from the funeral mass for Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young black man who was killed during a nonviolent voting rights march. His death helped to inspire the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery marches in Alabama. This recording specifically embodies grief, hope, and resilience. In the midst of extreme persecution, oppression, and the tragic death of someone they loved, you can hear the Spirit breaking through, redeeming, instilling hope in this powerful community of singers and activists. As you listen, when you feel ready, stand and hold up your sign so that everyone can see it. Turn briefly so that each person in the congregation has an opportunity to read it. Remain standing as others stand.

Listen to the recording of “We Shall Overcome”
https://folkways.si.edu/workers-in-selma-at-mass-for-jimmie-lee-jackson/we-shall-overcome/african-american-music-american-history-struggle-protest/music/track smithsonian

Sending Forth

Deep in our hearts
We do believe
We shall live in peace one day.
Amen.
DAY FIVE — LIVING HOPE
WORSHIP SERVICE

“As for this faith community, I continue to feel the Holy Spirit urging us to go much deeper and further in exploring, embodying, and sharing the peace of Jesus Christ in all the locations and vocations of our lives. As we do, we will discover the essential meaning of restoration. We will discover our best selves and brightest future. We will discover all the surprising ways that Christ-inspired community weaves diverse people together as expressions of the gospel of peace. And, we will discover deep community in Christ as a wellspring of living water, rising and revealing the currents of God’s grace flowing through our lives. May the love and peace of Christ urge us on in our quest for such community and bless us until we meet again!”

— Stephen M. Veazey
2019 World Conference closing sermon

Worship Center Preparation

Today we have five road signs on our path and have added the U-turn. We remember that the disciples in the Emmaus story changed direction when they realized they were in the presence of the Christ. We have permission to change direction when we recognize the Christ on our path and in our lives. This service continues answering the questions for Day 5 Sharing Service – What is the Spirit’s invitation to you? Where do you find hope?

WE GATHER

Gathering Songs (Choose two or more)

“May the God of Hope” (“Dios de la esperanza”) CCS 652
“Gather Us In” CCS 72
“All Things Bright and Beautiful” CCS 135*
“Oh, Sing to the Lord” (“Cantad al Senor”) CCS 88
“Siyahamb’ Ekukhanyen’ Kwenkhos’ ” CCS 95
(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

*This hymn was used in today’s children’s lessons.
Welcome
Welcome to this time of continuing exploration. We live in the hope that Christ brings to our lives. We live in hope when we recognize Christ walking with us on the way. Let us give praise to our God who continues creation and gives hope to our lives in so many ways.

Call to Worship
Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

— Psalm 33:20-22

Sing Praises
“Hope of the World”

Prayer of Invocation

Lighting the Peace Candle
Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet. Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.

Prayer of Peace

Song
“We Walk Along the Shoreline”

FOCUS MOMENT

Read the book, One World, One Day, a book by Barbara Kerley, National Geographic Society, Washington D.C., 2009. All of us around the world have much in common, and that the more we can embrace our commonality, the more tolerant we can be of our differences. That is the spirit behind this book. Kids in countries around the world have days remarkably alike—in ways that really matter. Kids go to school, they play, they spend time with their families. This book represents one day, from sunrise to sunset, around the world—a day we share together.

When we live in hope we realize we all want similar things in our world—a safe place to live; food to eat; a community that supports, cares and loves; opportunities to learn; and a life lived in joy, love, hope, and peace.
Discussion Questions
Use some or all of these questions.

- What are some of the things you do every day? Do you brush your teeth? Make your bed? Help your mom or dad?
- When you have an answer, see if others in the group do the same thing. Make the connection that many things we do in our lives, other children and people do.
- What do you look forward to each day?
- What do you hope will happen in your life?
- What can you do to make these hopes happen?

Musical Reflection
Special Music OR
Music Meditation OR
“We Are A Family of Faith” CCS 350

Prayer of Hope
Thankfulness, appreciation, gratitude, acknowledgment …”
Words that raise us up
Words that slip off the tongue easily,
Sometimes too easily, sometimes not at all.
Forgive, Gracious God, our praise held fast by mind and heart
— stillborn by good intentions never realized.
Forgive our hesitancy, our mistaken notion,
That he or she with whom we work side by side
Must somehow sense our solidarity.
Remind us that love unspoken is love unknown,
That words retained and deeds undone sing no song,
For whenever goodwill sleeps silent,
Receiver and giver are diminished.
Let the liberty of your love free such inhibitions.
May we, then, be not bankrupt of praise
In our giving and in our receiving.
May we laugh, love, and live together in community
Blessed by relationships that seek to raise each soul up.
May the ground on which we work be ever level,
Affording none, regardless of status, a standpoint
That overlooks others.
May the hand of friendship unite
Our common commitment to your cause.
Bind us together, Lord.
Wing your words, of hope, health, and healing into our hearts.
Lift us up on wings of joy—blessed by each other
And blessed by you as we seek to serve your people.
In Jesus’s name, Amen.


Discerning Response
“Listen in the Silence” (sing twice) CCS 153
Show the video inviting reflection on “Who is Jesus to Me?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5D6JZ35TE1Y&feature=youtu.be

“Listen in the Silence”(sing again twice) CCS 153

Message of Hope and Challenge
This can be a brief challenge to reunion participants to be living hope in our world. If not using the response portion of this service, the message can take more time.

Song (choose one)
“Whatever You Do” CCS 355
“We Are One in the Spirit” CCS 359
“Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing” CCS 556

WE RESPOND

We will walk …
We will work …
We will live in hope …
We are moving toward the peaceful One …

This time in the service could be used to collect responses regarding what reunion participants will do when they leave this experience. These can be very specific, even simple—one small act is better than no act—but what will be different because of your participation in this reunion experience? Did a thought or idea challenge you to be different? Will you walk with or work for justice and peace in new or different ways—to live in hope of God’s Kingdom here on Earth?

Depending on your group, an idea to move the interaction is to use an inflatable beachball. Write the prompts above (I will walk, I will work, I will live in hope, I am moving toward the peaceful One…OR use something unique to your reunion experience). The ball can be gently tossed around the room for response. If it lands with someone not ready to respond, it’s okay. Encourage them to feel free to say, ‘not yet’ and move the ball to someone else. There are a variety of ways to implement this idea, be creative and sensitive to your group.

GIVING GENEROUSLY

In this offering, we put ourselves at God’s disposal to serve the world. Our offering gifts are symbolic of our self-offering and are a pledge of our servanthood. Our gifts are a grateful response. We give cause for celebration and joy as we share with other symbols of our lives which have been given to us by a gracious God. Let us unite our individual contributions into one gift given in a joyful response to God’s great gift to us.

—Prayers and Readings for Worship, Judy Judd, ed., page 103.

Blessing and Receiving of Offerings
Prayer of Blessing for our Journeys

“How Many Times We Start Again”  CCS 560

Sending Forth

You are a good and faithful people, but sometimes you fail to see the power that is resident in your own story and fellowship. Look carefully, listen attentively, and sense the Spirit among you. … Be fervent in your witness, passionate in your discipleship, and vigorous in your labor on behalf of peace and justice. Where two or three such disciples form community, there will the Spirit be. Many will come to see. Continue your journey. … 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 & Covenants 162:8

We Sing Our Continuing Journey (choose one)

“Go Now Forth into the World”  CCS 646
“The Trees of the Field”  CCS 645
APPENDIX
COLOR ME INTERESTING

Everyone has a story to tell. Use this activity to find out more about reunion participants in your group.

Using colored paper, cut small squares and mix them into a basket or bowl.

Assign a different meaning to each color:
- Blue = family
- Green = school
- Yellow = friends
- Red = hobbies
- Brown = music/movies

Pass the basket/bowl and invite each participant to take three to five squares of paper.

Once these have been distributed, explain the color assignments. Using groups of three, have individuals share as many facts about themselves as the different colors in their hands. For example, if they have two blue and a yellow, share two facts about their family and a fact about their friends.

Give groups a few minutes to share, and then ask everyone to find a new group and start again. Use music to signal changes. Use questions from “Who’s in Our Group” below, especially questions about reunion.

Feel free to assign different categories to these colors. It is possible to also play this with M&Ms or Skittles. Be mindful of food allergies or of children in the group who shouldn’t have small objects. There are a variety of ways to learn about individuals in your reunion group.
APPENDIX
WHO IS IN OUR GROUP?

This interactive activity requires no materials. Ask reunion participants to join in group of three to five; try to mix ages as groups become a little more comfortable with the activity. Choose a question below, or create your own, and invite the group to share. This is a great way to get to know children and teenagers as the week begins. The objective is to learn something new from one another, but at the same time be sensitive to comfort levels, suggest going with a friend at the start, and branch out as the group is able.

There are 20 general questions and five questions specifically about the reunion experience. Ask a general question and let the group answer; followed by a reunion experience question and answer time before suggesting new groups form.

General Questions
- If you could be the sidekick of any cartoon or movie character, which character would you choose and why?
- What is one question you want to ask God?
- What two animals would you combine into one new animal?
- If you could be any flavor of ice cream, what flavor would you be and why?
- What are three things you like about yourself?
- What does prayer mean to you?
- If you could relive any day of your life so far, what day would you choose and why?
- Who is your favorite person in the Bible?
- What is the bravest thing you’ve ever done?
- Do you have any pets? If not, what pet would you like?
- If you could become invisible, what would you like to do and where would you like to go?
- If you could be another person for a day, who would you be?
- Where is your favorite place in the world?
- What is a way God has shown up in your life recently?
- What is something you’re good at?
- What does this world need more of?
- What is something new you tried recently and loved?
- What is something you’re passionate about and want to spend more time doing?
- What would you do if you were not afraid?
- What’s something most people don’t know about you?

Reunion Questions
- What is your favorite thing about a Community of Christ reunion? If you haven’t been before, what is one question you’d like to have answered?
- What is our Reunion theme this week? What does this mean to you right now?
- What is one thing you hope to do in this reunion experience?
- What is your favorite hymn or campfire song?
- Where do you see yourself journeying on the path with Jesus?
# TRUTH OR DARE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRUTH</th>
<th>DARE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is something most people don’t know about you?</td>
<td>Tell someone in this room that you love them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are you most passionate about?</td>
<td>Sing part of the hymn or song that means the most to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is Jesus to you?</td>
<td>Tell someone in this room 3 things that you appreciate about them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What gifts or talents do you feel most called to contribute to the world?</td>
<td>Share a word of encouragement with someone from a different generation (age group).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whom do you most admire and why?</td>
<td>Make everyone in the group smile—keep going until everyone has smiled!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When have you felt most valued by someone else?</td>
<td>Let one person give you a (small) tattoo with a pen or marker that represents something peaceful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When have you helped someone else in need?</td>
<td>Using only your body, and no words, share what Community of Christ means to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are you most grateful for?</td>
<td>Ask for the microphone (or yell loudly) and announce to the whole group what you love most about reunion!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the hardest thing you’ve ever had to do?</td>
<td>Tell each person in your small group something you like about them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When are you most inspired to do good in the world?</td>
<td>Find someone you haven’t talked to yet and introduce yourself or say hello. Let them know you’re glad they are here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DESCRIPTION OF PEACE

Peace Looks Like:
Peace Feels Like:
Peace Tastes Like:
Peace Smells Like:
Peace Sounds Like:
APPENDIX
ROAD SIGNS