

Creative Calls to Worship for Today's People

Grateful Praise - Call to Worship

(Song for congregational response: "For the Beauty of the Earth", refrain)

L: God created the heavens, star-spattered with beauty, and the earth, teeming with life. And God set us on the Earth, alive and wide-eyed, able to see and hear, feel and taste life's beauty, able to dream and plan, create and build out of the richness of the earth.

P: (singing) Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

L: God gave us families to love us, teachers to teach us, elders to guide us, and leaders to inspire us. God gave us His son to save us from the path of destruction and sin, and to be a strengthening presence in our trials and temptations.

P: (singing) Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

L: Every good thing that fills our souls with gladness and our lives with light is a gift from God. We have been entrusted with unfathomable riches. For this, let us come before God in Thanksgiving and grateful praise.

P: (singing) Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

- David Inglis

Joyful, Joyful - Call to Worship

(Song for congregational response: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

L: Praise be to you O God, who has awakened us to a new day of living, and who offers us a new life that dawns with the light of your grace and love.

**P: (singing): Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love,
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, opening to the sun above.**

L: Praise be to you O God, who spins galaxies through the eons of time and space, who sets the evening sky ablaze with glory, who breathes life into the humblest worm and into us.

**P: (singing): All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven
reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken
praise.**

L: Praise be to you O God, who emptied yourself to live as our Brother and Friend, whose heart knows no barriers to compassion and mercy, whose holy purpose is to lift us into the fullness of joy and unity with you and all Creation.

P: (singing): Thou our Father, Christ our Brother-- all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

- David Inglis

Sing a New Song - Call to Worship

(Song for congregational response: "Sing a New Song to the Lord:" Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, Music by David G. Wilson, Hope Publishing Co.)

L: Sing a new song to the Lord, for God spoke, and light broke forth upon creation. God spoke, and the earth was born, clothed in green and teeming with life.

P: (singing): Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong.

L: God gathered the elements of the dust, breathed into it the divine Spirit, and humanity was created--man and woman in God's own image.

P: (singing): Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong.

L: God called Abraham and Sarah to leave their home, and step out in faith towards a strange land they did not know.

P: (singing): Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong.

L: Their faith made them a blessing to the human race, and they blazed the trial of faith for us, their spiritual descendants.

P: (singing): Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong.

L: God brought Jesus into the world, radiating divine love, healing, and wisdom into the world, calling us to new heights of faith.

P: (singing): Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong.

L: God has poured out the Holy Spirit on all the faithful, igniting us with the fiery power of love to transform God's strife-torn world into the reigning of God.

**P: (singing): Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong.
Rejoice in his triumph and tell of his power - O sing to the Lord a new song!**

- David Inglis

Welcome home - Call to Worship

L: In every one of us there is a longing for home.

P: It's a longing for a place where we are known, accepted, and loved for who we are.

L: It's a longing for a place where we are nurtured, guided, and challenged to become more than we are.

P: It's a longing to belong, and to create a home where more and more of God's children know they belong.

L: God calls to us, "You can come home now. There is a home for you in my forgiving love. There is a home for you in my living Word. There is a home for you in my church, the fellowship of my servant people."

P: And our hearts respond, "We are coming. Open the door wide. We are coming home."

- David Inglis

Here We Are - Call to Worship

(Song for congregational response: "For the Beauty of the Earth", refrain)

L: God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

P: My spirit answers, Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

L: God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body, the body of Christ.

P: Together we answer, Here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.

L: God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God to extend God's kingdom into our hurting world?

P: Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.

L: God calls the small, and helps them do great things. God calls the weak, and reveals their hidden gifts. God calls the rejected, and opens their eyes to their worth.

P: Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.

L: Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

P: Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work your redeeming will in us, that all the world may be one through the power of your love.

- David Inglis

Work of Art - Call to Worship

L: We are God's work of art--each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

P: We are God's handiwork--woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

L: We are the church of Jesus Christ--diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself.

P: We are the Body of Christ--living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, in the world he loved so much.

L: We are here to be reminded once more who we are and what our lives are about.

P: We are here to be lifted, renewed, and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working among us.

L: Together let us worship the living God.

P: We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.

- David Inglis

Rise, Shine - Call to Worship

(Song for congregational response: "For the Beauty of the Earth", refrain)

L: Rise, shine, for your light has come!

P: The light of dawn has called us to a new day to live and to love.

L: Rise, shine, for your light has come!

P: The true Light that enlightens every person has come into the world, revealing that in God, all creation is one.

L: Rise, shine, for your light has come!

P: Jesus has challenged us to be the light of the world, shining holy love into the dark corners of confusion, fear and despair.

L: Rise, shine, for your light has come!

P: Here we are, Lord. Illumine us, purify us, and shine through us as we worship, listen and respond to you this holy hour.

- David Inglis

Tragedy - Call to Worship

L: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

P: We have heard in shocked horror about local children killed and abused by their care givers, about students gunned down in Arkansas, about families being killed in Kosovo. Yes, we have been there.

L: Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

P: Our hearts and offerings have gone out to the victims of ice storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Yes, we have been there.

L: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

P: We have witnessed the death of dreams as those we know and love have suffered through layoffs, illness, disability, and loss. Yes, we have been there.

L: Friends in Christ, we have been with Jesus, and Jesus has been with us, in our struggles with the forces of darkness and death. He is here with us now, even in the shadow of the cross, leading us through the darkness towards the light.

P: We will follow where he leads, trusting that through God's power, light will triumph over darkness, and life will triumph over death.

- David Inglis

God Is Good - Call to Worship

L: Every week we reenact the story of God's boundless love and celebrate the reality of God's presence. We gather in front of the cross, a reminder of how much God suffers when we sin, and how complete is God's forgiveness.

P: Such a God! Our God is good! God is with us forever!

L: The light coming from our candles reminds us that God's light shines into the dark places in our lives and our world, lighting our path, illuminating our minds, and disclosing the truth.

P: Such a God! Our God is good! God is with us forever!

L: Every week our ears and hearts are filled by the music of the organ and the song of the choir, a reminder of how God gifts us with talents that can blend to lift us and glorify God.

P: Such a God! Our God is good! God is with us forever!

L: Now look at the most important part of the church--us, the people. It is here that God is most alive, weaving us into a community of faith, teaching us how to love, challenging us to do far more abundantly than we could imagine by ourselves.

ALL: Such a God! Our God is good! God is with us forever!

Yay God - Intergenerational Call to Worship

L: God has created a wonderful world, touched it with beauty, and filled it with life.

P: Yay God!

L: God has created each of us in God's own image--able to create new things, discern wisdom, and spread love.

P: Yay God!

L: God has come to us in human form, showing us the path to life and peace, suffering and dying for us, and calling us to new life in Christ.

P: Yay God!

L: God comes to us now, filling us with the Spirit of love, compassion, truth, and power, to be the Body of Christ in the world.

P: Yay God!

L: Come, let us worship our awesome God!