



Tired of seeing most of your life through a computer, phone, or television screen? We have a summer resource that will help you connect to God through a worship service that can be done without any screens. If your dog eats this one you can visit the Vinje website for four different worship services that you can do as family right from your own home, or wherever you choose. Let's be honest, even before COVID not everyone was coming to worship during the summer, and having something for the campfire might be just what you need.

A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP

At this time we gather to worship and praise God, to learn together about God's call on us to be people who serve and work for justice in the world. To know more deeply that God's love is for us. We will use the stories of scripture as our foundation as we gather to serve and to enjoy life as part of Christ's Church. You are claiming this time and place as sacred space, and we encourage all to offer themselves, their gifts, their joys and their burdens, their ideas and unique perspectives – as we worship and praise the God who gathers us in and sends us out to serve.

Don't hesitate to edit this worship for you and your family. These are merely suggestions and you can change the order of service to meet your needs. If you would rather sing a different song, please do so. If you would rather offer your own prayer, please do so. When it comes time for the "message" feel free to offer your own thoughts on the scripture you just heard. Make this holy time your own connection to God.



WORSHIP WITHOUT SCREENS 1: “NO PAYMENT NECESSARY”

GATHERING

We gather here as people who have faith in a story that stretches far before and beyond us.

It’s a story that tells us that what we know of life is only a tiny part of the picture; that here, who we are is still unfinished.

It’s a story of how God’s redemption and restoration that rewrites what we know of ourselves, changing our lives with words of grace and forgiveness and creating an ending that speaks only of love.

We gather to worship God.

SONG

I Love to Tell the Story ELW #661 or Ancient Words

PRAYER

We are yours Lord, life and breath, all belong to you. Thank you for this time today, make it holy and precious, so that all we say, all we sing, all we think and all we do will give glory and honor to you. Amen.

READING

Matthew 10:7-10

“As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.”

MESSAGE

In today's reading we hear Jesus give a command to his disciples to do some pretty radical things - raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons. These don't just sound like difficult tasks, they sound downright impossible. But Jesus doesn't stop there. He goes on to tell his disciples to leave behind all of their possessions. Jesus even goes so far as to tell them to not bring any money as they go along. The degree of difficulty to these challenges appears to be off-the-charts. And yet, Jesus assures them that he is giving them the authority to do all that he is asking of them, as he explains how they'll travel with no money or extra provisions.

Jesus invited those disciples and Jesus invites us to place our trust and faith in him. God will provide all that is needed and necessary as we serve. Just as we have been blessed, we are invited this week to share that blessing, the good news of Jesus, by being the hands and feet of our loving God.

What possessions would be hard for you to give up?

Share about a time in your life when you lost a meaningful possession.

Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples (and maybe us) to give up their things?

WORSHIP-TIVITY

Unpacking our Baggage

Provide scrap paper and writing utensils to everybody in worship. Ask them to write down everything that they can think of that is in their room. Ask people to share some of the things that they wrote down. Ask which of those items are necessities? Are they necessary to sharing the good news? Try as you might to argue about what they need, today's scripture says, "Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food." God has given us everything we need to share the good news and to serve others. Don't let the things that we think we need get in the way of the work we know we need to do.



PRAYER

God, you give us everything we need. Thank you for the world you have shared with us and all the people who share in our lives. Remind us that you are more important than any thing we may find in our home.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

SONG

Day by Day ELW #790

CLOSING PRAYER

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

Let all that you do be done in love, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





WORSHIP WITHOUT SCREENS 2

“IT ALL STARTS WITH A CUP OF WATER”

GATHERING

One: Jesus said that whoever welcomes one of his followers, welcomes Jesus himself.

All: (Turn to the person beside you and say “Welcome to our worship.”)

One: Whoever welcomes Jesus, also welcomes God.

All: (Turn to someone else and welcome them)

One: Whoever offers even a cup of cold water to one of God’s children will be blessed by God.

All: All are welcome here! Let us worship God.

SONG

All Are Welcome ELW #641 or *All Who Are Thirsty*

PRAYER

Life-giving God, we gather in your presence to offer our thanks for all that you have done. Open our hearts and minds to your presence among us and to the Word you have for us today, that we might share your love in our thoughts, words and actions. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

READING

Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus said: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

MESSAGE STARTER

In today's reading we hear Jesus talk about what it means to welcome and serve others. Often times it can feel difficult to welcome and serve others. Jesus breaks it down for us when he says that even something as simple and basic as giving a cup of water to someone who is thirsty is a righteous, godly act. This week we are doing big things as we serve and walk alongside those we meet. Let us remember the importance of the small things too – the conversation with the person we meet on a walk, waving at a neighbor, calling a friend, or sharing a meal with our family. Our actions may not always feel like they're changing the world, but with every action done in God's name, we are sharing and living the good news as Jesus commanded us to do.

Share a story about a time when someone's small action made you feel good, feel welcomed, feel loved.

Why do these small things make such a big difference?

WORSHIP-TIVITY

Love Letters

Pass out paper and a pencil/pen/crayon to everyone in worship. Have each person write a letter to someone they think needs to hear from them. Kids can draw pictures in addition to their letter (I guess adults can draw pictures too). After worship you can address the envelopes and get them ready for the mail. Be sure to send real letters in the mail and not emails or text messages (remember this is worship without screens).

PRAYER

God, we don't always know what is going on in someone else's life, but you do. Keep watch over all the people we love and keep them safe. Give them a feeling of peace and let them know that you are there and they are loved. Amen.

SONG

Jesus Loves Me ELW #595 or *Oh How He Loves You and Me*

PRAYER

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go in joy, the blessing of the Lord is upon you.
Go in confidence; you are beloved children of God.
Go in peace; the Spirit of God goes with you.
Go in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



WORSHIP WITHOUT SCREENS 3: “THE SPIRIT SPEAKS (THROUGH YOU)”

GATHERING

One: In a world of fear and doubt and confusion,

Two: The Spirit inspires people to open the doors and speak out

One: In a world with war, violence and terrorism,

Two: The Spirit proclaims a message of peace and reconciliation to all.

One: In a world of economic problems,

Two: The Spirit reminds us that the things of the world are meant to be shared by all

One: In a world where the environment is abused and overused,

Two: The Spirit calls to change how we live and to use the earth with care and love.

One: In this corner of the world. In this very room

Two: The Spirit whispers that we are loved.

SONG

Blessed Assurance ELW #638 or *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

PRAYER

Holy One, you are our God and we are your people. Send your Spirit among us as we worship. Open our hearts and minds to see you as you encourage, challenge, uplift and inspire each of us in different ways. May our worship bring honor and glory to you this day. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

READING

Matthew 10:16-20

Jesus said: “See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

MESSAGE STARTER

For many of us, it’s very easy to share our faith and the good news within our homes and churches and especially in our schools and workplaces. It can feel really good to share those things with the people we’re close to and that we trust. As people of faith we can encourage and support one another. These faith communities can feel so safe, but in today’s reading, Jesus paints a much less comfortable picture. He compares us being sent out to share the good news to sheep being sent out to a pack of wolves. He tells his disciples that they may be beaten and persecuted. If we faced this kind of persecution today, and some people still do, sharing our faith would probably feel a lot more difficult. Faith isn’t always comfortable. Sharing the good news can still feel dangerous, but Jesus assures us that we will always know what to say when our faith is challenged. He says, “When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” We continue to be invited by Jesus to put our trust and faith in God in all things and for all things. God and God’s Spirit will provide.



WORSHIP-TIVITY

Lectio Divina

Today we practice this very old form of scriptural meditation to better hear what God is telling us through scripture and silence. This exercise can help us to hear God and discern what it is that we are to say and do. We will use today's scripture passage.

Follow these steps to guide the group (You may want to share the steps with the group before beginning so that they know what to expect):

Step One – Preparation. Have someone pray for those gathered that they would be open and receptive to God. Be silent for a minute of clock time (silence can be challenging – allow for some of the restlessness and awkwardness)

Step Two – Reading. Have someone read the passage slowly out loud. Have a second time of silence for another minute. Read the passage slowly out loud again.

Step Three – Meditation. Allow silence for two minutes.

Step Four – Identify. Read the passage a third time. Pick out a word, idea, or phrase that strikes you in a personal way; something that might jump out to you. Once you've found a word or phrase that catches your attention or moves your heart, slowly repeat it, linger over it, give it your attention. Ask the participants to think about, "What does this passage ask of me today? How am I invited to be?"

Allow for one or two more minutes of silence.

PRAYER

God with us, the deepest moments that make us more fully human are the moments we find filled with silence for only in silence do we recognize there is no word, no action, no intent more human than to halt everything and do nothing but wonder in silence.

Amen.

SONG

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW #551 or *Make Me A Servant*

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



WORSHIP WITHOUT SCREENS 4: “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?”

GATHERING

Jesus comes along side us and calls us by name:
“**[your name], follow me.**”

A simple call. A hard call.

Because following requires leaving.

It’s hard to leave what we know and walk away.

But we have come this far, to this place, where we can listen and be changed.

PRAYER

Almighty God, we give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives: the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends. Send Your Spirit during this time of worship that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be. Guide our thoughts and actions and bring us closer to you. In Jesus’ name.

Amen.

SONG

Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult ELW #696 or *Lord, I Need You*

READING

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

MESSAGE STARTER

The gospel never asks us to be perfect. In fact, we read over and over and over again how Jesus is constantly hanging out with outright, bold-faced sinners. This absolutely infuriated the religious leaders! They could not understand how someone who claimed to be “of God” would be associated with that kind of behavior. When Jesus brought Matthew to dinner the Pharisees could hardly believe it, and they confronted Jesus. They told him that he shouldn’t be hanging around with that kind of person. Jesus responded, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” Jesus saying that a doctor doesn’t come to heal the healthy, so why would Jesus come to teach the holy? Likewise, we are not called as followers of Jesus to determine who is need of help or to pass judgment. We are here to serve even the boldest of sinners.

There are still people today who think just like the Pharisees. They believe that they are above those sinners and will deny them the service and love that Jesus commands all of us to provide. The reality is that you and I very well might be the ‘sinners’ that Jesus came to heal and to save. Could it be that God is working through the people around us to remind us of God’s great love for us too?

WORSHIP-TIVITY

Supplies needed:

Candles for each worship participant and one larger candle

Following the message, all those in worship should be invited to think/reflect on whom or what they would like to pray for? Is there someone you know that you would like to lift in prayer? Or maybe, there are situations in your life that you want to share with God? There may also be joys to lift up as well.

Participants can verbally share their concerns/prayers as they light a candle as a sign and act of prayer. This can also be done silently.

When all have finished, this prayer could be offered:

Gracious God, we offer these thoughts and prayers to you, trusting that you hear them and are present to us in them. Continue to teach us to be open to your call to serve. Remind us that in showing hospitality to strangers, we welcome you into our lives. Thank you God for this day and for this time together, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SONG

What a Friend ELW #742 or *Grace Alone*

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



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