

Preparing For Worship

Vol. 3

3-26-2015

Greeting from the worship convergence team,

Here is the next communication in an occasional series to let you know about changes and updates as we live into worship together as one body with each other's preferences expressed in the elements of worship.

First a prayer to read as we approach worship this Sunday

[A Prayer for Harmony in Our Relationships](#)

How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting. Psalm 133 (NLT)

Dear heavenly Father, we bring our relationships to the occupied throne of grace today—praying for the refreshing “wonderful and pleasant” harmony you commend. We're not naïve; we realize that until Jesus returns Satan will continue his assault on our friendships, marriages, churches, and families. He will do **anything** and **everything** he can to sabotage unity and sow dissension, raise suspicions and erode trust, create disconnect and fertilize bitter roots.

Father, for the glory of your name, we will resist him—**tenaciously**, like we'd resist an intruder trying to break into our homes; for that is who he is—the thief who has come to steal, kill, and destroy ([John 10:10](#)). We will “make **every** effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” ([Eph. 4:3](#)). And the best way we can do that is by “blasting” our hearts constantly with the gospel of your grace.

For the more we are alive to your love for us in Jesus, the less we will tolerate our pettiness and indulge our self-righteousness; the less we will pick fights or avoid conflicts; the more we will seek to make peace and live at peace with one another.

So, Father, grant us grace and wisdom for our **messiest** of relationships, but also for the **best** of our relationships—for none of our relationships is beyond the reach or need of your grace. Help us to be the chief repenter in all of our relationships—the one most desirous of reconnecting, the quickest to humble ourselves, the one most bull-dogged committed to harmony. So very Amen we pray, in Jesus' tender and triumphant name.

Feb 10, 2015 | Scotty Smith

New, different and changing

New for this week will be what we are calling a **Lenten symbolic action** called **“Questions for the Road”** that will try to portray asking questions along the road leading into Jerusalem as Jesus arrived on Palm Sunday. The isle will be changed to resemble the road into the city and as Pastor Craig walks along the path and gives voice to questions that might have been asked, the congregation will read Psalm 118 which is the lectionary reading for the day and the psalm of ascent read along the road while on pilgrimage for Passover.

This week we will continue with the changes to the **Prayers of Joys and Concerns** and **The Offering Song** and a new **Doxological response** after the offering song.

Praise the Creator, Christ, and the Spirit,
from the beginning through worlds without end:
God who is now and evermore shall be,
Glory forever, amen and amen!
God who is now and evermore shall be,
Glory forever, amen and amen!

Hymn tune for Lenten Doxology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t74CXckY1ZU>

We also will continue with the **Passing of the Peace of Christ** at the end of the service. We are doing this as a way to greet those around us and end with a way to build community. Since we stand around and greet one another after worship this seems a natural way to build on a strength we already enjoy.

Songs and Old

Here are the links to the songs that may be unfamiliar that we will be singing this week in worship.

“He is Exalted”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pe-2i2HWNU>

At The Cross”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYGTp1pHeo>

"Glory and Honor to God"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W0AYiyG4os>

“Christ Be All Around Me”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYGTp1pHeo>

“Lead Me to the Cross”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_24ldBJ0Tw

God, We Honor You (See attached Pdf)

See you in worship!

The Worship convergence team

Moderator - Kate Jungerman, Julie Bayless, Jack Kean, Elaine McCann, Gehlin Menti, Pastor Craig Sanders and Tom Sicks