

WORSHIP & PRAYER

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



These worship resources are part of the Human Relations Day pastor and leader kit. They can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit. They are based on Isaiah 49:1–7, Psalm 40:1–11, 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, John 1:29–42

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved of God, if you are weary, come. If your compassion feels thin and your hope feels frayed, come.

People: We come, trusting the One who hears our cry and lifts us up.

Leader: The Holy One says, It is too small a thing to shrink our love and narrow our mercy.

People: We come to be enlarged by grace, made bold for justice, and steady in hope.

Leader: The psalmist testifies, God set my feet upon a rock and put a new song in my mouth.

People: We come to sing a new song of courage, joy, and healing for our neighbors.

Leader: Scripture assures us, you are not lacking in any spiritual gift.

People: We come as a gifted people, ready to serve, ready to learn, ready to be sent.

Leader: Jesus says, Come and see. Come and see where Love is already at work.

People: We come and we will see. We will follow, we will speak, we will act.

Leader: Let us worship the God who gathers us, heals us, and sends us.

People: With hearts open and voices strong, we worship and we go.

PRAYER FOR HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Holy and loving God,

You call us by name and draw us into a wide, welcoming mercy. You hear the honest confession of our souls, the ache of compassion fatigue and the weight of justice delayed. Incline to us and lift us again. Set our feet on solid ground and put a new song in our mouths.

Today we remember that your vision is never small. Expand our imagination beyond comfort and convenience. Where we have settled for silence, give us truthful words. Where we have been timid, give us steady courage. Where we have been hardened by headlines, soften us with holy anger and holy love. Make our baptismal promises real in us, that we will resist evil, injustice, and oppression in any form they present, and that we will live as people of grace in every relationship.

Spirit of Christ, you say, Come and see. Open our eyes to your work in sanctuaries and shelters, classrooms and clinics,

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kitchens and street corners. Strengthen every gift you have already placed within this body. Knit us together across differences. Let those who have been ignored be heard, those who have been harmed be healed, and those who have been isolated be gathered into community.

Teach us a discipleship that is joyful and durable. Let our joy be defiant against despair, our service be faithful when progress feels slow, and our love be generous enough to cross every barrier. Form us into neighbors who show up, tell the truth, share our resources, and keep singing until justice and mercy meet.

We pray for our city and for the world, for leaders and laborers, for families under strain and youth who carry heavy stories, for those who hunger and those who hunger for meaning. Use us, O God, for generational transformation, that all your beloved children may flourish.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, who invites us still to come and see, and who sends us to love. Amen.

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