

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our loving God created every person with dignity, value, and worth.

People: *Help us see every person through eyes of our loving and compassionate Jesus.*

Leader: Jesus welcomed the overlooked, the hurting, and the forgotten.

People: *Help us love ALL the people the way Jesus loves.*

Leader: God calls us to Go beyond the walls of the church, beyond our comfort zones engaging with all of God's people.

People: *Help us build the church that leads beyond the church wall, into a community, that serves, heals, welcomes all people, inside the walls of the church and beyond.*

All: *Let us worship God together, in spirit and truth and when we depart this place today, may we go beyond these walls, see all the people and show the love of Christ to all the people we encounter.*

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

Open our eyes to see all the people you made in your image all around us.

Help us notice all the people carrying burdens, searching for hope, and longing to know they matter.

Forgive us when we become distracted, disconnected, or too busy to see our neighbors, care deeply for our communities, and see and care for ALL God's people.

Teach us to love like Jesus with compassion, courage, humility, and action.

Make your church a place where all people feel welcomed, valued, respected, and loved.

Use us, God, to bring healing where there is hurt, unity where there is division, and hope where there is despair.

In Jesus' name, it is so!

HISTORICAL & MODERN VOICES QUOTES

- "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- "Discipleship begins with relationship." - Rev. Junius B. Dotson
- "Nobody's free until everybody's free." - Fannie Lou Hamer
- "Service is the rent we pay for living." - Marian Wright Edelman
- "The church is called to be a sign of hope in a divided world." - Peter Storey
- "There is no holiness but social holiness." - John Wesley

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WORSHIP MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

TRADITIONAL HYMNS OPTIONS

- “Lift Every Voice and Sing”
- “Jesu, Jesu”
- “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
- “Here I Am, Lord”
- “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”
- “The Summons”
- “Help Us Accept Each Other”

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP OPTIONS

- “Build Your Kingdom Here”
- “The Blessing”
- “Way Maker”
- “Same God”
- “Goodness of God”
- “Make Room”
- “Do It Again”
- “Another in the Fire”

GOSPEL & COMMUNITY SONG OPTIONS

- “I Need You to Survive” by Hezekiah Walker
- “Total Praise” by Richard Smallwood
- “Take Me to the King” by Tamela Mann
- “Order My Steps” by GMWA Women of Worship
- “Melodies From Heaven” by Kirk Franklin
- “Imagine Me” by Kirk Franklin
- “Encourage Yourself” by Donald Lawrence

SENDING FORTH CLOSING BLESSING

Now go through the doors of this church building and see all God’s people.

See those who are hurting. Notice those who feel forgotten. Embrace those who need hope. Welcome those longing to belong. Celebrate those who carry joy. Encourage those who live with hope.

See every person through the love of Jesus and share the gospel.

And as you go, love God and love your neighbors with compassion, courage, and grace.

May the love of Jesus guide you, the Spirit of God strengthen you, and God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, send you to help heal the world.

It is so! Amen.

Giving in The United Methodist Church is more than a financial act — it’s a bold expression of faith. It fuels ministry across borders, languages, and cultures, and becomes a witness to God’s expansive love. **Our generosity opens the door for more people to find their place, share their gifts, and become part of something greater — creating relationships that bring communities closer together.**

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand,
Western NC Conference Evangelist, Organizational Change Consultant