

Order of Worship for 100 Year Scout Sunday Celebration

Calls to worship

1) Call to Worship as Disciples – based on Matt 4:18-22

Leader: We hear the call, “Come follow me”

All: Where to Lord?

Leader: I will make you fisher for people.

All: Then let us fish together.

2) Call to worship based on Philippians 4:8-9

Leader: Seek after these things.

All: What shall we seek?

Leader: Whatever is true

All: We seek to be trustworthy and loyal.

Leader: Whatever is honorable.

All: We seek to keep our honor bright.

Leader: Whatever is right and pure.

All: We seek to keep ourselves mentally awake and morally straight.

Leader: Whatever you have learned or received or heard or seen in me, put into practice.

All: We will do our best. Amen.

3) Call to worship based on the Scout Law

Leader: When cheating is easy,

Scouts: I will be trustworthy.

Leader: When bullying presents itself,

Scouts: I will be Loyal.

Leader: When a hand can be offered,

Scouts: I will be helpful.

Leader: In the face of irksome tasks,

Scouts: I will be cheerful.

Leader: As God is present,

Scouts: I will be Reverent.

Suggested Hymns:

United Methodist Hymnal 601 – Thy Word Is a Lamp

United Methodist Hymnal 92 -For the Beauty of the Earth

United Methodist Hymnal 399 – Take My Life and let it be consecrated

United Methodist Hymnal 77 – How Great Thou Art

United Methodist Hymnal 585 – This Little Light of Mine

Prayers:

- 1) Great God, you wrote the beginning of all. On this celebration day we look back 100 years. It seems so long but is a blink of an eye to you. You have blessed us together by the camp fire today as in days of old. Your story has been lived and told. Let us live it still today as we worship together. Amen.

- 2) O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life.
We lift to you the ministry of scouting.
We offer you thanks for camping,
to teach us that the world is our great home;
for study and work, to build character;
for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;
for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.
Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world,
that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord,
increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with you and all people.
Amen. (MARK TROTTER, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)

Scripture Text options:

Old Testament:

Proverbs 22:6

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) (from the lectionary)

New Testament Lesson:

Matthew 5:13-16 (from the lectionary)

Sermon topic

Feb. 9, 2020 Based upon discipleship ministries

“Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary use words.” This quote is still attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, even though historians can’t find a single time he said this. It sounds like Francis though; don’t you think? And he did say something similar: “It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.” This is a call for congruence between our proclamation and our living. We claim to want to love our enemies because Jesus told us to do so, but what evidence of that love have we shown? This world is sorely in need of a demonstration of the difference the Spirit makes in our lives each and every day. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/somos-del-senor/fifth-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes>

Thoughts

The Joy of celebrating the 100th Anniversary is that 100 years have passed. Since James West of the BSA and James Thompson of the Methodist Young People’s Department signed a formal agreement, youth and adults from around the world have been transformed through the Scouting Movement. In the earliest days of Scouting in the United States ministers were commonly the Scoutmasters. They took boys from the church and community on outings and taught skills. As I searched the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church, I was quite stunned to see the level of investment in Scouting by the church. In January 1908, the Scouting movement really took hold with the publishing of the book: Scouting for Boys. Here in the United States, there were already organized groups of youth. They now had a resource to give deeper direction to their groups. The Methodist Churches in many missions had already started Scout Troops before the formalization of the Boy Scouts of America. Ten years after the founding of Boy Scouts of America James Thompson and James West would formalize the partnership that holds today.

In the same archive, pictures from 1915 show Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls all organized and supported by the church. The first Mexican Scout Troop in the United States was developed by a

Methodist Church to support the children of migrant workers. African American youth were in Scout Troops supported by the Methodist Church. Missionaries carried the Scouting program from the Rocky Mountain town of Bingham and all the way to China. Take some time to look through the archives. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then millions of words are witnessed in this collection.

But why would the Methodist be so deeply engaged in the development of these “Scouting Ministries”?

Let me take you back a moment. A small group that is traveling together. They have just finished cooking their meal on an open campfire. They are all sitting together talking and sharing as the flame withers to the low orange glow. Their time together opens the door for each to learn and grow. The leader of their group begins to share. He reminds them of the conversation from earlier in the day.

Do you remember what I said earlier today upon the mount?

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. “(Matthew 5:13-16 NIV)

What an amazing time it must have been: a time to eat, walk and sit together. This was a time to learn and grow. It was a time to see the Lord in action. Jesus, Emanuel, was present. The eyes could scarcely behold the simple and powerful miracles. Blind would see and lame would walk. But even more, for three years disciples would hear God at meals, along the road, and by the campfire. They would sit in a circle. Each in a place where the eyes of God could search and share. Lessons would indeed become personal.

God’s presence still exists today. We are the body of Christ. We are salt and light. We are called to be the hands and feet moving for the work of God. It is an amazing time today. Can we provide moments that will change the lives of youth? Can we be the ones who open the door?

I remember a trip where the night sky was truly clear. We laid out a tarp in the field. Our crew all laid down and began to stare deeply into the sky. The sixteen-year-old pastor's son yelled, “Did you see that? It was a shooting star.” He had never seen one before. They counted 24 before our hour was up. When it came time to go, they begged to stay. I said, “Just a little longer.” They began to talk about how big the universe is. How amazing God is. The questions tumbled out of the reservoirs built in organized lives. Here they could just marvel at the works of God’s hands. I marveled at them, my group of teens – the works of God’s hands.

It is in the simple parts of life that it happens. We are no longer a society where children work alongside their parents and grandparents. Our communities are no longer a monolith. They are diverse. Our families are diverse. Our culture is diverse. Yet in such diversity people are alone. The simplicity of truth is expressed in relationships. Relationships are the best way for the image of God to be seen. They are the place for transformation.

Do we really believe that we are here to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world? Are we truly salt and light? It takes time for relationships to form. It takes time for the salt to flavor

the food and the city on the hill to be built. This time together is the preaching of the gospel in the most effective fashion. It is our lives lived with Christ and with others. It is the opening of moments where screens fade in comparison to the surroundings. It is the time when a shooting star or a sunset speak words without a human voice. These are the opportunities we can afford.

One last story of God speaking. We were on a sailboat in the Gulf of Mexico. We had moored for the night and cooked dinner. The sunset was a particularly intense orange but deeply covered with clouds. One young man began to excitedly call out. "Do you see that Mr. Steve? Do you see that?" The clouds had parted, and the rays showed down brilliantly. I said, "Yes, it is beautiful." He replied, "No, it is like the movies. You know when God reaches down and parts the clouds." I could not help but see where he was. I said, "Yes, it is. You know God loves you. He just does." This young man had been struggling in life. I knew it. I knew him. Overwhelmed with the thought of God's love, he started to cry. He went down into the galley and sobbed for a while.

I had been telling him about God's love for years but there on that boat, he experienced God's love. I tell you it is far bigger than the ocean or even a sunset.

Why Scouting ministries?

We will not be able to share moments of God's revelation if we are not there. I worship God not Scouting. I have not found any other tool so effective at reaching into the lives of youth inside the church and outside the church as those we partner with. They each expect youth to come and grow. We often focus on the power to grow youth, but this is not a one-way street. Adults who serve become disciples. They don't have to be perfect but to be there. They grow. I have walked it. It has deepened my walk with Christ. Don't miss this profound opportunity to be the body of Christ. You may be the only scripture some one reads.

Closing Prayer

Faithful God, we are thankful for how you have demonstrated your faithfulness, even when we have been faithless. Empower us to share and demonstrate the difference you have made in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Amen