



Photo by David Uttley

Liturgical Worship Aids

The Easter Journey

2013

These liturgical worship aids integrate seamlessly with the weekly themes and scriptures of Waiting for Water's Easter Journey. Tailored to the needs of liturgical congregations, each weekly worship aid includes a call to worship, prayer of confession, and hymn/music suggestions.

Waiting for Water
www.waitingforwater.org

About the author These worship aids were created by Christine Caton, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). A former pastor, campus minister, and hospital chaplain, she currently serves as the Peace Discernment Coordinator for the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. Christine lives in Waterford, Connecticut.



Waiting for Water
Liturgy for *The Easter Journey* 2013
Week 1

WEEK 1: MARY - LUKE 1:39-56

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, we come to encounter you in worship on this day.

People: We come with all our uncertainties and fears and frailties.

L: We come to worship in spirit and truth.

P: We are your servants. May it be to us according to your word.

ALL: Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

In You, O Lord, I Have Put My Trust (#186 - Presbyterian Hymnal)

Canto de Esperanza; Song of Hope (#432 PH)

To God Be the Glory

Bless the Lord, O My Soul (Bless His Holy Name)

How Firm a Foundation

Crown Him with Many Crowns



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Week 2

WEEK 2: SIMEON AND ANNA - LUKE 2:21-40

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Prophets and seers have called you blessed, O Jesus.

People: We come today to call you blessed, too.

L: We know of your life and your sacrifice,

P: your resurrection and our salvation.

ALL: Let us now worship you in awe and in joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you have revealed yourself to us in your son, Jesus. And yet we do not always recognize him as our savior. We do not understand the full truth in his life, death, and resurrection. Help us to be more like Simeon and Anna, who saw Jesus for who he was, even as a little baby. Forgive our unbelief and help our faith to grow through the power of your Holy Spirit in our lives. We pray this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Be Thou My Vision (found in many popular hymnals)

God, Reveal Your Presence (Glory to God - new Presbyterian Hymnal)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name



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Week 3

WEEK 3: PEOPLE OF NAZARETH - LUKE 4:14-30

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!

People: God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor,

L: To proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,

P: to set the oppressed free.

ALL: Let us worship the God of justice and peace!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet. We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners. Forgive us for being insulated and isolated. Open our hearts to the poor and help us to love them as you love them, working to bring in the good news of the reign of God. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

What Does the Lord Require (# 405 PH)

Gather Us In (Sing the Faith and Glory to God)

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

All to Jesus I Surrender

What Wondrous Love is This

Love Divine All Loves Excelling



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Week 4

WEEK 4: UNNAMED WOMAN AND SIMON - LUKE 7:36 - 50

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather this day to worship you, O Holy One.

People: We are thankful for your gift of unconditional love and grace.

ALL: Be with us and guide us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may worship you in Spirit and in truth. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and God of glory, we come to you as sinful people. We live sinful lives and often turn away from you. We don't understand the depth of your love or your truth. Forgive us, and help us to show the love that you have given us to others. Help us to live our lives for you. Let us always remember that you tell us that our sins are forgiven. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

God of Grace and God of Glory (found in most traditional hymnals)

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (new Glory to God)

I Love to Tell the Story

Nothing But the Blood

Jesus the Very Thought of Thee

How Great Thou Art



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Week 5

WEEK 5: CRIPPLED WOMAN AND RELIGIOUS RULER - LUKE 13: 10-17

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all you who are struggling.

People: Come, all you who are crippled by pain and suffering.

L: Come to worship a God who heals your pain.

P: Come to worship a God who gives forgiveness.

ALL: Let us worship God, who sets us free and gives us new life!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come to you, O God, weighed down by the power of our burdens. We want to trust you, understand you and experience your love. Send us your grace and set us free from the burden of sin. Help us to recognize your love and your grace, which does indeed set us free. Thank you God, for forgiveness which is new each day. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

O Christ, the Healer (#380, Presbyterian Hymnal)

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (#379, PH, and many other hymnals)

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



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Week 6

WEEK 6: (PALM SUNDAY) TEN LEPERS - LUKE 17:11-19

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Healer God, we come to you today seeking to be made whole.

People: We come as a people seeking to worship you.

L: We rejoice!

P: That this is the day the Lord has made!

ALL: Come let us expect healing and worship the Sovereign Lord of all!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, so often we take you for granted. We take for granted that you will answer our prayers, that you will heal us and make us whole. We take for granted that you love us. Forgive us for not appreciating your grace and presence in our lives. Help us to be more thankful. Give us faith to see you in everything and everyone around us, so that we may be truly grateful. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Come, Ye Thankful, Raise the Strain (Glory to God, PH, and others)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (Glory to God, PH, and others)

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

How Great Thou Art

For the Beauty of the Earth



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Week 7

WEEK 7 (EASTER): ZACCHAEUS - LUKE 19: 1-10

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who came to seek and save the lost!

People: Let us worship the God who came to seek and save each of us!

L: Let us welcome God into our homes and our hearts.

P: Let us give of ourselves in this worship time that we may know God.

ALL: Let us joyfully and with gratitude worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, sometimes we cannot see you. We search for you and have to strain to hear your voice. And yet you come to us where we are, in our sinful lives. You forgive us and change our hearts through the grace of your son, Jesus and his liberating love. Forgive us again and again as we thank you for your presence in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMNS/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Seek Ye First (praise song found in many hymnals and song books)

Just A Closer Walk With Thee (traditional spiritual found in many hymnals)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

WEEK 8: A MAN NAMED BARNABAS - ACTS 4: 32-37

CALL TO WORSHIP

ALL: Come, let us worship God as a community of faith drawn together by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us be like Barnabas, generous and encouraging of one another. Let us worship the God who calls us to be one in heart and mind. Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we yearn to be a community of believers, united in your Spirit. And yet we are fraught with divisions: denominational, political, theological. We are weighed down by tensions and the things that break us apart. Forgive us, great God, for this great sin. Help us to learn to live in community together, loving one another, in spite of our differences, and respecting one another in everything that we do and say. Help us to be as you call us, one in heart and mind. Only through the grace of your son, Jesus Christ, can we achieve this. Amen.

HYMNS/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Today We Are All Called to be Disciples (Glory to God and Presbyterian Hymnal)

We Gather Together (GG and PH, plus many other hymnals)

All Creatures of Our God and King

The Lord's Prayer

WEEK 9: A MAN CALLED STEPHEN - ACTS 6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we gather to worship, let us remember the poor.

People: As we gather to worship, let us remember the widows.

L: As we gather to worship, let us remember the sick and those who are in prison.

P: As we gather to worship, let us remember the vulnerable and the weak.

ALL: Let us now worship the God of the poor, the widows, the sick, those who are in prison, the vulnerable and the weak. Let us worship the God who loves us all and calls us to be with the least of these, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the poor and oppressed, we come to you as people who have ignored your pleas to be with the least of these. We are often so concerned with our own lives and the riches and material things we want to gather, that we forget your command to love others as you have loved us. We forget your command to love the poor, to take care of the widow and the orphan, to love those on the margins. Forgive us, and help us to have open hearts, to love and give with compassion and grace, just as your disciple Stephen did. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

All Who Hunger (Sing the Faith)

Called as Partners in Christ's Service (PH and GG)

Make Me a Blessing

Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated Lord to Thee

A Mighty Fortress



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Week 10

WEEK 10: A MAN NAMED PETER - ACTS 10

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us worship the God who calls everyone into the kingdom of God.

People: Jew and Greek, free and slave, male and female, young and old and everyone in between.

L: No one is excluded from God's all encompassing love.

People: We rejoice that you love us all!

ALL: Let us come together with our sisters and brothers everywhere to worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we so often try to exclude people from the kingdom of God. We are so very judgmental. We want to be exclusive, when you are inclusive. We don't want to love the unlovable in our eyes, when you love everyone. Thank you that you love us and forgive us of our sin of exclusion. Continue to help us grow in love for those we think we cannot love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTION

For Everyone Born (Glory to God)

The Summons (Sing the Faith)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

Let Us Break Bread Together

Amazing Grace