

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday September 4th

Series: "What does the Bible say about that?"

Topic: Commitment



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship with expectations:
God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

God comes to us in real time.

God comes to us in dreams.

Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in—
difficult to believe.

O God, we long to believe.

Help our unbelief!

God is present here.

God is working in our midst.

Then our mouths are filled with laughter,

Our tongues shout out with joy!

- same as opening prayer

*Opening Hymn: Gather Us In 2236 v 1-3

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,

the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful.

We need Jesus as much today as in times of old.

**Many sow in tears, and go out weeping.
Replenish our lands,
fill our hearts with gladness,
restore our faith in you and each other,
wipe away the tears of despair.
As we worship today,
we tilt an ear to listen close.
Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new
understandings.
We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.**

— written by Rev. Penny L. Lowes, a minister in the United Church of Christ (serving as Senior Pastor at the Congregational Church in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. These resources are part of a larger collection called [From Tears to Rejoicing: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent](#). They were posted on the [Worship Ways](#) website of the United Church of Christ.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (cont.)

HYMN Gather Us In 2236 v 4

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER TFWS 2233 Where Children Belong

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross UMH 298

TIME OF PRAYER

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

LESSON I Jeremiah 18:1-11 CEB

Jeremiah received the Lord's word: ² Go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you instructions about what to do there. ³ So I went down to the potter's house; he was working on the potter's wheel. ⁴ But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. ⁵ Then the Lord's word came to me: ⁶ House of Israel, can't I deal with you like this potter, declares the Lord? Like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! ⁷ At any time I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; ⁸ but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I'll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. ⁹ At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; ¹⁰ but if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I'll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. ¹¹ Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what

the Lord says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I'm working out a plan against you. So each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

***LESSON 2**

Luke 14:25-33 CEB

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. ³⁰ They will say, ‘Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!’ ³¹ Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? ³² And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. ³³ In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Getting an estimate”

HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577 v 1, 2, 4

BENEDICTION

TFWS 2186 Song of Hope

POSTLUDE