

WORSHIP HANDOUT
Sunday September 17th
Rally Day - Stewardship



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME TFWS 2236 Gather Us In (OneLic) vs. 1,4

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I lift my eyes up to the mountains,
from where does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

We look not to the mountains or valleys,
even heaven or earth,

For God is found among us.

Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

God is here among us.

Come, let us worship the God of Creation,
the God of People, the God of Community.

Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is The Way.

Let us worship together in faith.

~ written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on her **Rev-o-lution** blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,

across the ages

you have guided your people through the wilderness,

assuring us of a home in your eternal city.

Strengthen us along the way,

that we might not neglect our call
to serve the cities and towns where we live.
Help us to trust in your unfailing presence amid all of our fears.
Grant us wisdom to discern your way in this world
even as we hope for the next. Amen.

~ written by Ann Bell Worley, copyright © 2006 The Center for Christian Ethics. Posted on the **Baylor University** website. <http://www.baylor.edu/christianethics/CitiesandTownsWorshipWorley.pdf>

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Hallelu, Hallelujah

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM Lamb of God, by Twila Paris

LESSON I Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14

⁴ The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. ⁷ Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

¹⁰ The Lord proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. ¹² When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. ¹³ When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places

where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

22 Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. 23 Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. 25 Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. 26 But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ 27 The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

28 “When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

29 “Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ 30 But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

31 “When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. 32 His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. 33 Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ 34 His master was

**furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.
35 “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”**

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Best laid plans, making smart choices

*HYMN: My Life Flows On TFWS 2212 v.1,2,4

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers/Names of the People

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.

HYMN UMH 121 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

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. Amen.

***BENEDICTION and RESPONSE**

TFWS 2186 Song of Hope

POSTLUDE