



Sunday, February 28, 2021

Call to Worship

[from *Feasting on the Word*, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.]



One: Everyone who thirsts:

All: **Come to the waters.**

Seek the Lord.

Repent and return, so that you may live.

One: All who are hungry for righteousness:

All: **Come to the waters.**

Seek the Lord.

Repent and return, so that you may live.

Call to Worship (continued)

[from *Feasting on the Word*, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.]



One: All who need the help of God:

All: Come to the waters.

Seek the Lord.

Repent and return, so that you may live.

Kenyan traditional

Leader: All:

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. — joy.

1.(lis - ten) 2.



Prayer of Confession

[adapted from a prayer in Call to Worship, Vol 40.1]



All: Loving God, how we try your patience.
You have told us.
You have shown us.
You have come among us.
Still, we look away.
We ignore.
We forget.
And we reject your purposes for us.

Prayer of Confession (continued)

[adapted from a prayer in Call to Worship, Vol 40.1]



All: Forgive us for what we have done
and what we have left undone.
Tell us again.
Show us again.
Come among us again.
With grace come to us, so we can start afresh.
With mercy return to us,
so we can receive the life you have given us in Jesus Christ.



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and might - y,

Ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9 (CEB)



Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. He replied, “Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did.”

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9 (CEB) (continued)



Jesus told this parable: “A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, ‘Look, I’ve come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I’ve never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil’s nutrients?’ The gardener responded, ‘Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.’”

Psalm 63:1-8



One: O God, you are my God, I seek you,

My soul thirsts for you;

All: my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

One: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

All: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

Psalm 63:1-8 (continued)



One: when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**All: My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

One: Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith

from Belonging to God: A First Catechism



One: Who are you?

All: **I am a child of God.**

One: What does it mean to be a child of God?

All: **That I belong to God, who loves me.**

One: What makes you a child of God?

All: **Grace – God’s free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.**

One: Don’t you have to be good for God to love you?

All: **No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.**

Affirmation of Faith (continued)

from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*



One: How do you thank God for this gift of love?

All: **I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.**

One: How do you love God?

All: **By worshipping God, by loving others,
and by respecting what God has created.**

One: What did God create?

All: **God created all that is, seen and unseen.**

One: What is special about human beings?

All: **God made us all in the image of God.**

Affirmation of Faith (continued)

from Belonging to God: A First Catechism



One: What does it mean that we are made in God's image?

All: **It means we are made to reflect God's goodness, wisdom and love.**

One: What is the church?

All: **We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper.**

**Through these means of grace,
the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love.**



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

One: We praise you, all-holy God, our maker,
our keeper, our patient gardener,
creator of sunshine and storm:
for the universe beyond our knowing,
for lands and seas and all their animals, for ice melting, rivers flowing,
and for friends and strangers and family,
for homes and grocery stores and hospitals,
for vaccinations sites in fairgrounds and pharmacies
we give you thanks.



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

One: We praise you for your covenant people,
for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam,
and for centuries of faithful Christians,
for Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter and John,
as well as saints we have known and loved:
Peg and Martha and Julia Ann.



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

One: We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ,
who saves us from sin and from evil,
who comes to us in the midst of our fear and doubt,
who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

One: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

One: We pray for your Holy Spirit,
your breath, your fire, your wisdom,
your water and fertilizer
softening our hearts, opening us to change.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,
inspire your people for service,
and renew the world with your mercy,
your healing, your justice, and your peace,
that all your children may inherit your future filled with joy.



Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (continued)

One: We praise you, all-holy God,
the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,
Our Life, our Mercy, our Might,
Our Table, our Food, our Server,
Our Light, our Treasure, our Tree,
today, tomorrow, and forever.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, KJ21)



**All: Amen. 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**