

## Camp Sunday Worship: Longing for Renewal

Luke 5-12, Isaiah 40

### Hints for in-person worship:

- Greeters and Ushers should be people who have been campers and/or have passion for camping ministry when possible.
- Wear camp shirts/themes attire
- Decorate worship space with camp imagery: sleeping bags, flashlights, life jackets, tents, canoe, campfire...

### Hints for at home/Virtual Worship:

- Snuggle down in your sleeping blankets in front of the TV or computer
- Have a family “campout in your living room” the night before virtual Camp Sunday
- Prepare Camp breakfast foods and eat together while watching online church. Use your camping dishes!
- Make a cross from twigs, leaves.. nature
- Make s’mores in your fireplace - or bags of S’more mix (golden graham cereal, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips)
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**Welcome:** (You may want to make your welcome like a welcome to camp with intentional “mixer” questions for the people to get to know their “new friends.”)

**Gathering Music:** (see “Song Ideas” Page 4)

*Whose side are you Leanin’ On?*

*I will Call Upon the Lord*

### Call to Worship

**Voice One** – God’s people have been spread apart at many times throughout history, yet in each of those times God spoke comfort and hope to God’s people.

**All Voices “Comfort my people!” says your God.**

**Voice Two** – We are called to gather together but this feels so strange to gather to worship like this.

**All Voices “Comfort my people!” says your God.**

**Voice Three** – That same God calls us to smooth the rough places in the world that all may experience God’s glory, but that work is daunting today, that work seems like too much today.

**All Voices “Comfort my people!” says your God.**

**Voice Four** – God will lift you up both to strengthen you and to give you a time of renewal so we join together in saying ...

**All Voices “Comfort my people!” says your God.**

**SONG** (see “Song Ideas” Page 4)

*Down in the River to Pray*

### Opening Prayer

Amazing and Everlasting God, we live in a world desperately crying out for your healing. Open us to the healing you offer in our own lives. Hear our prayers and our songs of thanksgiving for all you do for us. Open our eyes to see the world you love, the people you love, and the ways we can be healers. Open our ears to the voices crying out for justice, seeing mountains of injustice and valleys of anger and despair. Open our hearts to respond to the rough places in people’s stories and journeys with words of hope and comfort. We speak to you and we listen and watch with anticipation for Your Kingdom Come. AMEN.

**SONG** (see "Song Ideas" Page 4)

*I Love You Lord*

**Scripture**

Isaiah 40:1-5; 28-31

## **Time Mostly for the Children**

***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** (Illuminated Films, 2017; 6 min 47 sec) An animated version of the Eric Carle book. The Caterpillar must do lots of things—mostly eat—but at the end, he needs to rest so that he can change into what he was meant to be. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQQK-Sm1YY>

## **Time for Prayer**

- **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**
- **Pastoral Prayer**
- **Lord's Prayer**

## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 5:12-16

**SONG** (see “Song Ideas” Page 4)

*Sanctuary*

**Sermon/Message Ideas** ~ From This Is Our Prayer Curriculum Copyright © 2019 by Chalice Press

Today has two scripture readings to explore. Luke takes the lead, but the Isaiah text is a beautiful prophetic poem with its own background and powerful message about trusting God to renew things over time.

The story of Jesus' healing a leper is really a setup for his taking time away. The leper is longing for renewal of his body and his role in the community. Jesus does heal him, and we are told that Jesus healed a lot of people, but Jesus does not stick around to see what happens next. Jesus does not need to make sure the healing worked or that people accepted the man. Jesus simply did his part, then took time away to care for himself. This was a regular habit of Jesus, and can be seen throughout scripture. There are subtle examples, such as this mentioning in Luke 5, and bigger examples, such as going into the wilderness to prepare for his ministry or praying in the garden before his arrest.

The concept of Sabbath runs throughout scripture. From the beginning, God shows the importance of taking time away from work for rest and renewal. Sabbath becomes a ritual that the Jewish community treasured and expressed in a variety of ways through their culture and ethical practices. It is helpful to name that Jesus was constantly practicing the concept of Sabbath, taking time for renewal but not being bound to the letter of the law on when this had to happen. He regularly clashed with the Pharisees about healing or “working” on the Sabbath. Jesus always focused on the spiritual foundation of traditions rather than on the explicit practice.

For some, Sabbath might take the form of prayer and meditation. For others, it could be a hike in the woods or playing an instrument. Sabbath can be a lunchtime tradition of listening to music or a favorite podcast. Sabbath is not a prescribed ritual with set behaviors, but a practice of self-care and renewal that also makes room for God to enter our lives.

Speaking of chaos swirling around, let's take a look at the text from Isaiah. Right before this beautiful poem, King Hezekiah makes a huge blunder. Welcoming envoys from Babylon, Hezekiah shows off his kingdom and its wealth. Maybe it was because Hezekiah had been very sick, and the king of Babylon had sent a letter of concern. Maybe it was because Hezekiah was insecure and wanted to show off. We quickly learn that whatever had happened in the past and was going on in the present, Hezekiah had little concern for the future. He receives a prophecy from Isaiah about future devastation of his kingdom and people, but Hezekiah takes it as good news, because it all will happen after his death. The poem that follows is a word of comfort in response to a prophecy of doom for the people and maybe even in response to the callousness of their leader.

Sometimes our chaos is a convergence of political events or a natural disaster. Sometimes our chaos is a result of life's responsibilities. Sometimes our chaos is self-inflicted. Regardless, God offers refuge—comfort and a promise of renewal. This promise is echoed in the resurrection of Jesus and gift of the Holy Spirit.

Taking time to process and renew the mind, taking time to be with people who care, taking time to feed our souls; all of these things are part of Sabbath. Be intentional about explaining Sabbath. Don't let it just be a day of the week that people used to take off. Let Sabbath be what renews hearts and lifts people up like the wings of eagles.

**Offering:** *We recommend speaking to how healthy and faithful congregations support camping ministry in many ways already. Apportionments, sending campers, supplying paid and volunteer staff, encouraging your pastor to volunteer and to go and find respite at our sites, holding meetings and retreats at our sites, etc. Remind them to give faithfully to such a great church first. It is also appropriate to invite a special offering to build a local camp scholarship fund, support a camp site's programming budget, support conference camp scholarships, support a special project at a site, or sponsor a staff person by paying all or part of their compensation. Camping is an extension of your ministry and all kinds of support are helpful and appreciated.*

*One successful method of collecting a special offering for supporting the ministries of camp is a "noisy bucket" offering. Use metal/glass containers and ask campers to collect change (money that makes noise!) as a way to support camping programs or local church camp scholarships.*

**Offering Prayer:**

Creator God,

We recognize that we are truly blessed to live in your wondrous Creation, to have family, friends and neighbors as our Community that we can depend upon. And we have been blessed by the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. As you have blessed us we, in turn, share a portion of that blessing with others, our time, talent, and tithes, in support of the work of your church and our camping ministries. Accept these gifts given with grateful hearts to further the growth of your Kingdom in this community, at our camp locations, and beyond. We share what we have so that the warmth and light of your love will spread to all people everywhere. Amen.

**SONG** (see "Song Ideas" Page 4)

*All God's People Said Amen*

**Benediction/Blessing**

May you run and not be weary.

May you rise up on the wings of eagles.

May you know without doubt

that the everlasting God goes with you!

*(end the blessing here with AMEN! Or if your congregation's tradition is to have a responsive benediction and one used at camp often, continue with...)*

For God is Good! *(leader)*

**All the Time**

All the Time, *(leader)*

**Good Is Good!**

**SONG** (see "Song Ideas" Page 4)

*Shine Jesus Shine*

### Song Ideas:

Inside Out, the publisher of the 2021 Curriculum being used at our Dakotas-Minnesota Area Camp & Retreat Ministries sites, has created play lists on Spotify to accompany each day's prayer themes. This is a great resource for Camp Sunday music.

1. Log in/register (for free) for Spotify ([www.spotify.com](http://www.spotify.com))
2. Search for *This is Our Prayer*.
3. Scroll down to *Playlists* and you will see seven different play lists with contemporary Christian and secular music to play before, during, or after worship. You can use these lists for ideas for songs for your worship team to lead during worship.
4. Favorite the playlists to store them in your library for easy access

### Some of the favorite camp songs included in the Spotify play lists: Come As You Are (Crowder)

- Rescuer: Good News (Rend Collective)
- A Place at the Table (Lori True)
- If We Are the Body (Casting Crowns)
- Let Us Break Bread Together (Discovery Singers)
- Beautiful Things (Gungor)
- Oceans (Rend Collective)
- Lord, I Need You (Matt Maher)
- My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)
- 10,000 Reasons (Rend Collective)
- Build Your Kingdom Here (Rend Collective)
- This is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickman)
- Blessed Be Your Name (Matt Redman)
- Days of Elijah (Twila Paris)

### Song Suggestion from The United Methodist Hymnal & Faith We Sing:

#### **United Methodist Hymnal**

- #64 Holy, Holy, Holy
- #92 For the Beauty
- #128 He Leadeth Me
- #154 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
- #177 He Is Lord
- #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
- #347 Spirit Song
- #357 Just As I Am
- #393 Spirit of the Living God
- #399 Take My Life
- #400 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- #405 Seek Ye First
- #451 Be Thou My Vision
- #473 Lead Me, Lord
- #500 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
- #572 Pass It On
- #593 Here I Am, Lord
- #600 Wonderful Words of Life
- #601 Thy Word
- #657 This is the Day

#### **The Faith We Sing**

- #2002 I Will Call Upon the Lord
- #2003 Praise You
- #2016 Glorify Thy Name
- #2018 Honor and Praise
- #2025 As the Deer
- #2040 Awesome God
- #2068 I Love You, Lord
- #2071 Jesus, Name Above All Names
- #2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center
- #2129 I Have Decided
- #2152 Change My Heart, O God
- #2162 Grace Alone
- #2165 Cry of My Heart
- #2172 We Are Called
- #2222 The Servant Song
- #2223 They'll Know We are Christians
- #2226 Bind Us Together
- #2235 We Are Singing
- #2239 Go Ye

*Special thanks to Rev. Clay Lundberg for helping to create this list of song suggestions.*