

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Humanity can circle the earth without touching the ground. People can kill each other many miles away. People can weigh the stars of the heavens. Men and women can drag oil from the depths of the earth. Workers can compel an icy waterfall to cook city inhabitants' meals hundreds of miles from the stream. A small group of people can print a million newspapers in an hour. Scientists can breed the seeds out of an orange or get hens to lay 365 eggs a year. Humanity can understand the language of porpoises and translate the noise of monkeys.

People: Human beings are quite an ingenious and remarkable package of physical and mental machinery, but when this astonishing people is confronted with one problem, they retire to their dwellings defeated.

Leader: Show the people six persons without money and six loaves of bread belonging to individuals who cannot use them but want money for them, and ask one how the six hungry persons can be put in possession of the six surplus loaves and then watch the problem solving.

People: It is then that humanity attends conferences, appoints committees, and cries out that the human race is in the midst of a crisis. People do a score of useless things and then retreat leaving in the shimmering twilight the tableau of the six hungry people and the six unapproachable loaves.

THE CELEBRATION HYMN: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

THE CONFESSION OF OUR PRESENT LIFE (In unison)

O God, our parent, we are called to a vision of love and justice where dignity and support is given to the rights of all people, where all share in a just distribution of the world's resources, and where everyone struggles to improve the quality of life for oneself and one's neighbor.

We confess that we have been guilty of sloth. We have ignored the question of systemic injustice. We have been guilty of greed. We have acquiesced in and benefited from an economic system which can only function if some people are made poor and kept in the perpetual condition of poverty. We have been guilty of self-imposed blindness and deafness. We ignore the root causes which dehumanize life and never hear the cries of the desperate for justice and righteousness because our lives would have to change. We have been dead to the life to which we are called. We have numbed ourselves with material possessions; we have denied ourselves the fullness of life that grows in the right relationship of caring and being cared for and of loving our brothers and sisters as much as we

need to be loved ourselves. In the Name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we seek mercy. Amen.

THE COVENANT OF OUR NEW LIFE:

Leader: We have been deaf; we hear the good news. We have been blind; we see now more clearly. We have been partially alive. We accept full life. This complete life frightens us, but we embrace it sure in the knowledge that God's power and love will lead us to share in the coming of the kingdom.

People: We therefore promise ourselves that together we will create new life and support and sustain community by tithing our time to see that individual, local, national, and international decisions are made in light of the Gospel imperative of love and justice; by bringing our lifestyles into harmony with God's demand for us to be stewards examining our individual and corporate uses of this earth's resources in reflection of humanity's needs; by sensitizing ourselves to our ways of indifference toward each other and to the systemic forces which coerce us into acts of non-love; and by daring to be alive, living freely as a person for others bringing justice and righteousness to broken situations so that shalom may come.

Leader: God, we have promised ourselves and You that we will act for You with all the force and skill that is ours.

People: God of love and power, we trust in Your strength and glory seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the fulfilling of our call to do Your deeds.

THE CONTEMPLATION OF WHO WE ARE:

Luke 18:18-30

"The most immediate and certain fact poses a starkly simple moral problem. An intolerably large number of people do not have enough to eat. Meanwhile, a minority of the human family live profligately and no doubt inequitably off the world's limited resources. The moral question is simple: What is the duty of the full people to the hungry people, and how can they best do their duty now?" (Lewis B. Smedes)

"The world cannot afford the USA. In fact we might come to the conclusion that the earth cannot afford the modern world. It requires too much and accomplishes too little. The earth cannot afford the sick who are using all the marvelous achievements and science and technology to indulge in a crude, materialistic way of life which ravages the earth."

THE REFLECTING ON WHAT WE MIGHT BECOME:

Hymn of Reflection: "Simple Gifts"

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'Tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the Valley of Love and Delight.
When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
To turn, turn will be our delight, Till by turning
Turning, we come round right.

Read in unison Luke 19:1-10

Reflect on these two Bible passages. Who are the people of the ruling class today? What people have jobs like Zaccheaus had? What caused Zaccheaus to change? What did Zaccheaus give up? What would we have to give up to be like Zaccheaus? Are the personal and social costs of imitating the way of Zaccheaus worth it?

In small groups share answers to the questions:

- a. Where does sharing fit on my list of values?
- b. How am I related to other people by my food, clothing, and job?
- c. Is my lifestyle supportive of exploitation and/or affluence?
- d. What could I give away willingly; what could I give away if I need to?
- e. How much of myself am I willing to share?
- f. Do we take time to share the simple beauties of life?
- g. How do we challenge each other to simple life while still respecting diversity of need?

Share a summary of answers and insights with each other.

THE COVENANT HYMN: "A Charge to Keep I Have"

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my pow'rs engage, To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care, As in Thy sight to live,
And oh, Thy servant, Lord, prepare; A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray, And on Thyself rely,
Assured if I my trust betray, I shall forever die. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION (In unison)

The choice is constantly before us. We choose between life and death, blessing or curse. We choose whether we shall be rebuilders or tearers down of walls, restorers or destroyers of houses in ruin. Choose life then and reach for new life so we can celebrate what we might yet become. Alleluia.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring the integrity of the financial data and for facilitating audits.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data. It includes a detailed description of the sampling techniques employed and the statistical models used to interpret the results.

3. The third part of the document provides a comprehensive overview of the findings. It highlights the key trends observed in the data and discusses the implications of these findings for the organization's operations.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the limitations of the study and suggests areas for future research. It acknowledges that while the current study provides valuable insights, there are still several factors that need to be explored in more detail.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes with a summary of the main points and a final statement on the overall significance of the research. It reiterates the importance of the findings and the need for continued research in this area.