

Worship Resources for Heritage Sunday 2018

1. A Complete Order of Worship based on the 1968 Service of Union

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Order_of_Worship- Heritage Sunday.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Order_of_Worship-Heritage_Sunday.pdf)

2. Calls to Worship

a. The United Methodist Book of Worship, 1992 - adapted

The lines have fallen on me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. (Psalm 16:6)

For our forebears in United Methodist tradition:

Susanna, John and Charles Wesley,
Thomas Webb, Barbara Heck, and Francis Asbury,
Jacob Albright, Phillip William Otterbein and Martin Boehm,
Harry Hosier, Absalom Jones, and Richard Allen.
God, you have made us their heirs.

By their life, witness and ministries,
through their difficulties, and in spite of their weaknesses,
You, Lord, were there hope and salvation.

You led them and their followers in shaping a heritage that is ours.

**Blessed be your name, O God our help and salvation
for the rich tradition of the people called United Methodist.**

b. Isaiah 51:1, adapted. The rock from which you are hewn.

Listen to me,
all you who are serious about right living and committed to seeking God.
**Look to the rock from which you were cut,
ponder the quarry from which you were dug.**

1. Collects

a. Acts 2:1-21 theme

Pentecostal God

on this day that recounts the outpouring of your Holy Spirit
and remembers the birth of The United Methodist Church
infuse us again with your abiding presence.

Urge us to vision and dream.

May the gifts of your Spirit find voice in our lives
that our babbling may be turned into discernment
and the flickering of our many tongues
light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Amen.

b. Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Acts 2: 1-21 Theme

Creator Spirit and Giver of life,

on this day that recounts the outpouring of your Holy Spirit
and remember the birth of The United Methodist Church
make the dry, bleached bones of our lives and times
live, breathe and grow again
as you did of old.

Pour out your Spirit on The United Methodist Church
and the whole creation.

Come in rushing wind and flashing fire
to turn the sin, fears and sorrows within us
into faith, power and delight. Amen.

c. Responsive Prayer, Pentecost scripture texts and Albert Outler Uniting Service sermon theme

Spirit of the living God, visit The United Methodist Church as on the day of
Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,
Come, Holy Spirit.

With tongues of fire to set our hearts aflame,
Come, Holy Spirit.

With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,
Come, Holy Spirit.

With love that overleaps the boundaries of gender, race and nationality,
Come, Holy Spirit.

With power from above to make our weakness strong,
Come, Holy Spirit.

That we may be a Church united to be Uniting,
Come, Holy Spirit.

That we may be a Church repentant to be redemptive,
Come, Holy Spirit.

That we may be a Church cruciform
in order to make plain God's triumphant agony
for everyone, everywhere.
Come, Holy Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3. Suggested Scriptures

- a. Genesis 11:1-9 (Lectionary A)
- b. Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Lectionary B)
- c. Acts 2:1-21 (Lectionary A, B, C)
- d. John 14:8-17, [25-27] (Lectionary C)
- e. John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 (Lectionary B)

4. Sermon Theme

Read and review Albert Outler's sermon "Dreams and Visions" preached on April 23, 1968 at the Service of Union (see page 38 in link to Journal below).

<http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/outler/id/298/rec/13>

Reflect on Outler's markers for The United Methodist Church at its birth and into the future—"truly catholic, truly evangelical and truly reforming." What did

those markers mean to the UMC at its birth and what do those words mean today?

Reflect on Outler's closing charge in the same sermon—"to be a church united to be uniting, a Church repentant in order to be redemptive and a Church cruciform in order to manifest God's triumphant agony for mankind." What did that charge speak to the UMC at its birth and what do those words mean today?

5. Prayers and Intercessions

On this Sunday for remembering our heritage, as United Methodists we connect to the core beliefs that have shaped our unique place among God's people as we lift up prayers for those in need both in the church and world.

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of God's love seeking to warm, inspire and ignite human hearts—individually and in community—so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in us Godly, out-reaching and caring friends. God, reawaken this mission in and through us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of God's grace and love harmonizing with the whole of creation. God, inspire us to be good stewards of the nature around us, honoring the message of new life we see in it. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of a faith to be experienced, not only believing in right thinking but also feeling deeply in hearts and souls and thus lived in practical discipleship. God, show us how to live, love and serve others not only with our lips but with our whole lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of compassion for the least, the lowly and all who suffer. God use us—individually and in community—to bring healing and hope to the diseases of our hearts, souls and minds. Enliven us as agents of relief and wholeness to all who suffer. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of rekindling faith among those whose relationship with God has cooled. God, meet us where our paths stray

and we seek our own way alone. Forgive our sins and failings. (Silent Prayers.) Transform our weaknesses into strengths. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of “spreading Scriptural holiness.” God, move us beyond mere biblical literalism and narrowness to be inspired by the Bible’s living word calling people to lives transformed by your unconditional love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

United Methodists are rooted in a tradition of passionate prayer for one another. Let us now pray for the needs and concerns on our hearts and in our minds. (After various biddings are spoken the congregation responds.) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your care, O God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, trusting your promise of new life in Jesus Christ. Forgive our sins and hear the other biddings we bring. Fulfill our requests and desires not as we ask in ignorance, nor as we think we deserve but as you know and love us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

6. Great Thanksgiving

See http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Order_of_Worship-Heritage_Sunday.pdf

7. Litany for an Unfinished Church

See http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/Litany_for_an_Unfinished_Church-Heritage_Sunday_2018_1.pdf