Lenten awakening

**2024 Lenten Worship Series**

Inspired by:

***Lenten Awakening***

by *Commissioner Phil Needham*

Collaboratively produced by:

**The Salvation Army – USA Central Territory**

**Corps and Community Mission Department**

*with* **Music and Creative Arts Ministries**

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**Children’s Moments**

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**FOREWORD**

***Lenten Awakening,*** the 2024 Lenten Worship Series, is a spiritual journey for Christians and seekers alike. In his book by the same title, the late Commissioner Phil Needham explains how the title was chosen:

Lenten Awakening   -     By: Phil Needham


“The title of the book was given to me by my wife, Keitha. She felt that what the meditations were seeking to do was to expose the life and teaching of Jesus in such a way as to awaken us out of our complacencies and encourage us to see ourselves through his eyes” (*Lenten Awakening,* p. 2).

That is what this seven-week series is all about. It includes worship service materials for the six Sundays of Lent, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Available in English and Spanish, the series includes music options, dramas, readings, and other resources.

The worship resources are available on the Territorial Corps and Community Mission Department’s webpage:

<https://salarmycentral.org/cacm/resources/>

[Click on 2024 LENT Worship Series download]

**Weekly themes for the series are as follows:**

**Week 1**—February 18, 2024: ***Jesus Revealing Us***

**Week 2**—February 25, 2024: ***Jesus Humbling Us***

**Week 3**—March 3, 2024: ***Jesus Healing Us***

**Week 4**—March 10, 2024: ***Jesus Re-Creating Us***

**Week 5**—March 17, 2024: ***Jesus Uniting Us***

**Palm Sunday**—March 24, 2024: ***Jesus Gifting Peace***

**Good Friday**—March 29, 2024: ***Gifting Paradise***

**Easter SonRise**—March 31, 2024: ***Gifting Life***

**Easter**—March 31, 2024: ***Easter People***

**Services contain:**

* Song Options
* Calls to Worship/Scripture/Responsive Readings
* Dramatic Sketches
* Children’s Moments
* *Sample* Sermon Ideas

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a ***suggestion***. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The meeting outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

**APPRECIATION**

In producing this series, the Corps and Community Mission Department expresses its indebtedness to **Peggy Thomas** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois), **Martyn Thomas** and **Joe Caddy** (Territorial Music and Creative Arts Ministries Department), **Katie Laidlaw** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois) and **Mark Bender** (Territorial Corps and Community Mission Department) for their creativity, editing, and hard work.

Special thanks to **Majors Catherine and Peter Mount** (Norridge Citadel, Illinois) and **Major Caleb Senn** (North and Central Illinois Divisional Headquarters) for their creation of the sermon materials. Translation into Spanish has been expertly provided through **Alfredo Martinez** (Territorial Intercultural Ministries Department).

With grateful appreciation for the inspirational writings of Commissioner Phil Needham:

Needham, Phil. *Lenten Awakening.* Alexandria, Virginia: Crest Books, 2020.

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**Contents**

**Week 1**—February 18, 2024: ***Jesus Revealing Us***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *The Punch Bowl*
* Children’s Moment: *Jesus Revealing Us*
* Sermon: ***Jesus Revealing Us*** – John 1:1-14

**Week 2**—February 25, 2024: ***Jesus Humbling Us***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *Walk Humbly*
* Children’s Moment: *Jesus Humbling Us*
* Sermon: ***Jesus Humbling Us*** – James 4:4-10

**Week 3**—March 3, 2024: ***Jesus Healing Us***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *About Last Night*
* Children’s Moment: *Jesus Healing Us*
* Sermon: ***Jesus Healing Us*** – Isaiah 53:1-6; Mark 2:1-12

**Week 4**—March 10, 2024: ***Jesus Re-Creating Us***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *I Was*
* Children’s Moment: *Jesus Re-Creating Us*
* Sermon: ***Jesus Re-Creating Us*** – 2 Corinthians 5:14-19a

**Week 5**—March 17, 2024: ***Jesus Uniting Us***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *The Odd Couple*
* Children’s Moment: *Jesus Uniting Us*
* Sermon: ***Jesus Uniting Us*** – Romans 16:17-18

**Palm Sunday**—March 24, 2024: ***Jesus Gifting Peace***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *AJ’s Horse Rental*
* Children’s Moment: *Jesus Gifting Peace*
* Sermon: ***Jesus Gifting Peace*** – Luke 19:28-44

**Good Friday**—March 29, 2024: ***Gifting Paradise***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *The Thief (in four parts)*
* *The Mocking Crowds*
* *The Women*
* *Jesus’ Words*
* *Jesus’ Death*
* Devotional: ***Jesus Gifting Paradise*** – Luke 23:32-43

**Easter SonRise**—March 31, 2024: ***Gifting Life***

* Worship Service Outline
* Sermon: ***Jesus Gifting Life*** – Matthew 28:1-10; John 3

**Easter**—March 31, 2024: ***Easter People***

* Worship Service Outline
* Drama: *Adoration*
* Children’s Moment: *Resurrection Awakening*
* Sermon: ***Easter People*** – Matthew 28:16-20

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**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

**This worship series has an abundance of content. Please feel free to select what you want to use, rearrange items, or add your own ideas to the services.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES**

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. To better accommodate changes, these worship service outlines are provided on the Corps and Community Mission Dept. webpage: <https://salarmycentral.org/cacm/resources/>

**Worship Is a Journey**

“Worship is the expression of a relationship in which God the Father **reveals** himself and his love in Christ and by his Holy Spirit administers grace, to which we **respond** in faith, gratitude, and obedience.” (Robert Schaper, *In His Presence*)

Expressed another way, **Worship is a journey**—a journey into God’s presence (*The Gathering*); of hearing from God (*The Word*); that celebrates Christ (*The Response*); and that sends us into the world changed by our encounter with God (*The Sending*).

These are four elements that a worship service should include. They are like load-bearing walls:

1. **[The Gathering]** – To unite our spirits in God’s presence. To prepare us to hear the word of God.
2. **[The Word]** – God addresses his people through the Holy Scriptures. The Word is revelation. God reveals his truth through Bible readings and the sermon.
3. **[The Response]** – God reveals; we respond. Response may be reflective or celebratory.
4. **[The Sending]** – Worshipers are empowered by a blessing (benediction) to do God’s will (charge).

These “labels” are included in the meeting outlines to give a greater understanding of how these services have been put together. Consider using this in your own ministry.

**CALLS TO WORSHIP and SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Services usually begin with a Call to Worship which introduces the theme of the service.

A scripture reading has been included in each service, which can be read by one person or turned into a responsive reading. Consider using this time in a variety of ways, such as a presentation each week by a different family, small group or ministry (women’s ministry, men’s ministry, corps cadets, etc.) in your corps.

**DRAMAS and CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

Drama sketches and Children’s Moments have been included in the series to add variety and depth to worship. The experience of *seeing* the Word portrayed, in addition to *hearing* the Word proclaimed, can provide worshipers with increased understanding and perspective. Focusing a special moment in the service for children brings all ages into worship with new perspectives (as well as some laughter!).

While it is not always necessary to memorize a script, memorization enhances any dramatic presentation when time and proficiency permit. Props are kept to a minimum. It is important to take time to read through the script before using this series to know what preparations will be needed.

**SERMON MATERIALS**

Sermon materials are provided as a guide in preparation for a total worship experience. *Each sermon included should be viewed as a catalyst for preaching,* ***not a verbatim reading****.* These will be most effective if they are adapted, using personalized illustrations that relate to your specific congregation. Original illustrations have been left in but should only be used as a guideline.

**MUSIC**

Music options are designed with the smallest to the largest congregation in mind, allowing for live (piano, ensemble, band, etc.) and recorded (compact discs) accompaniment.

All CD accompaniment songs/choruses have been chosen from the **Hymn Tune Accompaniment (HT)** and **Hallelujah Choruses (HC)** series. Optional songs or choruses are given which would fit at that point in the service in place of the original choice. You may wish to sing several of these songs as an additional worship time.

The information for each service component is listed in a grid format. Example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Song# – First Line (SB) or Title (HC/SS)** | **Tune# – TB Title** | **CD Disc#-Track# (#verses on HT)** |
| **SB#100/HC#280/SS#186 – Angels, from the realms of glory** | TB-407 – Regent Square  HC-280  SS-186 | HTD4-T12 (4 vs.)  HCD26-T20 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#114/HC#146/SS#137 – Light of the world (Here I am to Worship)** | TB-444 – Here I am to worship  HC-146  SS-137 | No HT CD  HCD13-T16 |

Accompaniment abbreviations:

**SB** Salvation Army Song Book – words

**TB** Salvation Army Tune Book – tunes

**HC** Hallelujah Choruses

**SS** Songs of Salvation

*Examples:*

**HTD4-T12 (4 vs.)** Hymn Tune Accompaniment Disc #4-Track #12 (plays 4 verses)

**HC-280** Hallelujah Choruses #280

**HCD26-T20** Hallelujah Choruses Disc #26-Track #20

**SS-186** Songs of Salvation #186

When planning and selecting songs it is important to understand the difference between songs *about* God (a horizontal perspective) and songs sung *to* God (a vertical perspective). There is a generally held principle that these perspectives should not shift back and forth. For instance, if you were to sing “O Worship the King” (horizontal song) and “Shout to the Lord” (vertical song) consecutively, it is more conducive to worship by singing “O Worship the King” first and then “Shout to the Lord”, rather than the reverse. Once a vertical song is sung, it needs some type of resolution, whether it be a prayer or another vertical song. Worship “moments” can lose their impact if care is not taken in this area. Also, try to avoid mixing songs with radically different tempos or styles.

Vocal benediction options have been included for each service which can be an effective way to end each service.

**VIDEO**

The Music and Creative Arts and Visual Communications Departments have produced videos of supplementary worship service components, which can be used for in-person or online worship. Please access them through the Visual Communications website:

<http://wsvr.viscomapps.com/>

**SUPPORT RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERIES**

Trade Central carries the following support resources at: <http://satradecentral.org/>

Keyboard/Instrumental Accompaniment

*The Salvation Army Song Book* (2015) – vocal

*The Salvation Army Tune Books* (2015) – piano/band

*Hallelujah Choruses Books 1-30* (#1-320)

*Songs of Salvation* – song book for ARCs and Harbor Light Centers

CD Accompaniment

*Hymn Tune Accompaniments* compact discs (12 total)

*Hallelujah Choruses* accompaniment compact discs 1-30

**Sources Cited:**

Gire, Ken. *Moments with the Savior.* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1998.

Needham, Phil. *Lenten Awakening.* Alexandria, Virginia: Crest Books, 2020.

**Bible Sources:**

Biblegateway. 2000. “BibleGateway.Com: A Searchable Online Bible in over 150 Versions and 50 Languages.” Biblegateway.Com. BibleGateway. 2000. https://www.biblegateway.com/.

***The Holy Bible—Versions Quoted:***

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**Music Sources:**

*Hallelujah Choruses*. 1992-2023. Vol. 1–30. Hoffman Estates, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory.

*Songs of Salvation: The Salvation Army Official Song Book for Adult Rehabilitation Centers and Harbor Light Centers in The United States of America*. 2015. Des Plaines, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory.

*The Song Book of The Salvation Army*. 2015. North American Edition. Alexandria, VA: The Salvation Army National Headquarters.