***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Worship Series – Week 2**

***Jesus Humbling Us***

**February 25, 2024**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  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. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Sermon manuscripts are included as a *sample* and not to be preached verbatim. |

[*On screen as people enter or printed in program*]

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| ***Jesus Humbling Us***  **“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”**  **James 4:10 (NIV)** |

**[The Gathering] [The Word]**

**Call to Worship**

Isaiah 66:1-2 reads:

***1*** *Heaven is My throne, and earth is where I rest My feet.  
    So what kind of structure would you build Me?  
        What man-made space could provide Me a resting place?****2****Everything is the product of My hand—My being and My doing—  
        that’s how all you see came to be; I made it all.   
    Nevertheless, I am interested in and concerned about even just one person  
        who is humble and downhearted and trembles at my word.*

If we could see things as they truly are, we’d see the universe as one giant temple founded and perfected by God’s hand. But even the universe with its staggering dimensions—dimensions that stretch the imagination—cannot contain its Maker. God is greater still. So how could some house made for Him on earth ever be grand enough, glorious enough, great enough? It could not; but with all His greatness and power, God still has His eye on us. What does God want from us if not the best building we can build, and also the most and best sacrifices and rituals that we can possibly perform? Simply put, God is looking for people who are humble, broken, and ready to follow what He says.

(Isaiah 66:1-2, *VOICE*)

**[The Gathering] [The Response]**

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| **SB#262 – Love divine, all loves excelling** | TB-361 – Blaenwern  TB-370 – Hyfrydol | HTD5-T3 (3 vs.)  HTD1-T14 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#2 – All creatures of our God and king** | TB-43 – St Francis | HTD2-T15 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#49/HC#274 – O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (How Great Thou Art)** | TB-488 – same  HC-274 | HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)  HCD26-T14 |
| **SB#648 – I would be true** (2 vs.) | TB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |

**[The Gathering] [The Response]**

**Invocation**

Humble Savior, as we embark on this journey toward Christlike humility, please give us discernment of our true motives, strength to confess our shortcomings and sin, and strengthen our willingness to be humbled by you. And in the humbling may we find new insight into how we can more genuinely be like you and love like you. We pray this in your name. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 55, 67)

**[The Word]**

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| **Children’s Moment – Jesus Humbling Us** |

***Grace for the Humble***

**[The Word]**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Leader: 4** You are adulterers. Don’t you know that making friends with this corrupt world order is open aggression toward God? So anyone who aligns with this bogus world system is declaring war against the one true God. **5** Do you think it is empty rhetoric when the Scriptures say, “The spirit that lives in us is addicted to envy and jealousy”? **6** *You may think that the situation is hopeless*, but God gives us more grace *when we turn away from our own interests*. That’s why Scripture says,

**All:** God opposes the proud, but He pours out grace on the humble.

**Leader:** **7**So submit yourselves to the one true God and fight against the devil *and his schemes.* If you do, he will run away *in failure*. **8**Come close to the one true God, and He will draw close to you. Wash your hands; you have dirtied them in sin.

**All:** Cleanse your heart, because your mind is split down the middle, *your love for God on one side and selfish pursuits on the other*.

**Leader:** Since the beginning, our loving Creator has been pursuing us, drawing us closer to Him. He invites us to move closer to Him so we can be fully His.

**All: 9**Now is the time to lament, to grieve, and to cry. Dissolve your laughter into sobbing, and exchange your joy for depression. **10**Lay yourself *bare, facedown to the ground,* in humility before the Lord; and He will lift your head *so you can stand tall*.

(James 4:4-10, *VOICE*)

**Leader:** **12** Do you understand what I have done to you? **13**You call Me Teacher and Lord, and truly, that is who I am. **14**So if your Lord and Teacher washes your feet, then you should wash one another’s feet. **15**I am your example; keep doing what I do.

**All:** **16**I tell you the truth: a servant is not greater than the master. Those who are sent are not greater than the one who sends them. **17**If you know these things, and if you put them into practice, you will find happiness.

(John 13:12-17, *VOICE*)

**Leader:**

When we read these Scripture verses, it becomes clear that the eyes of God look to the humble and contrite in spirit and that all disciples of Jesus are called to clothe themselves with humility. As we read through scripture, we begin to see that humility is what God is looking for in all of us—and in Jesus, we see it in full view. None of us is called not to be humble. Humility is the doorway to our true humanity, our holiness.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 51)

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#704 – Give me a holy life** | TB-173 – Nuttall | HTD9-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#666 – O for a humbler walk with God!** | TB-5 – Beethoven | HTD6-T4 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#760 – I am praying, blessèd Savior** | TB-330 – same | No HT CD |
| **HC#62/SS#146 – When God Comes Near** | HC-62  SS-146 | HCD5-T12 |
| **SB#255/HC#286 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-213 – Aurelia  HC-286 | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)  HCD27-T16 |
| **SB#496 – I want a principle within** | TB-64 – Colne  TB-70 – Fewster | No HT CD  HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#565/HC#89/SS#43 – All I once held dear (Knowing You)** | TB-725 – same  HC-89  SS-43 | No HT CD  HCD7-T19 |
| **SB#571/HC#47/SS#74 – As the deer** | TB-559 – same  HC-47  SS-74 | No HT CD  HCD3-T17 |

**Leader:**

The Letter of James says, *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up”* (4:10). We don’t need to lift ourselves up; the Lord does that. We need to humble ourselves into our utter need of God, his Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then trust them to fill us with love and make grace the environment in which we live.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 54)

**[The Response]**

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| **HC#58 – Praise You** | HC-58 | HCD4-T18 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#136 – We all bow down** | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
| **SB#595/HC#173 – In this quiet moment** | TB-186 – same  HC-173 | No HT CD  HCD16-T13 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |

**[The Response]**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**[The Response]**

**Offering**

**[The Response]**

**Testimony of Faith –** [*Choose someone from the congregation who can testify on this theme.*]

**[The Word]**

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| **Drama – Walk Humbly** |

**[The Word]**

**Message – Jesus Humbling Us**

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#255/HC#286 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-213 – Aurelia  HC-286 | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.)  HCD27-T16 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#666 – O for a humbler walk with God!** | TB-5 – Beethoven | HTD6-T4 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#760 – I am praying, blessèd Savior** | TB-330 – same | No HT CD |
| **HC#62/SS#146 – When God Comes Near** | HC-62  SS-146 | HCD5-T12 |
| **SB#208/SS#63 – When I survey the wondrous cross** | TB-875 – The Wonderful Cross (first 16 bars – “Boston”)  SS-63  HC-94 (use vs. 2 as chorus) | No HT CD  HCD8-T14 |
| **SB#600 – Kneeling in penitence** | TB-174 – Penitence  TB173 – Nuttall | No HT CD  HTD9-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#290/HC#7 – Spirit of God, descend** | TB-467 – same  HC-7 | No HT CD  HCD1A-T17 |
| **HC#58 – Praise You** | HC-58 | HCD4-T18 |
| **HC#136 – We all bow down** | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
| **SB#595/HC#173 – In this quiet moment** | TB-186 – same  HC-173 | No HT CD  HCD16-T13 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **SB#496 – I want a principle within** | TB-64 – Colne  TB-70 – Fewster | No HT CD  HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#704 – Give me a holy life** | TB-173 – Nuttall | HTD9-T13 (3 vs.) |

**[The Sending]**

**Benediction:**

Dear Jesus, by your Spirit we will become HUMBLE PEOPLE! As we embark on this journey toward Christlike humility, please give us discernment of our true motives, strength to confess our shortcomings and sin, and strengthen our willingness to be humbled by you. And in the humbling may we find new insight into how we can more genuinely be like you and love like you. We pray this in your name. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 55, 67)

**[The Sending]**

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| **HC#309 – Go in Peace, Go in Love** | HC-309 | HCD29-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#861/HC#149/SS#41 – In Christ alone** | TB-132 – same  HC-149  SS-41 | No HT CD  HCD13-T19 |
| **SB#1031/HC#283 – Lord, if your presence** | TB-740 – same  HC-283 | No HT CD  HCD27-T13 |

**[The Sending]**

**Announcements**

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| **Lent 2024 – Week 2** | |
| **DRAMA**  **Walk Humbly**  **By Martyn Scott Thomas**  © Copyright 2023 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Humbleness |
| **Scripture:** | Micah 6:8 |
| **Synopsis:** | Three readers examine what God really desires. |
| **Characters:** | Reader 1  Reader 2  Reader 3 |
| **Props/Costumes:** | None. |
| **Setting:** | Bare stage. |
| **Running time:** | 2 minutes |

[*The three readers are standing across the stage. They should follow each other’s lines as if there is only one reader.*]

**Reader 1:** What is it that God desires?

**Reader 2:** Wants?

**Reader 3:** Expects from his followers?

**Reader 1:** Three things: Act justly.

**Reader 2:** Love mercy.

**Reader 3:** Walk humbly.

**Reader 1:** And yet, they really can’t be separated.

**Reader 2:** A life lacking in one of those three things . . .

**Reader 3:** is incomplete.

**Reader 1:** You can act justly and treat others around you fairly,

**Reader 2:** but if you don’t show mercy,

**Reader 3:** and act out of selfishness,

**Reader 1:** your deeds fall short.

**Reader 2:** You can love mercy and offer forgiveness,

**Reader 3:** but if you continue to do it just to look good,

**Reader 1:** and still treat others unfairly,

**Reader 2:** what have you really done?

**Reader 3:** You can be the most selfless person around,

**Reader 1:** but if you can’t be honest,

**Reader 2:** or refuse to extend grace,

**Reader 3:** what have you really accomplished?

**Reader 1:** You can’t pick and choose.

**Reader 2:** The three go hand in hand.

**Reader 3:** And each brings out the best in the others.

**Reader 1:** If you act justly, mercy and humbleness should follow.

**Reader 2:** If you love mercy, justice will be served for the sake of others.

**Reader 3:** If you walk humbly with God, his justice and mercy will naturally flow out of you.

**Reader 1:** What is it that God desires?

**Reader 2:** Wants?

**Reader 3:** Expects from his followers?

**Reader 1:** Three things: Act justly.

**Reader 2:** Love mercy.

**Reader 3:** Walk humbly.

**Reader 1:** With your God.

**Reader 2:** With your God.

**Reader 3:** With your God.

[*Blackout*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Children’s Moment – Week 2**

***Jesus Humbling Us***

**February 25, 2024**

**By Katie Laidlaw**

**Synopsis:** *Lenten Awakening* series focuses on the life and teaching of Jesus in such a way to awaken us and encourage us to see ourselves through his eyes. Superhero, “The Awakening,” introduces each week’s topic to children.

**Costume:** Superhero cape, mask, etc. (anything to look like a superhero).

**Intro/Outro:** Play superhero-type music as “The Awakening” enters and exits. *For Superhero Royalty-Free Music, go to:* <https://www.storyblocks.com/audio/search/superhero?sort=most_relevant>

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| **Week 2 – Jesus Humbling Us** |

[*Play intro superhero music as you enter the chapel. Invite children to come to the front, having them stand for the lesson.* (Standing keeps the children attentive, engaged and involved in the lesson as the congregation “watches them.” Sitting creates a more relaxed/informal mindset, allowing children to potentially disengage.)]

**Script:**

I—*The Awakening*—am back to visit with you this week. Thank you for joining me here!

You all know superheroes, right? Can you tell me some good things that superheroes are or do? [*Allow children to respond*]

What about villains? What are some things that villains do? [*Allow children to respond*]

What do you think we should do? Should we be heroes or villains? [*Allow children to respond*]

Did you know that heroes—while they save people and they might be super strong and have some amazing powers—their best power that they have is something called “humility.” Do you know what humility is? [*Allow children to respond*]

Do you know what pride is? [*Allow children to respond*]

Pride can be both good and bad. Heroes have good pride, because they know they are strong and can help people and save people. They use their powers for good.

We know that some villains have the bad pride, where they think they are better than everyone else. “No one can do what ***I*** do! ***I***am the best!” When we place ourselves at such a high place where we think no one is better than us—even God—that is NOT good, right?!

James 4:6b (NIV) tells us:

*“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”*

We can be humble and have humility with good pride, knowing that God is the most powerful. God can use our gifts, our talents, our kindness and our willingness to help others. God can use us so we can be heroes in our communities and even right here in our own church! God can use us no matter how young we are, no matter how much we know or don’t know, so that we can be heroes for God within our church and our world. The world needs us to be heroes for God because the world is hurting, right? It’s a hard place to be in. There is a lot of sadness and hurt, hardship and stress. We can be heroes, but we need to be humble and allow God to be the true hero, so that He will work through us. Does that make sense to you?

The scripture goes on to say (James 4:10):

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*

God can lift us up—into joy; into peace—and we can know who he is and be good friends with him. Can I pray with you?

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you that you are so powerful and you love us so much, and you want us to be part of the good work that you want to do in our world. Help us to be humble—and not prideful—in allowing you to work through us. Let us look to you in friendship, for you to tell us what we should do so that we can hear your voice and know the right way to go and the things that we should do. We love you and we thank you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

We’ll see you next week!

[*Play outro superhero music as children go back to their seats and you leave the chapel.*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Sermon – Week 2**

***Jesus Humbling Us***

**February 25, 2024**

**By Major Peter Mount**

**TITLE: Jesus Humbling Us**

**SCRIPTURE: James 4:4-10**

**INTRODUCTION:** [*Begin with an illustration of when you where humbled (e.g. “I was humbled when my son blocked my shot the first time in basketball”)*]

**Scripture: Read James 4:4-10**

**Humility is the absence of human pride**

V4 – Pride is ‘friendship with the world’ which James says is *‘hatred towards God’*

V5 – James shares an interesting take on the Holy Spirit in that the Holy Spirit ‘envies intensely.’

The Holy Spirit desires to always to point us to be humble before God and so envies when our focus and attention is on and of the world.

We all deal with human pride in varying degrees – so how can we remain human – how can we be awakened to the **humility that is found in Jesus Christ?**

**GOD’S GRACE**

It begins in V6 with the promise of God’s grace **(read V6)**

**What is God’s grace?**

G – God’s

R – Riches

A – At

C – Christ’s

E – Expense

Let’s be awake to God’s riches for us as we journey with Him during this Lenten season to the cross and beyond.

**GOD’S CLOSENESS**

V7 – James is emphatic about how we should live – *‘submit yourself, then, to God.’*

And

V8 – *‘Come near to God and he will come near to you’*

To submit oneself is to be humble before God!

**Do you want to near to God?** – You have to do your part! – James is specific in verse 7 that we draw near to God and He will be there, as He always is, ready to draw near to us. We do this when we awaken to the presence of God in our humble drawing near to Him in reverence.

**GOD WILL LIFT US UP**

The second promise we see here in James 4 is found verse 10 - that when we humble ourselves before the lord, *‘He will lift us up’!*

WOW – The King of all creation will lift us - His created - up. You do not have work at being seen, because through the love and grace of God, in our humility, He will lift us up!

**READ:** 1 Peter 5:6 says, *‘Humble yourself, therefore, under God’s mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time.’*

Many people see Humility as a great weakness. I would propose that it is actually one of our greatest strengths.

**READ:** 1 Peter 5:7 goes on to say – *‘Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.’*

I am going to take it further from what Peter shares – Cast it all, ***everything***, on Jesus because He cares for you! Awaken to the possibilities and power of the Lord through his Holy Spirit, in humility, and see what He will do.

To be truly humble is to live from the inside out so that the Holy Spirit inside of you is reflected through your words and actions and not the other way around. Don’t let the temporary temptations of the world inform and shape your heart, but be like Jesus in the fullness of His Humanity - humble and getting ourselves out of the way - to see the power of the Lord move inside us and through us in our relationships with others.

* In humility we know who we are in Christ – our identity – and are not defined by what others say we are!
* You have anxiety or worry? Cast it on Him, be humble and see His power!
* You want to see His power? Get out of the way, be humble and see what He will do!
* You want to see His Healing? Get out of the way, be humble and see what He will do!
* You want to see His Sovereignty? Get out of the way, be humble and see what He will do!
* You want to see Holy Spirit? Get out of the way, be humble and see what He will do!

‘Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.’ In this Lenten awakening decide to submit to the One who has the power to change and transform – Jesus Christ!