***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Worship Series – Week 4**

***Jesus Re-Creating Us***

**March 10, 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 Re-Creating Us***  **8But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.**  ***Colossians 3:8-10* (NLT)** |

**[The Gathering]**

**Call to Worship:**

As followers of Jesus, we are re-creations. Christ is both our Creator and Re-Creator. In the first creation, he made all the wonderful stuff and all the life that throbbed throughout this vast universe.

So why is the world in the mess it’s in? The short answer is “choices.” God decided to give humans the capacity to choose who or what to worship and to love. Bad choices were made and continue to be made, so much so that we forgot who we were and why we were. We were lost from God and from ourselves. A new creation, a re-creation was needed. This time Christ the Creator became one of us to re-create us, not from the outside but from the inside.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 109-110)

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

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| **SB#262 – Love divine, all loves excelling** | TB-361 – Blaenwern  TB-370 – Hyfrydol  HC-114 | HTD5-T3 (3 vs.)  HTD1-T14 (3 vs.)  HCD10-T14 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#51 – O Thou God of full salvation** | TB-360 – Bethany  TB-404 – Love Divine | HTD11-T1 (4 vs.)  No HT CD |
| **SB#367 – I am a new creation** | TB-667 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#734 – Precious Jesus, O to love Thee!** | TB-323 – Denmark Hill | HTD12-T4 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#411 – Come in, my Lord, come in** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **SB#439/HC#139 – There is a message** | TB-879 – same  HC-139 | No HT CD  HCD12-T19 |
| **SB#456 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind** | TB-105 – Repton | HTD8-T13 (3 vs.) |

**[The Response]**

**Invocation**

Lord, I bring to you my self-constructed image of myself, and I confess that there are aspects of it that block who you are trying to make of me. Please reveal to me, by whatever means you choose, the next step in my re-creation, and by your grace empower me to take that step regardless of the cost or the pain or the embarrassment. I pray this in your name. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, p. 113)

***Jesus Re-Creating Us***

**[The Word]**

**Responsive Reading** (*or Scripture Reading – Colossians 1:15-20; John 16:13-15; Colossians 3:8-11*)**:**

**Leader: *15****He is the exact image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation, the eternal.****16****It was by Him that everything was created: the heavens, the earth, all things within and upon them, all things seen and unseen, thrones and dominions, spiritual powers and authorities. Every detail was crafted through His design, by His own hands, and for His purposes.*

**All:** ***17****He has always been! It is His hand that holds everything together.****18****He is the head of this body, the church. He is the beginning, the first of those to be reborn from the dead, so that in every aspect, at every view, in everything—He is first.****19****God was pleased that all His fullness should forever dwell in the Son****20****who, as predetermined by God, bled peace into the world by His death on the cross as God’s means of reconciling to Himself the whole creation—all things in heaven and all things on earth.*

(Colossians 1:15-20, *VOICE*)

**Leader:** Christ came in the flesh and blood of Jesus to show us how to be fully human (holy) again. He suffered for us and died for us so that we could die to our false selves and find in him our true selves that we call souls. He was resurrected so that his Spirit could abide with us and even in us, guide us, and enable us.

(*Lenten Awakening,* pp. 110-111)

**All:** ***13-15****The Spirit of truth will come and guide you in all truth. He will not speak His own words to you; He will speak what He hears, revealing to you the things to come and bringing glory to Me. The Spirit has unlimited access to Me, to all that I possess and know, just as everything the Father has is Mine. That is the reason I am confident He will care for My own and reveal the path to you.*

(John 16:13-15, *VOICE*)

**Leader:** ***8****But now make sure you shed such things: anger, rage, spite, slander, and abusive language.****9****And don’t go on lying to each other since you have sloughed away your old skin along with its evil practices****10****for a fresh new you, which is continually renewed in knowledge according to the image of the One who created you.*

**All:** ***11****In this re-creation there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian and conqueror, or slave and free because the Anointed is the whole and dwells in us all.*

(Colossians 3:8-11, *VOICE*)

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#456 – Dear Lord and Father of mankind** | TB-105 – Repton | HTD8-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#51 – O Thou God of full salvation** | TB-360 – Bethany  TB-404 – Love Divine | HTD11-T1 (4 vs.)  No HT CD |
| **SB#463 – I have no claim on grace** | TB-161 – Chalvey | No HT CD |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **HC#214 – Holy Spirit** | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |

**[The Response]**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**[The Word]**

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| **Children’s Moment – Jesus Re-Creating Us** |

**[The Response]**

**Offering**

**[The Response]**

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

**[The Response]**

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| **Drama – I Was** |

**[The Word]**

**Message – Jesus Re-Creating Us**

**[The Response]**

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| **HC#214 – Holy Spirit** | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#51 – O Thou God of full salvation** | TB-360 – Bethany  TB-404 – Love Divine | HTD11-T1 (4 vs.)  No HT CD |
| **SB#409/HC#77/SS#136 – Change my heart, O God** | TB-584 – same  HC-77  SS-136 | No HT CD  HCD6-T17 |
| **SB#439/HC#139 – There is a message** | TB-879 – same  HC-139 | No HT CD  HCD12-T19 |
| **SB#463 – I have no claim on grace** | TB-161 – Chalvey | No HT CD |
| **SB#601/HC#66/SS#144 – Lord, I come to you (The Power of Your Love)** | TB-868 – same  HC-66  SS-144 | No HT CD  HCD5-T16 |
| **HC#87 – Passion** | HC-87 | HCD7-T17 |
| **SB#287/HC#91 – Lord, renew in me (Fan the Flame in Me)** | TB-608 – same  HC-91 | No HT CD  HCD8-T11 |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#634 – When from sin’s dark hold Thy love had won me** | TB-903 – Trust in God | No HT CD |
| **SB#729 – O for a heart to praise my God** | TB-107 – Richmond | No HT CD |
| **SB#768 – Jesus, my strength, my hope** | TB-161 – Chalvey | No HT CD |
| **SB#770 – Lord, I come to Thee beseeching** | TB-391 – None of self | HTD12-T14 (4 vs.) |

**[The Sending]**

**Benediction:**

Lord, we are NEW CREATION PEOPLE! Help us to live our days as the extension of our communion with you, and our words and actions as an extension of our worship. Show us how to partner with you in re-creating your world, and give us the courage and grace to take action. We pray this through your Spirit and in the name of our ever-present Christ. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 125, 138, adapted)

**[The Sending]**

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| **SB#1031/HC#283 – Lord, if your presence** | TB-740 – same  HC-283 | No HT CD  HCD27-T13 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#309 – Go in Peace, Go in Love** | HC-309 | HCD29-T19 |
| **SB#734 – Precious Jesus, O to love Thee!** | TB-323 – Denmark Hill | HTD12-T4 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name** | HC-198 | HCD18-T18 |
| **SB#411 – Come in, my Lord, come in** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |

**[The Sending]**

**Announcements**

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| **Lent 2024 – Week 4** | |
| **DRAMA**  **I Was**  **By Martyn Scott Thomas**  © Copyright 2023 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Re-creation |
| **Scripture:** | Colossians 3:8-10 |
| **Synopsis:** | Four people talk about their life-changing encounters with Jesus. |
| **Characters:** | Player 1 – an addicted person  Player 2 – an angry person  Player 3 – a deceptive person  Player 4 – a seemingly faultless person |
| **Props/Costumes:** | None. Casual dress. |
| **Setting:** | Bare stage. |
| **Running time:** | 5 minutes |

[*The four players are standing across the front of the stage.*]

**Player 1:** [*steps forward*] I was an addict. I wasn’t always that way, and for most of my life I thought I was in control. I started dabbling while I was in high school, just to prove that I could be one of ‘those’ kids – you know, the life of the party. Pretty soon, I started experimenting to get the next high, or a greater buzz.

By the time I was in college, I was almost always in an altered state. I was a good enough student that I was still able to pass most of my classes, but as time went on, the need to use became greater than my need to study or even attend classes. I knew my habit was becoming a problem, but I convinced myself that I could stop anytime. I couldn’t.

My life spiraled. I got kicked out of college. My friends ghosted me. My parents threatened to disown me if I didn’t seek help. What choice did I have? So, I tried rehab, but I didn’t want to be there. I went through the motions and ‘graduated’ the program but went right back to my old habits as soon as I was free.

Three times I went into rehab and three times I failed. I had no job. I had no money. I had no home. I had no future. I was ready to end it all. As I lay in an alley, going in and out of consciousness, I felt someone pick me up.

I found myself back in rehab, but this time was different. In addition to the traditional counseling, I was required to attend weekly chapel services and they talked about Jesus. I knew about him from Sunday School when I was a kid, but never really got to know him. Now I listened to what they said and I learned how he associated with those that the religious leaders considered ‘sinners’ – people like me.

I soon joined a Bible study and learned how Jesus changed sinners into new creations. I so desperately wanted that for myself. My counselor prayed with me and helped me to confess all that I had ever done. I asked Jesus to take this broken addict and remake me into his likeness. And he did. [*steps back*]

**Player 2:** [*steps forward*] I was angry. All the time. At everyone. At everything. I didn’t need a reason; it was just who I was. They say you should treat people like you want to be treated. I say knock them down before they knock you down.

I’ve always loved a good argument and the nastier the better. If I could get the other person to totally lose their cool and use language that was normally reserved for well, someone like me, I counted it as a win. Sometimes I would even get into it with people that agreed with me, just so I could argue. I really went out of my way to make people feel miserable. It was one of the only things that brought me joy. Kind of ironic.

But my neighbor Rick never fought back. I did everything I could to get under his skin and he just smiled and wished me a good day. It made me furious and made me want to try even harder. But no matter what I did, no matter how mean I was, Rick always had a smile. Finally, I demanded an answer from him on how he could be nice to me, when all I did was try to infuriate him. He simply told me that that was how Jesus would treat me and that he wanted to be like Jesus. That stopped me dead in my tracks.

I knew about Jesus and I knew many Christians, but none of them ever lived their faith like Rick. We talked a lot that day and in the days to follow. I accepted Jesus as my savior and asked him to change me to be someone more like Rick; more like him. I’m not there yet, but I like the new me. [*steps back*]

**Player 3:** [*steps forward*] I was a liar. I don’t mean the occasional fib or little white lie. I’m talking all out deception. I’d say anything to get others to do or to give me everything I wanted.

When I was a kid, people thought it was cute when I would make up these wild stories to get myself out of trouble. I could be caught red-handed but somehow talk my way out of it. I soon realized there was power in words, especially false ones.

I found that I could manipulate people by creating a believable narrative. As long as I sounded convincing, they were willing to give me whatever I asked for. But after a while, it began to get hard to tell what was real. In order to maintain my lies, I had to lie some more. Pretty soon, even I didn’t know what to believe.

Finally, my lies caught up to me. I found myself facing possible jail time because I had deceived the wrong people. I found a good lawyer who convinced me to be honest about what I had done and it was the truth that kept me out of jail. He also told me about Jesus and showed me that I could be a changed person if I would let Jesus live in me.

It’s taken a little bit of time and a lot of trust, but because of Jesus, I’m a changed person. And that’s the truth. [*steps back*]

**Player 4:** [*steps forward*] I’m really not that bad. Compared to some, I look pretty good. I’ve been going to church all my life and I accepted Jesus as my savior as a teenager. I try to live a good life and obey the ten commandments. I’m not perfect, but at least I’m not an addict, or a hate-filled person, or a liar.

Are there some things I’d like to change? Sure, but everybody has something. I might let out an occasional swear word or watch a movie that might not be appropriate for all audiences, but it’s not like those are habits. And maybe I’ll lie to my boss about a missed email or a late project, but for the most part I’m a good employee. Sometimes I lose my temper with my wife or my kids, but they know I love them; most of the time.

So does being a Christian make a difference in my life? I’m sure it does, but I can’t narrow it down to something specific. I’m just glad I don’t have to make a big show of things. [*steps back*]

**Player 1:** [*steps forward*] I was lost in addiction. I was.

**Player 2:** [*steps forward*] I was consumed with anger. I was.

**Player 3:** [*steps forward*] I was a victim of my deceptions. I was.

**Player 4:** [*steps forward, motions to the others*] I’m really not that bad.

[*Blackout*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Children’s Moment – Week 4**

***Jesus Re-Creating Us***

**March 10, 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 4 – Jesus Re-Creating 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:**

Alright, you know what time it is—kids, come join me here! Do you remember who I am? Yes, I am… *The Awakening.*

You know, superheroes see all kinds of mass destruction and chaos, and they come in and fix everything and save the day, right? Buildings are torn apart and cars are flattened, but after they come and do their thing, everything is all better!

What does “the perfect life” look like to you? [*Allow children to respond*]

Those answers sound incredible! But if we could have and do those things all the time, do you think we might get tired of them? Imagine if you went to Disneyworld every day for the rest of your life. Don’t you think you might get bored or tired of it after a while?

If we did something that we consider exciting every day, it would lose its “specialness.” It would become something routine for us.

Did you know that God calls us special? Did you know that we never lose our specialness to God? God created us uniquely and with a purpose. He created you and said that you are good; you are very, very good!

God wants the best for us. But he also knows that we will go through hard times in our lives, too. He knows that the world is full of sin, and that we will have a hard time. Sometimes things are going to distract us and tempt us.

But guess what? God promises that he is going to re-create us; he’s going to give us new life. Do you want to know how to get that new life? We need to give our hearts to Jesus and ask him to forgive us. We invite him into our lives and he begins to change us. When we do that, the things in our hearts will change into the things God wants for us. The things God wants for us—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—will begin to grow in our lives so that we begin to look more like Jesus. That’s the BEST life that we can have.

May I pray with you?

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for the new life you have for us. Thank you for wanting to re-create us so that we can look more like you. We look forward to that beautiful life you have for us because of your sacrifice and dying for our sins. We love you and we thank you. 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 4**

***Jesus Re-Creating Us***

**March 10, 2024**

**By Major Peter Mount**

**TITLE: Jesus Re-Creating Us**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-19a**

**INTRODUCTION:** [*Begin with an illustration about re-creating something (either a picture you have seen and want to recreate; something that is broken or old and needs restoring)*.]

Today we are talking about re-creation in our theme of Lenten Awakening and what Jesus is continuing to do in our lives when it comes to awakening to His presence within our lives.

**READ:** 2 Corinthians 5:14-19a.

To understand *re*-creation we must begin with creation and the Creator.

**GOD AND HUMANKIND – THE CREATOR AND THE CREATED**

Let’s turn back to **Genesis 5:1-2** (NIV):

***1****This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.****2****He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created.*

* God created – He is the Creator
* Created in God’s likeness
* Blessed by God
* V.2 ‘man’ is better translated as humankind

God is the creator and we are the created!

**So why do we need *re*-creation?**

**SIN AND HUMANKIND – CREATED AND THE NEED FOR A SAVIOR**

One word – Sin

The consequence for sin is death, as we read in **Romans 3:23** and **Romans 6:23** (NIV):

***3:23****For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

***6:23****For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6%3A23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28092a)*] Christ Jesus our Lord.*

In other words, all those who have sinned need a Savior. Because of sin, the created is made imperfect and dead and we—the sinful—need a Savior who brings life.

Paul shares this in our scripture for today, from **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** (NIV):

***14****For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.****15****And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

Paul’s words are often confusing, but to summarize He is saying that all who are dead because of sin need Jesus who died and rose again, defeating death, giving life for all who believe in Him.

**JESUS AND HUMANKIND – SAVIOR AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RE-CREATION**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-19a** (NIV) says:

***17****Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28895a)*] The old has gone, the new is here!****18****All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:****19****that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.*

**What does it mean to be ‘in Christ’?**

It means to believe that Jesus died for our sins, rose again to give us life, hope and a future.

For those who believe in Jesus, we are *re*-created! We are made new!

**So, what does that mean?**

[*Share your personal testimony briefly – use one word for what you were like before Christ and one word for who you are, re-created in Christ.*]

This is an example of 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“The old has gone, the new has come!”*

It is both internal and external.

We are re-created internally into a right relationship with God and have access to Him directly through prayer. This comes through our faith in Jesus, which was previously marred by sin.

We should also be re-created externally. **Ephesians 2:10** (NIV) says:

***10****For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Now re-creation in every aspect of our lives is not instantaneous! Just as when we see things being created, it takes time!

**CHALLENGE:** My challenge to you today is two-fold:

1. Have you allowed Jesus to re-create you internally? Are you ready to have faith in Him, to believe that He created you, loves you, died for you, rose for you, forgives you and wants only the best for you? Today is the day you can be re-created!
2. Have you been re-created in your relationship with Jesus internally, but there are still areas in your life that need to be worked on to begin or carry on the process of re-creation? Let today be the day that you relinquish your hold on it and allow Jesus to begin re-creating in you the desire to be more like Jesus.