***Lenten Awakening***

**Lenten Worship Series – Week 5**

***Jesus Uniting Us***

**March 17, 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 Uniting Us***  **23I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**  ***John 17:23* (NIV)** |

**[The Gathering]**

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| **Drama – The Odd Couple** |

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

**Call to Worship:**

The church is our spiritual home, and church gatherings are like family meals. As the family gathers in love and prays in unity, transformation happens. Hidden hurts are healed. Racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and political divides are overcome. Differences in what each family member hears Scripture saying draws the family closer together. Family members actually listen to one another and humble themselves before God while affirming the presence of Christ in the Word of God—they are indeed the Body of Christ.

Jesus the Christ said that he was in his disciples as his heavenly Father was in him, to the end that they (the church), would be made perfectly one.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 142-143)

***23****I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* (John 17:23, NIV)

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#971/HC#181/SS#154 – Onward, Christian soldiers** | TB-188 – same  HC-181  SS-154 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)  HCD17-T11 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#8/SS#6 – Come, let us all unite to sing** | TB-293 – God is love  SS-6 | HTD5-T7 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#39 – Raise up an Army** | HC-39 | HCD2B-T19 |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#819/HC#202 – O Church, arise** | TB-777 – same  HC-202 | No HT CD  HCD19-T12 |
| **HC#209 – Come People of the Risen King** | HC-209 | HCD19-T19 |
| **SB#246 – Christ is made the sure foundation** | TB-406 – Praise my soul | HTD2-T12 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#814 – God of grace and God of glory** | TB-407 – Regent Square | HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#349 – Yet once again, by God’s abundant mercy** | TB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#921 – Forward! be our watchword** | TB-185 – same  TB-190 – Rachie | No HT CD  HTD2-T13 (3 vs.) |

**Invocation**

Heavenly Father, thank you for uniting your church in Christ, just as you united those first followers in Jesus the incarnate Christ. I confess that I have not always lived in that oneness with my spiritual brothers and sisters. I ask you, Lord, to give me discernment beyond my shortsightedness, openness to the diversity around me, and acceptance of the differences among my fellow followers of Christ. Help me to be your unifier and a part of your reconciling work in the church and in the world around me. I ask this in the name of our uniting Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, p. 143)

**[The Word]**

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

***Jesus Prays for all Believers***

**[The Word]**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Leader:** We can thank Paul for teaching us that the church is like a human body made up of its different parts. We are those parts, working together to enable the church to fulfill its purpose. God has made Christ the head of this body, and when the body follows the head, it expresses “the fullness of Christ” himself (*Ephesians 1:22-23*).

**Women:** The gifts are given to members of the body to equip the church for service and to build up the members of the body (*Ephesians 4:11-13*).

**Men:** And we grow, joined and held together by Christ, the head, as we build ourselves up in love and make our important contributions (*Ephesians 4:16*).

**Leader:** Sounds wonderful, but as Paul learned quickly, it doesn’t always work to perfection, because of both our own imperfections and our sinfulness. Paul himself acknowledges this again and again in his letters.

**All:** ***17****I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.****18****For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of naive people.*

(Romans 16:17-18, NIV)

**Leader:** Jesus prayed for all believers: ***21****“Father, may they all be one as You are in Me and I am in You; may they be in Us, for by this unity the world will believe that You sent Me.* ***22****All the glory You have given to Me, I pass on to them. May that glory unify them and make them one as We are one,****23****I in them and You in Me, that they may be refined so that all will know that You sent Me, and You love them in the same way You love Me.”*

(John 17:21-23, *VOICE*)

(*Lenten Awakening,* p. 139)

**[The Response]**

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| **HC#209 – Come People of the Risen King** | HC-209 | HCD19-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#214 – Holy Spirit** | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |
| **SB#8/SS#6 – Come, let us all unite to sing** | TB-293 – God is love  SS-6 | HTD5-T7 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#39 – Raise up an Army** | HC-39 | HCD2B-T19 |
| **HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name** | HC-198 | HCD18-T18 |
| **SB#574 – Blessèd and glorious King** | TB-197 – Harlan  TB-198 – Moscow | HTD10-T2 (3 vs.)  HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#1022 – Savior and Lord, we pray to Thee** | TB-4 – Armadale | No HT CD |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#971/HC#181/SS#154 – Onward, Christian soldiers** | TB-188 – same  HC-181  SS-154 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)  HCD17-T11 |
| **SB#819/HC#202 – O Church, arise** | TB-777 – same  HC-202 | No HT CD  HCD19-T12 |
| **HC#216 – By Faith** | HC-216 | HCD20-T16 |
| **SB#246 – Christ is made the sure foundation** | TB-406 – Praise my soul | HTD2-T12 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#346 – We need each other’s voice to sing** | TB-585 – Checkendon | No HT CD |
| **SB#593 – In my life, Lord, be glorified** | TB-738 – Lord, be glorified | No HT CD |
| **SB#812 – Blest be the tie that binds** | TB-147 – Carlisle  TB-148 – Dennis | No HT CD  No HT CD |
| **SB#813 – For I’m building a people of power** | TB-615 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#814 – God of grace and God of glory** | TB-407 – Regent Square | HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#815 – Help us to help each other, Lord** | TB-109 – Sawley  TB-98 – My Shepherd  TB-70 – Fewster | No HT CD  No HT CD  HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#817 – Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing** | TB-736 – Londonderry air | No HT CD |
| **SB#349 – Yet once again, by God’s abundant mercy** | TB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#921 – Forward! be our watchword** | TB-185 – same  TB-190 – Rachie | No HT CD  HTD2-T13 (3 vs.) |

**Leader:**

When we allow Christ to unite us, with all our differences, disagreements, and disparities, we learn that opening ourselves to one another frees us to be one in love. The world takes notice. And we find ourselves in a better position and greater readiness to open ourselves to that world, which is our ultimate calling.

(*Lenten Awakening,* p. 143)

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#593 – In my life, Lord, be glorified** | TB-738 – Lord, be glorified | No HT CD |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#214 – Holy Spirit** | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |
| **SB#574 – Blessèd and glorious King** | TB-197 – Harlan  TB-198 – Moscow | HTD10-T2 (3 vs.)  HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#1022 – Savior and Lord, we pray to Thee** | TB-4 – Armadale | No HT CD |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#346 – We need each other’s voice to sing** | TB-585 – Checkendon | No HT CD |
| **SB#812 – Blest be the tie that binds** | TB-147 – Carlisle  TB-148 – Dennis | No HT CD  No HT CD |
| **SB#813 – For I’m building a people of power** | TB-615 – same | No HT CD |
| **SB#815 – Help us to help each other, Lord** | TB-109 – Sawley  TB-98 – My Shepherd  TB-70 – Fewster | No HT CD  No HT CD  HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#817 – Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing** | TB-736 – Londonderry air | No HT CD |

**[The Response]**

**Prayers for Unity**

**[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]**

**Message – Jesus Uniting Us**

**[The Response]**

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| **SB#817 – Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing** | TB-736 – Londonderry air | No HT CD |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **HC#214 – Holy Spirit** | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |
| **SB#574 – Blessèd and glorious King** | TB-197 – Harlan  TB-198 – Moscow | HTD10-T2 (3 vs.)  HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#1022 – Savior and Lord, we pray to Thee** | TB-4 – Armadale | No HT CD |
| **HC#178 – Speak, O Lord** | HC-178 | HCD16-T18 |
| **SB#346 – We need each other’s voice to sing** | TB-585 – Checkendon | No HT CD |
| **SB#593 – In my life, Lord, be glorified** | TB-738 – Lord, be glorified | No HT CD |
| **SB#812 – Blest be the tie that binds** | TB-147 – Carlisle  TB-148 – Dennis | No HT CD  No HT CD |
| **SB#815 – Help us to help each other, Lord** | TB-109 – Sawley  TB-98 – My Shepherd  TB-70 – Fewster | No HT CD  No HT CD  HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |

**[The Sending]**

**Benediction:**

Heavenly Father, we are a UNITED PEOPLE. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your Body, your church, on earth. We ask you, through your Holy Spirit, to help and empower us to draw closer together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, not just the ones we naturally gravitate toward but also those we feel awkward with, foreign to, or threatened by. Enable us to be a help rather than a hindrance to the unity and witness of your Body. I ask this in the name of our unifying Jesus. Amen.

(*Lenten Awakening*, pp. 156)

**[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#89/HC#161/SS#48 – O for a thousand tongues to sing** | TB-57 – Azmon  TB-75 – Grimsby  HC-161  SS-48 | HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)  No HT CD  HCD15-T11 |
| **HC#128 – My Tribute** | HC-128 | HCD11-T18 |
| **HC#198 – In Jesus’ Name** | HC-198 | HCD18-T18 |
| **SB#358/HC#241/SS#30 – Crown Him with many crowns** | TB-162 – Diademata  HC-241  SS-30 | HTD1-T8 (4 vs.)  HCD23-T11 |
| **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 #5** | |
| **DRAMA**  **The Odd Couple**  **By Martyn Scott Thomas**  © Copyright 2023 by Martyn Scott Thomas. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | |
| **Topic:** | Unity |
| **Scripture:** | John 17:20-23 |
| **Synopsis:** | The two sides of a brain find they must work together. |
| **Characters:** | Left – analytical and organized  Right – casual and messy |
| **Props/Costumes:** | A desk or table with two chairs. A dress shirt buttoned all the way up and a clipboard for Left. A Hawaiian style shirt, sunglasses, a can of pop, and a bag of chips for Right. |
| **Setting:** | The control center of a brain. |
| **Running time:** | 4 minutes |

[*Left enters and sits at the table getting himself organized (looking over clipboard, adjusting chair, checking watch).*]

**Left:** [*looking around*] Late, as usual. [*adjusts his posture in chair*]

**Right:** [*after a moment, enters shuffling his feet, sipping on can of pop, munching chips*] Hey, Leftie. What’s up? I see you’re early again.

**Left:** To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late.

**Right:** What if I’m just late?

**Left:** [*shakes his head*] Right, you’re always late.

**Right:** Then I guess I’m on time. I show up exactly when I mean to.

**Left:** If we’re going to run this body properly, we need the brain to function with precision, and that includes showing up on time.

**Right:** [*trying to peek at the clipboard, belches*] So what’s on the agenda today?

**Left:** [*pulling clipboard away*] Well, if you remember, yesterday we had that incident with the checkout clerk at the mini-mart.

**Right:** Oh, yeah. He wouldn’t take our coupon for the candy bar.

**Left:** It was expired.

**Right:** By one day. He could’ve taken it.

**Left:** [*emphasizing*] It was expired.

**Right:** [*emphasizing*] By one day.

**Left:** Anyways, I’ve been thinking about it all night and I think . . .

**Right:** [*interrupting*] That’s why we couldn’t dream about those dolphins that went bowling last night – you were hogging all the thoughts.

**Left:** [*continuing*] I think we need to go back and apologize.

**Right:** If we’re going back, I think I have another coupon [*searches pockets*] It has to be in here somewhere.

**Left:** [*a bit agitated*] Will you please forget the coupon? That’s what got us into this mess in the first place.

**Right:** But it was a BOGO.

**Left:** A what?

**Right:** A BOGO. Buy one, get one free.

**Left:** And do we really need two candy bars?

**Right:** I like candy bars.

**Left:** Have you looked at the scale lately? We don’t need two candy bars.

**Right:** But I like candy bars.

**Left:** That would explain the numbers on the scale.

**Right:** So, no more candy bars?

**Left:** [*confirming*] No more candy bars. And I think it’s time we . . .

**Right:** Don’t say it.

**Left:** Start our diet again.

**Right:** You said it.

**Left:** Let’s face it. [*looking at clipboard*] There have been a lot of sweets lately and very little exercise.

**Right:** We did a push up yesterday.

**Left:** A push up? When?

**Right:** Right after we tripped over the dog.

**Left:** I don’t think that counts.

**Right:** Oh, it counts. I can still feel the burn. [*flexes arms*]

**Left:** [*continuing*] Back to the diet.

**Right:** But I don’t want to go back to the diet. Diets are no fun. [*thinking*] But do you know what is fun?

**Left:** I’m afraid to ask. What?

**Right:** The Chinese buffet! All you can eat for $5.99! And we don’t need a coupon.

**Left:** Is food all you can think about?

**Right:** No. There were those bowling dolphins.

**Left:** Sometimes I don’t understand how this body works at all.

**Right:** What do you mean?

**Left:** Well, life needs order. You can’t just go through life all willy-nilly. And every time I try to bring some order, you . . .

**Right:** [*looking and pointing to the side, excited*] Squirrel!

**Left:** Exactly. [*bangs his head slightly with clipboard*]

**Right:** That looks like it hurt. Are you okay?

**Left:** [*turns towards Right and gives a ‘look’*] Just dandy.

**Right:** So, what do you think about the buffet? The sooner we get there, the more we can eat.

**Left:** You can’t be serious.

**Right:** It’s simple math. The sooner we get there, the longer we can stay, and the more food we can eat. I thought you were good at math.

**Left:** [*screaming*] Aaaaaahhhhhh!

**Right:** Is that a yes or a no?

**Left:** All I want is a little order in this life. All I want is to make a schedule and stick to it. Is that too much to ask?

**Right:** Relax, Dude. I’m just talking about lunch. Even orderly bodies need to eat.

**Left:** Yes, but not constantly. Don’t you see what you’re doing to this body? You react immediately to every impulse, never once taking a second to consider the circumstances.

**Right:** And what about you?

**Left:** What about me?

**Right:** You have to have everything so structured and thought out that you can’t enjoy even one moment of spontaneity.

**Left:** I can too.

**Right:** Name one time you did something without planning, reviewing, and planning again.

**Left:** [*checking clipboard*]

**Right:** [*grabs clipboard from Left*] Without looking at this.

**Left:** Well, there was that one time that I uh, [*tries to peak at clipboard*] you know, at the park that one time . . .

**Right:** Sometimes it’s okay not to have a plan. It makes life more interesting.

**Left:** But what if something goes wrong?

**Right:** Something could go wrong anyway, even with the best planning.

**Left:** But . . .

**Right:** And that’s where my ability to improvise comes in handy.

**Left:** So, you’re saying we have to work together?

**Right:** It’s the only way this body will work. I need your structure.

**Left:** [*agreeing*] And I need your creativity and spontaneity.

**Right:** And now we both need lunch.

**Left:** [*concerned*] Without a reservation?

**Right:** I don’t know a buffet that takes one.

**Left:** Can I at least pick the table?

**Right:** One near the window?

**Left:** You know me so well.

**Right:** [*looking and pointing to the side, excited*] Squirrel!

[*Blackout*]

***Lenten Awakening***

**Children’s Moment – Week 5**

***Jesus Uniting Us***

**March 17, 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 5 – Jesus Uniting 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, kids! Come and join me—*The Awakening*! I’ve got something special to share with you today.

We all know how superheroes work, right? How do you know if someone is a superhero? What do they do; what are they like? [*Allow children to respond*] If they are a disguised superhero, what would give them away? [*Allow children to respond*]

Superheroes do really awesome things: they save people and help people. Some can lift heavy things and others can fly.

Did you know that God has given each of us an amazing power or gift to use? They are called “spiritual gifts.” When we believe in God—when we accept Jesus into our heart—he gives us things to help build up his church. Did you know that?

Some people might have the gift of encouragement. Do you know what encouragement is? [*Allow children to respond*] Other people might have the gift of serving or helping. Some people might have the gift of teaching or preaching, declaring God’s word.

God has given us many of these gifts so that we can build up his church. Why? Because *our church needs us.* Our world is a rough place and people need to see Jesus, so we can help people know who Jesus is.

Superheroes might save and help people, and we can do the same thing!

Everyone, would you raise a hand in the air and say, “We can help people!” [*Allow children to respond*]

We can be superheroes for God and build up his church together. Would you raise your hand again and repeat, “We can help people!” [*Allow children to respond*]

As we stand here, we know that it can be hard to work together, but did you know that we can’t do the things we need to do and help all the people we want to help if we don’t have each other. So we need to get along with each other and support each other with Jesus’ help. Jesus will help us to be superheroes in our church and in our world.

Do you think we can do that?

Let’s pray together:

*Dear Jesus,*

*We thank you that we can be your friend. We ask that you will help us to be kind to people, and help people, and love people so that they can know who you are through us. We want to help them to know you as their friend. 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 5**

***Jesus Uniting Us***

**March 17, 2024**

**By Major Caleb Senn**

**TITLE:  Jesus Uniting Us**

**SCRIPTURE:  Romans 16:17-18**

**INTRODUCTION:** [*Begin with an illustration about how Lenten celebrations often involve sacrificing something from one’s life (i.e. chocolate, sugar, social media, etc.).*]

Our focus today is to recognize that within the Gospel of Jesus Christ there is a conviction to unite as believers and a benefit to both our individual and corporate worship through that unity.

**IN UNITY, WE CAPTURE A KINGDOM LIKENESS**

**Romans 16:17-18** (NIV)says:

***17****I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.****18****For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*

* God created a diverse humanity
* We are more alike than we are different but we often put too much emphasis on the differences rather than our likenesses
* The Holy Sprit helps to mediate and show us our likeness within Kingdom living

**When we focus on our Kingdom Likeness, we are driven by love.**

**IN UNITY, WE LEARN TO LOVE**

In **John 17:23** (NIV), Jesus prayed for ALL believers, saying:

***23****I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

* Jesus praying out shows his deep love for his children
* We cannot be more in love with our denomination or our religion than we are with the Savior
* In love, we forgive others so that restoration and unification is our goal

Paul shares this in our scripture for today:

**IN UNITY, WE BECOME STRONGER INDIVIDUALS**

**Ephesians 4:16** (NIV):

***16****From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

What does it mean to be ‘in Christ’?

* Community builds community. As we build each other up, we become stronger
* Unity as believers helps us to grow stronger as individuals
* The importance of small groups and bible studies cannot be overstated as we grow individually in God’s grace

[*Share a personal illustration on how you have grown stronger as an individual believer because of community influence.*]

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

1. It is easier sometimes to point out growth areas in others than it is in ourselves. Start with *you* today. Make your relationship with Christ personal this season.
2. Utilize the Lenten season to discover what needs to be ‘tweaked’ in your life in order to experience Kingdom unity in its fullest. How can the Holy Spirit work in your life over the next few weeks?