



Worship Ideas

Offering Prayers: *You might alternate the following as offering prayers during the time you are using these materials focusing on a different theme of our common life each week:*

General Stewardship of Gifts

God, our gracious giver, your Son Jesus taught us that where our treasure is there our hearts will be also. Teach us to love people more than money, relationships more than things, and you above all, that the way we live will reflect what we truly value and believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who emptied himself in love for us, and now reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. **Amen.** (*All Creation Sings, p. 50*)

Stewardship of Creation

Mysterious God, whose imagination and desire embrace all: We seek to discern you in the interplay of forces, in the order and the chaos of the universe, and in the complexities of every living system. Give us grace to honor your goodness in what we know and in what we do not know, in the world's harmonies and turbulence, and in its promise and change. For you are in, through, and beyond all that is: one God, made known to us in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, our inspiration and guide. **Amen.** (*All Creation Sings, p. 48*)

Stewardship of the church community

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. **Amen.** (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 75*)

Stewardship of peace among peoples

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 76*)

Stewardship of our public life

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 77*)



Worship Ideas

Song: “Commonwealth is God’s Commandment” - *All Creation Sings 1036*
(available on Sundays and Seasons, reprintable with permission if you have OneLicense)

You might sing this as your offering hymn throughout the time of this stewardship program. Teach the assembly that the non-English words in the refrain each means something akin to “peace” in Sanskrit (shanti), Latin (pax), Hebrew (shalom), and Arabic (maslaha – which is more directly translated “public interest/public good”). This song emphasizes the holiness of finding common interest together, calling us to steward interpersonal and international relationships, the creation, and our financial resources for the common good.

Sharing of the Peace*

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in Christ’s name. Christ is our peace. Let us pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

**Written by Rev. Connie Parvey and the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho, VT in 1995 for their Folk Service, which is still used monthly in that congregation.*