

Worship Ideas

We Are Called



Consider using “**Could It Be?**” in **All Creation Sings #1003** (also available for download with Sundays and Seasons). It could be the offering song or the introduction to the stewardship moment each week of the program. It is a simple, catchy refrain that can be sung through several times with the words “Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?”

Offering Prayer during the program

Generous Spirit, your gifts abound! You created each of us with something to share and form us into community together. As we gather now around your table, renew in us your call to serve one another and all the world with what you have given to us, through our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offering Prayer when pledges are received

Christ our Hope, we offer to you our gifts, trusting that as you promise us your presence in this meal you accompany us in every moment of our lives. We commend our gifts, our intentions, indeed our whole lives, to you as we join your communion of saints in this feast of life, through our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offering Prayer on a celebration Sunday

Creating God, you we give thanks for this communion of faith and the abundant feast you have set before us in bread and wine, in holy community, in gifts shared for the sake of your mission to the ends of the earth. Renew us in this meal for service, and enliven our celebrations of your abundance in every moment, through our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lectionary Reflections (for congregations using these resources in Fall 2023):

Narrative lectionary: In October and November of 2023, the Narrative lectionary focuses on several individuals from the Hebrew Scriptures: Ruth, David, Solomon, Elijah, and the prophets. Throughout the stories in scripture God uses amazing and imperfect people to lead God’s people in different ways. Ruth embodies faithfulness and boldness for others. David leads despite being the youngest and smallest. The prophets speak God’s messages both of hope and of judgment. Different gifts are called for at different moments and each is invited to use their gifts as they are. How might you lift that up in preaching on these texts? What gifts are embodied in the people who will hear your preaching? How can you invite them to share those with the world in new ways?

Revised Common Lectionary: Through the fall, we will read several parables of Jesus from Matthew’s gospel. Jesus will invite his listeners and us into deeper discipleship. What does it mean to be given grace, and what does it mean then to extend that grace outward to others? The images of banquets and vineyards remind us that we live in community with shared work and purpose. How might more be invited to share what they have in the context of our mission as the church in this time? Jesus is not so much

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the comforting healer in these passages as one who challenges the religious establishment to return to the mission of setting free from oppression. Where are we being called to set free ourselves, our communities, and those in need?

Especially for young people:

For younger children, read *Pass It On* by Sophy Henn (a read-aloud video of the book is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Pci5aQSGKrU>). This book invites us to look for moments that give joy, comfort, and connection, then pass it on. Talk with children about simple things we share with others like smiles, kind words, and other special ways of showing joy and connection. The book ends with a moment of joy coming back to the reader, a reminder that we strengthen one another as we share our gifts.

For all young people: Have them write, draw, or share aloud about a time they felt really good about doing something that gave them joy. What was it like? Who noticed? How did doing that impact others?