

WORSHIP

This is the Worship Liturgy used on the Practice Discipleship Day at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering. The act of worship was the small group “study” on worship.

DISCIPLESHIP DAY WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Worship is the practice of “stepping away” from our daily lives to intentionally love God. When we worship, we gain a deeper understanding and experience the majesty, mercy and mystery of God. In worship, we praise God for being God, for being OUR God. Our worship should include joining together regularly with a community; like ours today, because in Christian community, we bring our talents, gifts, struggles, and joys and offer them to Him. Let’s begin our day with the first faith practice, Worship.

PRACTICE DISCIPLESHIP DAY WORSHIP

DIALOGUE OF THE BOXES

(Tall cardboard boxes divide the room in two. Participants, sitting on each side of boxes cannot see each other.)

LEADER 1

Walks to center of the room, stands at one of the microphone near the boxes and gestures to boxes.

What are these boxes? If I sit down over here and you sit down over there, I cannot see you. I would like to see you, I would like to know you, but these boxes keep us apart. These boxes divide us. They separate us.

LEADER 2

Walks to center of the room, stands at one of the microphone on the other side, near the boxes and gestures to boxes.

A lot of people in neighborhoods do this. They construct fences to keep us from one another, to keep “your” stuff out of “my” yard, to keep “my” dog out of “your” stuff.

LEADER 1

Boxes are symbolic for the way humanity and the world often operates. The world is a divided place. Politics, religions, skin color, tribal differences, languages, even oceans keep us apart. Countries are divided places too. Countries often want to keep borders as barriers. Local laws and traditions make it clear who are the insiders and who are the outsiders.

LEADER 2

Cities are divided places. Have you heard the phrase “on the other side of the tracks”? Yeah, there was a day when there was a “right” side of the tracks- those who lived with great affluence, and then there was the “other” side of the tracks – where poverty lived.

BISHOP

Walks to another microphone, near the boxes.

The church has done its fair share of harm in becoming a dividing place. Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week. We in the church have been guilty of creating divisions based

on race, sex, class, economics, and sexual orientation. The church has done some serious damage. We have created insiders and outsiders and often it appears that the insiders make the decisions that matter.

The church is working hard to break down these barriers. We've got more work to do.

I need your help and this church needs your help as we tear down the dividing wall that separates insiders from outsiders, as we communicate Jesus' love to a broken and hurting world, as we welcome them to be fellow citizens with the saints.

LEADER 1

It comes as no surprise that families can be great territories of division as well. Some families can't talk to each other. Other families have broken apart because they can't find a great reason to stay together. There are families who on the outside look pretty good, but on the inside become places of silence. They are reduced to existing like a boarding house where people wander in, sit, eat, sleep, and are on their way out the next day.

Leader 3 walks to the remaining microphone by the boxes.

LEADER 2

The Bible has something to say about places that are divided. In the book of Ephesians, chapter 2, the author provides us a thought about division, something that we need to hear today.

LEADER 3

A reading from Ephesians, chapter 2.

"There was a time when you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross by which he put to death their hostility."

The word of the Lord.

PEOPLE

Thanks be to God.

Leader 3 returns to seat.

As Leader 1 speaks, the various ushers make a cruciform (cross) shape from the boxes and sets the altar area.

- *Cue ten ushers to begin to lay down the boxes into a cruciform pattern; use floor map as a guide*
- *Two ushers place the wooden altar top in the center of the cruciform shape*

- *Two ushers bring altar fabric out and place on top of altar top. Arrange the fabric so that it looks well placed on the cruciform of boxes.*
- *Bishop and Leaders 1, 2, and 3 move microphones closer to the center of the cruciform box shape.*

LEADER 1

The author of Ephesians calls this stuff, this division, “a dividing wall”. It’s some of what divides us and keeps us apart.

While there are dividing walls in our lives, neighborhoods, cities, churches, families, and in our world, Jesus has done something about it. Jesus has destroyed the division.

*Ushers return to seats. Leader 2 returns to seat.
Bishop comes to altar area.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BISHOP

Join me in confessing our own participation in this practice of dividing what God has created into one.

PEOPLE

**Almighty God, you know us, inside and out, through and through.
All our sins are known to you.
Clean up our hearts.
Clean up our minds.
Clean up our actions.
Forgive us.
Work in us so that our sin will not be a barrier.
Make us who you wish us to become.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who has reconciled us to you on the cross. Amen.**

LEADER 1

In our confession we acknowledge our own self-centeredness and self-orientation. We ask God to turn us into an honest people, to turn us towards our neighbors, and become reconciled people in Jesus.

PEOPLE

Jesus, forgive us. Turn us around.

BISHOP

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace. He has broken down the dividing wall.”

Jesus has broken down the barriers we have created. He has set us free to live fully in the kingdom as citizens with the saints.

By the goodness and grace of God your sins are forgiven and you are set free to be at peace.

PEOPLE

Amen.

GATHERING SONG
Grace Like Rain

Bishop and Leader 1 move to chairs

At end the song, Pastor and Leader 2 moves to altar area. Leader 2 may hold the altar book for the Pastor to use.

GREETING

PASTOR

People of God, citizens with the saints, the grace, mercy and love of God be with you all!

PEOPLE

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PASTOR

Let us pray.

God, we know you as a truth telling God.

Truth is...we have separated ourselves from you and our neighbors, yet your love will not let this be.

Truth is...we squander your gifts, yet you continue to give more and more grace and mercy and hope.

Truth is...in our lives we treat Jesus casually, yet you continue to remind us that it was by his death and resurrection that we are saved.

Truth is...we walk away from you, and in reality you have made a certain guarantee that nothing will separate us from your love, known in and through Jesus Christ.

So now, turn us into your truth telling people:

a people who can distinguish between good and evil,

a people who would rather walk in the light than stumble in the darkness,

a people drawn, magnet like, to making peace rather than war.

Make us practitioners of the truth.

Make us disciples of the truth....

your truth. Amen.

Pastor and Leader 2 return to seat.

Leader 1 and 3 move to altar area.

THE READING

LEADER 3

A reading from Ephesians, chapter 2.

“Jesus came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

Here ends the reading.

LEADER 1

Jesus is the one who is our peace. He is peace to those who are divided, separated, broken and turned around. It's his peace that he wants us to give away and share with our neighbors, those near to us and those far away.

Let's share the peace of Christ right now with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

PEOPLE

And also with you.

LEADER 1

Please stand and share Jesus' peace with your neighbors.

*People share the peace. Leaders 1 and 3 return to chair.
Bishop moves to the altar area at conclusion of the sharing of the peace.*

GOSPEL **Matthew 5: 43-48**

BISHOP
(gestures for all to stand)

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5.

PEOPLE

Glory to you, O Lord.

BISHOP

“You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION BY BISHOP (8 minutes max)

Below are some reflection ideas. The main preaching text is the ELCA Youth Gathering text from Ephesians 2: 12-18.

- There is war all around us....international, national, cities, neighborhood, families, and churches. In war there are winner and losers. Someone will declare victory. People will lose their lives. It was no different in Jesus day.
- Jesus came and preached peace to “you who were far away and peace to those who were near”. He preaches peace, a peace born out of discipleship fully loaded with mercy. On one night when Jesus was with his disciples he sat at a table and shared simple meal of bread and wine. In a very unique way Jesus declares that it will be by his life that others would have life, that he would lose his life, in order for us to have abundant life. Jesus makes peace by laying down his own life; he does this for us and for our salvation.
- Jesus commands his disciples, as he does us--when you share this meal know that I am there, so remember me... in bread and wine, in suffering and dying, in forgiveness and new life, in all that is hurtful and all that is hopeful. In this meal Jesus brings us near to himself and he brings us near to the needs of the world and to the others he loves and died for.

SONG

Make A Difference

During the song the ELCA Youth Gathering communion ware set (bread and wine) are brought to the table and made ready by Leaders 1 and 2. Take off the napkins covering the communion ware and set them next to the wine.

The Communion ministers and Pastor go to the sacristy and get their communion ware and move to in front of music stage area. Those serving wine and grape juice need to bring a linen/napkin along with the cup. The Pastor holds the gluten free bread.

The ushers go to the sacristy to get the baskets of bracelets and stand with the communion ministers in front of the music stage area.

MEAL

Bishop goes to the altar.

Leader 1 accompanies the Bishop to hold the book for the Bishop to use.

BISHOP

In the most ancient of practices, the most ancient rituals, a call goes out and people respond. The church has its own rituals as well. At an ancient Passover meal Jesus gathered with his closest disciples. Jesus calls out to us now as we are gathered in his name. Let's stand together at this meal of thanksgiving.

People stand.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so with all the saints from every time and place, with whom we are citizens, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SONG

Sanctus

BISHOP

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORDS PRAYER

BISHOP

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kingdom come.
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Pastor comes forward to mic.

DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS

PASTOR

After the Communion ministers have communed, you are invited to come to a communion station near you. There will be ___#___ stations near the altar. There will be ___#___ stations around the perimeter of the room. Please receive the bread and then dip it into the cup of wine or grape juice.

There is a station where gluten free wafers are available. I will be at that station so if you need gluten free wafers, please come to my station where I am serving communion.

Come to the table for all is now ready.

Communion ministers gather circling the altar area so that they can receive communion.

Work with your Bishop to determine how you will proceed so that all communion ministers, ushers, and leaders will receive communion including the Bishop and the Pastor. This may occur either before or after the people have communed.

After they have communed, they move to their station and begin to serve communion.

The ushers are also at the communion stations passing out the Practice Discipleship bracelets. As they give out a bracelet, they say "Wear as you break down walls! You are a disciple of Jesus."

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

**Jesus, Remember Me
Your Grace Is Enough
All Who Are Thirsty
How Great Is Our God**

At the end of communion, all who have served communion return the communion elements to the sacristy, including the altar communion ware. The ushers return the buckets of bracelets to the sacristy.

The Pastor and Leader 2 move to altar. Leader 2 holds the Pastor's book.

PRAYER

PASTOR

Prayer is one of the ways we talk to God and one of the ways God talks to us. For our prayer today, we will use both our words as well as our bodies.

Our prayer has three movements.

Would you cup your hands over your mouth?

(Do this movement yourself modeling it to those gathered. Then wait while they do this movement with you)

This is the first movement. As you pray, you will whisper your prayers. We call this the prayers of "MY" HEART. With all of us whispering our prayers, we won't be able to listen to each other as we pray. That is okay. We will pray knowing that all of us will be whispering our prayers together.

 Insert name (Leader 2) will offer a prayer petition for peace, for those in need, for those seeking God, and for this Gathering. As she/he does so, please whisper your prayers into your cupped hand.

Now, the second movement.

In the second movement we will be praying for another person in this room. Hold the hands of the person next to you joining OUR HEARTS in prayer.

(Do this movement yourself with Leader 2 modeling it to those gathered. Then wait while they do this movement).

As you join hands with that person, you will have the opportunity to pray for each other.

Finally, the third movement. Raise your hands upward like you are giving your prayers up to GOD'S HEART.

(Do this movement yourself modeling it to those gathered. Then wait while they do this movement with you)

We will gather up all our prayers and offer them to the heart of God.

Let's try those three prayer movements again.

(do movement and say words)

My heart. *(cup hands over mouth)*

Our hearts. *(hold hands with neighbor)*

God's heart. *(raise hands upward to God)*

We are going to pray using these three movements and we will do so while lying on the floor. So would you please lay down, spreading out all around. Those of you who are seated in chairs will have to get creative here and find some folks near you with whom you can hold your hands in prayer during the second movement.

(pause while they get situated on the floor)

Please cup your hands around your mouth and ready yourself to pray.

Let us pray.

Gracious and holy God, we come before you today, our hearts gathered in prayer. Listen to the thoughts of our hearts as we whisper our prayers to you.

Pastor holds book for Leader 2.

LEADER 2

I ask you to pray for peace for all people throughout the world.

Whisper your prayers to God.

(please give the community time to pray between each petition; eight seconds)

I ask you to pray for those in any need or trouble.
Whisper your prayers to God.

I ask you to pray for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge and faith.
Whisper your prayers to God.

I ask you to pray for this Gathering that God would walk with us through all of our experiences and open our eyes to see Jesus revealed in the people all around us.
Whisper your prayers to God.

Leader 2 holds book for Pastor.

PASTOR

The second movement of our prayer together..... Our Hearts.

Would you please turn and hold hands with one of your neighbors?

Tell your neighbor something for which you need their prayer. Share this with each other and then pray for each other.

(when it seems appropriate to end)

The third movement of our prayer today....God's Heart.

Would you please raise your hands upward and outward and give your prayers to God as we pray together.

(Wait while they extend their arms upward.)

Holy God, ever present and moving among your people, draw us near to you that in place of division there may be peace. Your peace. We gather up all our prayers that have been whispered and shared and we offer them to you. Hear our prayers, gracious God, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may joyfully love and serve you and one another held in the wide embrace of your love.

My heart. Our hearts. God's heart.

Would you repeat after me?

My heart. **(My heart).**
Our hearts. **(Our hearts)**
God's heart. **(God's heart)**

Let the people say Amen!

PEOPLE

Amen.

*Pastor and Leader 2 return to seats.
Leader 3 and Bishop come forward.*

READING

LEADER 3

A reading from Ephesians, chapter 2.

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.”

Here ends the reading.

Leader 3 returns to seat.

REFLECTION BY BISHOP (4 minutes max)

Below are some reflection ideas. The grounding text is Ephesians 2: 19.

- Because of Jesus’ action we are now citizens with the saints. We have moved from stranger to being in the household of God. What does this mean for our homes, at church, in youth group, in the world?
- God has a name for you. You received it when you were baptized. Members of the household of God, disciples of the living God, you are marked by God, sealed with the cross of Christ.
- Being a citizen with the saints is both a great gift of grace and a great responsibility. We are charged with the task of delivering justice, serving others, caring for the needs of the world.

Pastor comes to mic. Bishop returns to seat.

MARKING RITUAL

Pastor stands at one of the microphones.

Small Group leaders begin to pass out markers to the people around them. Small group leaders will need to be prepared to gather up the markers and return them to their box.

PASTOR

Indeed, you are fellow citizens with the saints. You have been marked by the cross of Christ forever!

As a sign of this claim, we are going to mark each other with a cross on the top of one of our hands.

As the small group leaders pass out the markers, please draw a cross on one of your neighbor’s hands. As you do so, say these words to your neighbor: “You are marked by God and sealed with the cross of Christ!”

Pastor returns to seat and receives a mark.

Bishop and Leader 2 move to altar area mics. Leader 2 may hold book for the Bishop

BENEDICTION

BISHOP

Please stand to receive the blessing.

People stand.

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

PEOPLE

Amen.

DISMISSAL

LEADER 2

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

PEOPLE

Thanks be to God.

SONG

Get Down

During the song, two ushers remove the fabric from the altar. Two ushers remove the tabletop from the boxes.

Finally, the rest of the ushers carry out the boxes to near the sacristy so that the altar area is totally free of boxes. Place the boxes around the sacristy area to protect the communion ware and delineate an area for clean up.

Optional BACKGROUND MUSIC by synod musicians. Coaches may provide music if they choose.

MOVEMENT INTO THE REST OF PRACTICE DISCIPLESHIP DAY