



# Call to Worship

Please rise and join in the Call to Worship.

*One: Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people!*

**All: Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works!**

*One: Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord!*

**All: Pursue the Lord and his strength; seek his face always!**

*One: Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared...*

Psalm 105:1-5

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# Hymn

“Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah” - 50

# Opening Prayer

Our gracious and ever loving God,  
we come in the midst of summer  
looking for refreshment.  
We rest in the knowledge  
of the wonderful works you have done for us,  
and of the deep and abiding love you have for us  
and for all God's people.  
Search our hearts.  
Fill our soul with your indwelling Spirit  
who whispers to our soul  
that all will be well if we but trust in you.  
Shine your light before us,  
that we may see our path to you  
and to your kingdom on earth. Amen.

by the Rev. Dr. Joanne Carlson Brown  
pastor at Tibbetts United Methodist Church  
in West Seattle, WA  
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual*,  
edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu  
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Please be seated.

## Psalm 105: 7-11, 45c

We continue with more from Psalm 105. Listen.

You are the LORD our God;  
what you say, goes, everywhere on earth.  
You never forget the alliance you have made with us;  
you've been true to your word  
for a thousand generations.

You made the alliance with Abraham;  
you promised Isaac you would stick to it;  
you confirmed it in writing to Jacob,  
promising Israel that the alliance was in place forever.  
You gave them the land of Canaan as a family property,  
to be passed on down from one generation to the next.

You are the greatest, LORD!

from the *Laughing Bird* version  
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## Unison Confession

Let us join our minds and hearts  
in a unison prayer of confession, #699.

*(pause – it's on the powerpoint and in the hymnal)*

Together...

Lord, our God,  
great, eternal, wonderful  
utterly to be trusted:  
you give life to us all,  
you help those who come to you,  
you give hope to those who cry to you.

Forgive our sins, secret and open,  
and rid us of every habit of thought  
that stands against the gospel.

Set our hearts at peace,  
so we may live our lives before you  
confidently and without fear,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

Hymnal #699. Based on a prayer from  
The Liturgy of St. Basil of Caesarea, 4th c.,  
adapted from *Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship*,  
ed. Caryl Micklem, copyright © 1956 1967 SCM Press, Ltd

## Mustard seed animation

<https://youtu.be/VDuQBtY2iSg>

## Matthew 13:31-33

<sup>31</sup> (Jesus) put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

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# Message

(2 songs will be incorporated into the sermon,  
in the following order. Both are on the powerpoint)

## Small Things, Great Love

by Ken Medema, NYC 2006 (chorus)

Small things, great love, that's how the moun-tains move.  
small things, each day, give your-self a - way.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. Above the notes are chord symbols: G, D, A, and D. The second staff also has a key signature of one sharp and a time signature of 4/4. It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. Above the notes are chord symbols: G, D, A, and D. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church service.

## To what can the Kingdom of God be compared

tune: “To god be the glory”

To what can the kingdom of God be compared?  
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,  
And there, where predictable plantings should be,  
There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ...

faithful, Spirit-filled lives.

Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,  
Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.

A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:  
A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,  
A church reaches out to the youth in the town,  
A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.  
God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:  
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ...

faithful, Spirit-filled lives.

Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,  
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

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[www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com)

Video

## “A woman baking bread”

[https://youtu.be/\\_cp-dGKSIng](https://youtu.be/_cp-dGKSIng)

(after the sermon... note: the video's sound will be mute, with the organist playing appropriate music while the Deacons distribute the bread. When all have received, the organ will draw to close, and the powerpoint will forward to the next slide: “Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing” – even if the video is not finished.)

# Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

In this world where supersize portions reign supreme, we thank you for little things, Lord God. May this small piece of bread and tiny cup of juice remind us of your kingdom. Broken and shared, the loaves fed 5,000 beside the sea long ago, with plenty of leftovers! Broken and nailed to a cross like a common criminal, the gospel of Jesus has spread like a weed.

O God, whose kingdom is like a mustard seed, may we die to self and spread in ways we can't predict or control. May we grow and become more in tune with you, so that you might take us where you want us to go. May we become less visible and more faithful, paying attention to the small things, realizing that this garden, this church, this community, this world is your project, not our own.

Gathered around your table, blessed by your grace, your promise, your very presence with us, we are thankful for this small meal. And we are grateful that you have invited us to share it with you, that we are included. Help us to more fully join your project of extending this table.

This we pray in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

by Peter L Haynes  
(previously used 7/24/2011)

# Eating

(in unison:)

“This bread which we break  
is the communion of the body of Christ”

Take and eat.

# Hymn

“Seed, scattered and sown” - #454  
(as the Deacons distribute the cup)

# Drinking

(in unison:)

“This cup which we share  
is the communion of the blood of Christ”

Take and eat.

From a living letter

## Romans 8:26–39

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Sharing a joy, a concern,  
a word of testimony or praise

# Responsive Prayer

***ALL: Listening God,  
you hear our prayers before we speak,  
yet welcome our praying;  
therefore we come with confidence  
to lay our requests before you.***

Leader: We pray for Christian everywhere,  
for our denomination and our congregation,  
for faithfulness and strength  
to persevere in righteousness.  
We pray for the whole people of God.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the nations of the world,  
for all leaders  
and for those who make policy decisions.  
We pray for the commonwealth  
of our global community.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who are overcome by violence,  
for victims of injustice or oppression,  
and for those in poverty or pain,  
We pray for all who need healing and peace.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who endure trials,  
for those who are dying,  
and for those who mourn.  
We pray for all who need comfort and hope.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: You have heard the prayers  
of your people, O God.  
We rest in the comfort of your care,  
as we pray in Jesus' name.

**ALL: AMEN**

Hymnal #720  
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## Responding with our Tithes and Offerings

Yes, the Holy Spirit searches the recesses of our minds and the depths of our hearts, and calls us to be not only givers but also receivers of God's gift of grace. We believe, therefore, that the Lord will multiply our gifts in ways that draw us nearer to the Kingdom. As we offer these financial gifts, we respond with gratitude, knowing that nothing – absolutely nothing – can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen? Amen.

Now, ushers, you have a job to do.  
Lead us in giving.

## Offertory

## Hymn

“Sent forth by God's blessing” - 478

## Benediction

Go now secure in the love of God  
from which nothing can separate you.  
Delight in seeking the Lord -  
look always for the power and the presence of God,  
and let love, like yeast in dough, permeate all you do.

And may God work for good in all things for you;  
May Christ Jesus conform you in the image of his love;  
And may the Holy Spirit help you in your weakness,  
interceding for you,  
and in you, according to the will of God.

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## Postlude