

Prayer, Praise, Purpose

United Church Women's Service

This service has been prepared by: Phyllis Buchner CC-BY*

Prelude: Music in preparation for WORSHIP

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements.

Opening Prayer

Holy and Loving One: Bless this Sunday morning worship we ask. Hear our prayers and our songs of praise as we leave the chaos of the world aside, as we meet together in this community of faith. Guide us we ask. Amen.

Congregation Call To Worship *(can be read in unison or sung)*

a) VU#385 Come In, Come In and Sit Down

or b) MV#1, vs 1 Let Us Build A House

or c) VU#371 Open My Eyes

***Opening Hymn** VU# 415 God We Praise You for the Morning

Prayer of Approach and Renewal: VU 302

(a time of silent confession)

One: Our God is a loving and forgiving God. Pardon and peace are ours.

All: Thanks be to God.

or) VU 928-b responsively.

GROW

Music Ministry

This should be based on Prayer, Praise, Purpose.

Suggestions:

VU 266 *Amazing Grace,*

VU333 *Love Divine or*

VU 533 *When in our Music, God is Glorified.*

Time for the Young at Heart

(You could use a local story of someone who has changed their life or something has caused them to change, example... on CBC radio this summer there was a story of a nurse in Ottawa who works in an oncology unit. To help relieve her stress she took up the harp... and now in her off time, she takes her harp into the unit and plays. Something will be in your local paper or on the news that you can refer to.)

*VU #575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Scripture Lessons:

Jeremiah 1: 4-10 *(The call of Jeremiah)*

Micah 6: 6-8 *(What does the Lord Require)*

Matthew 25: 31-40 *(As you have done unto others)*

Reflection: PRAYER, PRAISE, PURPOSE

The Hamilton Conference UCW president has the opportunity to choose a theme for her two year term, or to have two themes, one for each year.

The first year theme was Roots and Wings, the second year theme is Prayer, Praise, Purpose.

Let's begin with the first "P" - Prayer

Prayers can be for many things, including thanksgiving, petition, and of intercession

Prayers can be for people, places or circumstances.

When do we pray?

Only when we need something?

Where/how do we pray?

On our knees? In a quiet spot? In church or at home?

(Share a time when this group has been praying for a specific person or circumstance)

The second "P" is praise

One word that goes so well with praise is

HALLELUJAH.....

“God we praise you for the morning” was specifically chosen because of the hallelujahs. This hymn brings smiles to our hearts and our faces and readies us for worship as we sing of a new day and a new beginning of prayer and promise.

Our gospel according to Matthew reminds us of our challenge and our opportunity to serve others. And the text also reminds us of the praise Jesus delivered to the folks who didn't even realize what they had done, how they were living.

They didn't realize their attitudes and life styles were praise worthy.

Listen again to the scripture from Matthew.(read from whatever version you used starting with “I was hungry and you fed me,” etc.)

And the sheep did not understand and they asked when did we do these things?

And Jesus answered.(read again from your version, “whenever you did...,” etc.)

(This would be an opportunity to bring in a local story of sharing and giving.)

The final "P" is Purpose

Here we have questions

What are we called to do?

And how are we to do it?

What is our purpose?

What is the mission of *(this group, this church, etc?)*

As we look at who we are, we also look at our vision for the future. We can relate to the prophet Jeremiah as he was called and resisted. He had inner struggles and rightly so.

Jeremiah was being called to address the King of Judah, a mighty man at the time.

Jeremiah did not see his purpose as an envoy to the King and Babylon.

But, he was reassured. *(read again the scripture – “I have called you,” etc.)*

(You may have a story of someone who went above and beyond their normal lifestyle to help others.)

Purpose is also at the heart of our Micah text...

This scripture speaks to the attitudes that must accompany all true worship, those of justice, and mercy and humility, and begs the question:

What does the Lord require of you?

(Read again from the text... “To do justice,” etc.)

We have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the work of God here on earth as we sing together:

Hymn: *VU #509 Here I Am Lord

Introduction to Offering

Let us share as we are able. We will now present our offering

Offertory (whatever is your usual)

Prayer of Dedication

God of Abundance we offer these our gifts for your work in our world. Bless these our offerings. We ask in Jesus name. Amen.

Prayers of Praise, Intercession and Thanksgiving

Holy and Loving God, we praise you and thank you for this day. We lift up our thanksgiving for each of our brothers and sisters gathered in this Holy Time and this Holy Place.

We acknowledge the pain in our midst, strained relationships, sadness, and grief.

Be with us we ask.

We ask your blessing on (insert your own prayer for clergy, Sunday school, etc.) May they be nurtured and encouraged.

(Pray for Items in the current news... also world leaders.)

In silence now we lift up all those we know have need of you this day

(silence)

We join our hearts and voices as we pray the prayer Jesus taught

Lord's Prayer

GO

*Hymn

VU #507 Today we All Are Called to be Disciples

or VU288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

***Commissioning**

Go from here renewed and refreshed,

Go out into the world and may you be Jesus to someone today.

***Benediction:** MV #214 May God's Sheltering Wings

Postlude: Music in preparation for SERVICE

This service was written by Hamilton UCW President Phyllis Buchner, based on the 2013-2014 theme.

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