

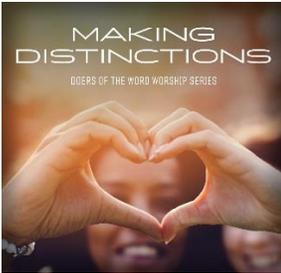
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



“Doers of the Word”

Worship Series

Week 2

How do we proclaim inclusion when we live in a world of making distinctions? As we continue our Doers of the Word series, we will dive deeper into the book of James which we find points out the economic distinctions that we are all too likely to make in our hospitality and ministry. We are called to speak up and to follow the boldness of James and talk about the lines of respectability that we too often draw, consciously or unconsciously. The purpose of broadening our horizons is not only to be appealing to others, but to increase our own understanding and experience of the world. This enables us to see commonalities and connections and lessens our desire to make distinctions between cultures and peoples. Let’s tear down what divides and invite all into the discipleship journey so that we can be forgiven and transformed as one people of God no matter our race, wealth, gender or age.

Call to Worship

(inspired by James 2:1-17, Psalm 125, The Message) Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012, © 2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.

We can trust God.

God is like the mountain: rock solid.

God loves all the people:

the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.

We can depend on God.

God feeds the hungry, heals the sick,

and restores relationships.

Praise our Loving God.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

PRAYER

Help Us To Recognize Our Kin (Based on James 2:1-17)

Valerie Bridgeman Davis, The Africana Worship Book for Year B (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 160.

Generous God, we give thanks to you for your kindness toward us. Thank you for loving us all and calling us all your children. Help us to recognize our kin and to give our lives to peaceful family relationships with all creation. Free us from our self-centeredness and from fear of strangers so that we may meet the Savior in broken humanity – even our own. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Praise Hymn FWS #2152 “Change My Heart, O God”

Author: Eddie Espinosa / Publication Date: 2001 / Copyright: © 1982 MercyVineyard Publishing

Verse 1

Change my heart, O God,

Make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God,  
May I be like you.

Chorus

You are the Potter,  
I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me,  
This is what I pray.

Verse 2

Change my heart, O God,  
Make it ever true;  
Change my heart O God,  
may I be like you.

Verse 3

Change my heart, O God,  
Make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God,  
May I be like you.

Chorus

You are the Potter,  
I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me,  
This is what I pray.

Verse 4

Change my heart, O God,  
Make it ever true;  
Change my heart O God,  
May I be like you.

## ***We Hear God's Word***

**New Testament Reading..... James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17**

New Revised Standard Version

### **Warning against Partiality**

2 My brothers and sisters,[a] do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?[b] 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"[c] 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.[d] Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11 For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

### **Faith without Works Is Dead**

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters,[e] if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

## Children's Moments

### Faith Hymn UMH#367 "He Touched Me (Shackled by a Heavy Burden)"

Author: William J. Gaither (1963) / Publication Date: 1989 / Copyright: © 1963 William J. Gaither

Shackled by a heavy burden  
'Neath a load of guilt and shame  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me  
And now I am no longer the same

Since I've met this blessed Savior  
Since He's cleansed and made me whole  
I will never cease to praise Him  
I'll shout it while eternity rolls

He touched, oh, He touched me  
And oh, the joy that floods my soul  
Something happened and now I know  
He touched me and made me whole

He touched me, oh, He touched me  
And oh, the joy that floods my soul  
Something happened and now I know  
He touched me and made me whole

### \*Meditation\*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*B. David Hostetter, Prayers for the Seasons of God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary Year B (Abingdon, 1999), 176.*

Just God, you are even-handed in your justice and in the day of judgement will not play favorites. We confess that we are not so fair in our dealings. We are often unduly impressed by the powerful and the clever and excuse in them what we would condemn in the powerless and ignorant. Forgive superficiality and neglect of people needing advocacy and friendship, through the friend of sinners, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND COMMEMORATION**

(for Labor Day Sunday)

*B. David Hostetter, Prayers for the Seasons of God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary Year B, Abingdon, 1999, 177-178.*

God of all work, who created for six days and rested on the seventh, bless all who work to create things of beauty and things of utility from the elements that you made from nothing. Divine Redeemer, direct and teach all who repair and renew what has been broken and what no longer works as it should. Bless those who care for people who cannot care for themselves.

Healing Spirit, inspire with loving wisdom those who counsel any who have lost their way and are seeking new direction and are having trouble getting it all together.

Head of the church, so enable your body to respond with fidelity to all that you command that your work may proceed with little interruption and the goals you have set be achieved in our community and our world, which is really yours.

Governor of governors, bring a fuller measure of justice to our world, that the rights of all may be protected, from childhood to old age, from the simplest worker to the most responsible manager, male and female, all created in your image.

Free us from any activity that is a detriment to ourselves and to others. Grant us all joy in our work that we may have satisfaction in knowing that what we do makes a difference for good, benefitting our common life.

God our Creator, you have created people who go out to their work and to their labor until the evening. We rejoice in both our vocation and our retirement. The rest at the end of the day is sweeter after a day of good work. The retirement at the end of years is satisfying when we can look back at what our work has helped to accomplish.

We celebrate the rest you have prepared for the people of God. We rejoice in the memory of those who rest from their labor, and their good works follow them to heaven by your gracious acceptance in Jesus Christ. May we not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give. So by your earthly sacraments prepare us for the heavenly rest, through Jesus Christ, who finished his work, to whom with you and the Holy spirit be all glory and praise, In Jesus' name we come to you and offer the prayer our savior taught us to pray...

**\*Departing Hymn FWS#2215 "Cares Chorus"**

*Author: Kelly Wilard / Publication Date:2001 / Copyright:© 1978 Maranatha Praise Inc., admin. By The Copyright Co.*

I cast all my cares upon You  
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet  
And any time I don't know just what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon You.

I cast all my cares upon You  
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet.  
And any time I don't know just what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon You.

**BENEDICTION**

*Written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall and posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website,  
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>.*

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.  
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.  
As you have been received – give.  
As you have heard – proclaim.  
And the blessing which you have received  
from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit  
be always with you. Amen.