

## IDEAS TO CONNECT WORSHIP AND THE CONGREGATION

### Peace & Global Witness

#### Call to Worship

“Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”

<sup>15</sup> For this is what the high and exalted One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place,

but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

to revive the spirit of the lowly

and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57:14–15)

... ..

Peace, peace, *to the far and near,*”

says the LORD. “And I will heal them.” (Isaiah 57:19)

#### Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

The foundation of your church is built on the apostles, prophets and Christ, who is the cornerstone, the Redeemer and the Savior of the world. As members of the body of Christ, your church extends beyond our walls and includes believers around the world. Forgive us for the barriers that we erect to exclude others or that blind us to the needs of our neighbors, far and near. Help us to recognize and use our individual gifts to build up the community of believers. Where there are suffering, injustice, division and poverty, may we find ways to heal, forgive, restore and rejuvenate. As we continue to seek you in prayer, worship and study, fill us with compassion and the fruit of the Spirit to overcome the walls of divisions. Humbly give us the eyes to value all members of your church and use our gifts to strengthen and encourage the church in order to usher in Christ’s peace.

**OR**

#### Litany Prayer of Confession (Isaiah 58:1–9)

**Leader:** Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

## IDEAS TO CONNECT WORSHIP AND THE CONGREGATION

### Peace & Global Witness *(continued)*

**People:** Is not this the fast that I choose: to loosen the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke?

**Leader:** Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

**People:** Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

**Leader:** Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

#### **Suggested Readings**

Ephesians 2:14–22

Psalm 24

Isaiah 57:14–19

*Amy Roberts-Paeth received an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and holds a Masters in Curriculum Studies from DePaul University. She has developed curriculum as Director of Youth Ministries and as a Logos Ministries and Sunday School Teacher.*