



Ideas to Connect Worship and the Congregation

Call to Worship

Materials: Communion cloth; cloth or fabric from other countries; bread representing other countries; cup; candles

Preparation:

- You will need to tailor this Call to Worship to the cloth and bread you have. Substitute your fabrics and bread where the italic phrases appear below.
- If there are places enduring war or suffering that you would like to mention, feel free to add or substitute.
- If your congregation has connections with places that you would like to highlight, places where light is found, please feel free to add or substitute.
- As the Call to Worship is spoken, participants will come forward with the materials mentioned and set the Communion Table.

One: It is time. God invites us—young and old, rich and poor—to come from every corner of the world. It is time to join in the feast of God's kingdom.

All: Let us set the table for the feast!

One: We will set the table with our Communion cloth, a symbol of welcome we recognize and love. Today we also lay out kente cloth from Ghana, a babushka scarf from Russia, and Celtic-patterned cloth from Ireland.

All: Around the world all are invited and all are welcome.

One: We set the table with bread from around the world.

All: This bread rises with the hope of Christ.

One: In the ovens of France, in the adobe hornos of Mexico, and in the tandoors of India.

All: Around the world bread is rising to fuel the change that is birthing the new thing God is doing in our midst.

One: We set the table with the Cup of Love.

All: This drink is pressed out in the suffering of Christ.





Ideas to Connect Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

One: On a dark Sudanese night, under a cold Chicago el stop, in a crumbling Syrian building, at borders blocked with barricades.

All: Around the world, the wine of God's love flows like cleansing tears.

One: We set the table with the light of peace.

All: Lighting our pathway to holy ground.

One: Glowing in the cathedrals of Rome, dancing in the churches of Cameroon, and warming the sanctuaries of New Zealand.

All: Around the world candlelight calls us to be one in Christ, shining in peace and solidarity.

One: Wherever the people of God are gathering, the table is being set.

All: Now as we join in the celebration, let us worship God.

Call to Worship was written by Rev. Lindsay Anderson, Detroit, Michigan.

Hymn

Table of Plenty by Daniel Schutte

YouTube videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21mwoEkt8Us> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLcVC3CoOVA>

Published in:

Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, #808

Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, 2013. www.faithaliveresources.org.

Christian Reformed Church in North America

1700 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

800-333-8300

Hymnal questions/feedback: hymnal@crcna.org

Permissions permissions@crcna.org





Ideas to Connect Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

Sing! A New Creation, #247

Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001. www.faithaliveresources.org

Worship and Song, #3173

Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2011. www.abingdonpress.com

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Visual Worship—Offering or Minute for Mission

Materials: bicycle with a basket, backpack, large basket, Peace & Global Witness Offering envelopes, pledge card with online giving information tear-off (see page five)

Preparation:

Have three people ready to enter the sanctuary: one riding a bicycle with a basket, one wearing a backpack, and one carrying a large basket.

As the three people enter the sanctuary, tell the congregation about the opportunities for giving that support the Peace & Global Witness Offering:

- \$75 provides a bicycle to a hard-working pastor in rural Zambia, allowing work in multiple prayer house locations and enabling home visits with congregants.
- \$50 provides a basket of food and essential supplies for a refugee family.
- \$30 provides the opportunity of education to students who have lost everything. With a gift of school supplies, three students living in a Lebanese refugee camp can be empowered through learning.

Invite congregants to use the Peace & Global Witness Offering envelopes or the pledge cards for online giving, then bring them forward and place them in either the bicycle basket, the backpack, or the food basket that they desire to support.





Ideas to Connect Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

Litany

One: Gracious and loving God, throughout the ages you have provided for your people.

All: God of peace, God of plenty, you spread a table before us.

One: In the wilderness when we complain and are frightened,

All: God of peace, God of plenty, you spread a table before us.

One: When we want to turn on one another or turn back to old ways,

All: God of peace, God of plenty, you spread a table before us.

One: When we are surrounded by those who wish to do us harm,

All: God of peace, God of plenty, you spread a table before us.

One: You surround us with companionship and community.

All: God of peace, God of plenty, you spread a table before us.

One: We thank you for the table, the table of Jesus, set before us today.

All: In you, O God, we have respite and nourishment. In you, O Christ, we have joy and grace. In you, O Spirit, we are fed at your table. Amen.

Children's Sermon

See the Children's Sermon that is provided for a way to involve congregation members in the message that Communion is celebrated all around the world on this day.

Benediction

Go in peace. Create tables of peace in your homes, in this community, and in the world.

May the God of Peace be with you on your journey.

May Jesus, Peace Incarnate, fill you in the wilderness and at his table.

May the Spirit of Peace call you to sit with others at tables of peace in the coming days.


Amen.

Written by the Rev. Meg Rift, Director of Christian Education, Fair Oaks Presbyterian, Oak Park, Illinois





Ideas to Connect Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

<p>NAME : _____</p> <p>ADDRESS : _____ _____</p> <p>EMAIL : _____</p> <p>PHONE : _____</p> <p>I pledge to give:</p> <p>_____ toward a bicycle (PG10003)</p> <p>\$75 can provide a bicycle to a hardworking pastor in rural Zambia, allowing work in multiple prayer house locations and enabling home visits with congregants.</p> <p>_____ toward a basket of food (PG10001)</p> <p>\$50 can provide a basket of food and essential supplies for a refugee family</p> <p>_____ toward school supplies (PG10002)</p> <p>\$30 can provide the opportunity of education to students who have lost everything. With a gift of school supplies, three students living in a Lebanese refugee camp can be empowered through learning.</p>	<p>TEAR THIS SECTION OFF & KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS.</p> <p>I pledge to give:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>GIVE online at presbyteriangifts.org</p> <p> PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS</p>
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