

# WORSHIP RESOURCES

## WORDS OF COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD by Rev. Dr. Casey Thornburgh Sigmon

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship God-

**All who are weary, all whose hearts feel too heavy to hold.**

Come, let us worship God-

**All who feel disconnected, all who've lost feeling in their hearts.**

Come, let us worship God-

**All whose hearts are fluttering with joy, all who are full to the brim with love.**

Weary, weeping, numbing, fluttering, dancing—all are invited, all are welcome here.

**Come, let us worship God and rise up anew!**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O gentle God, we thank you for nourishing us today- at this Table, through your word, in this fellowship.

We praise you for your compassion and we pledge to go from this place showing forth your compassion from the inside out, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### INVOCATION

God who is ever close to the broken hearted,  
the anxious and exhausted, the devastated and numb-

Awaken us to Your Presence now!  
Dissolve our exhaustion in Your inexhaustible faithfulness.  
Meet our worries (that seem to multiply every morning) with Your mercy,  
So that we can continue the movement for healing and wholeness in our fragmented world  
In the name of Jesus  
And in the power of Your Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### COMMUNION MEDITATION

Jesus knew the journey of living with compassion is wearying

Long before his sleepless night in Gethsemane.

And so, he prepared a meal in the company of his friends,  
And he told them, "Do this, as often as you gather for this Love work, in remembrance of me."

And so, they did

and so we do

Come to this Table

Not only to remember Jesus

But to meet with him, to allow him to nourish us for our wearying work of Loving our world into wholeness.

When we break this bread, we are energized to rise up anew and continue the work of meeting others and in their hunger and their hunger for justice.

When we share this cup, we are energized to rise up anew and continue the work of quenching others and in their thirst and their thirst for righteousness.

Come, all are welcome at Jesus' Table,  
For the resources of God's Love never run out.



## COMMUNION PRAYER

Giver of Life, Parent of us all -  
You created all that is seen and hidden,  
From the tiniest molecules to vast galaxies,  
You created and called all of it "good."

You wove human beings into the goodness of creation,  
Formed us from star dust and soil,  
Gave us your breath and proclaimed us  
"very good."

Yet we did not fully trust in your goodness and mercy.  
We misunderstood what it meant to be made in your image,  
And began to question the goodness of others,  
To horde power,  
To satisfy our hunger for you with lesser gods.

You sent prophets to bring us back to you.  
We did not understand.  
So, you sent your Word and wisdom to dwell among us,  
in all of our fleshiness, vulnerability, and beauty.  
Jesus Christ showed us the way of compassion  
and how inexhaustible your love is—not even death by  
powers of the state could extinguish it!

After Jesus' tomb became a womb,  
he rose up anew and emboldened the disciples as their  
despair turned to joy!  
Jesus ascended into heaven, but gifted us with an advocate  
to accompany the church  
until Christ comes again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these  
gifts on the Table.  
Bless this bread we break, that it may be to us the body of  
Christ,  
broken so that we may be made whole.

Bless this Cup, that it may be for us the cup of compassion  
poured out for all to bring salvation to the world.

With this holy meal make us rise up anew in the power of  
our baptism  
And in unity with Christ and one another, in ministry to all  
the world.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are not alone. Not alone in our pain. Not alone in our  
desire to help and to heal. Through the gathering of our  
gifts of time, talent, and money we are empowered to  
meet lament near and far with tangible hope. This week,  
our resources go straight to Week of Compassion and the  
Christian Church's efforts to manifest God's unfailing mercy  
and compassion in the world 365 days/year.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful God, receive and distribute these gifts. May  
they meet people in their moments of "how could this  
happen" and accompany them into days of celebration and  
restoration. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Go, let us worship God-

**In little moves against destruction.**

Go, let us worship God-

**In bold moves for life and beauty.**

Go, let us worship God-

**In compassion and with compassion, for ourselves and for  
others.**

Working, playing, learning, listening, speaking—all are  
invited, all are welcome here.

**Go, let us worship God and rise up anew!**



photo: Nils Carstensen/DCA/ACT Alliance