WORSHIP RESOURCES

CALL TO WORSHIP
One:  We are yearning for the day...
All:  The day of God's hope made real!
The day when nobody is hungry, nobody thirsty!
The day of God's Love flowing freely!
One:  Shade from Sun and Shelter from the Wind,
The Compassionate One guides us to the springs of
living water in the Word and in mighty deeds!
All:  Let us worship our God and Let Love Flow!

OPENING PRAYER
Source of Love-Made-Flesh, we stream to you from East and
West seeking what's right and holding on to the holy. Settle
us in body and soul in the land of hope your prophets
proclaim. Free our hearts and minds to hear anew the call to
compassion, the challenge of community, the needs of our
neighbors. Call to us in this time of worship that we may
gather in Spirit and in Truth and be changed. Seated and
settled now, this we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of grace and abundance: we confess that we have
stored up the blessings meant for all, and kept them too
close. We have pretended that we have done enough for
our neighbors, when still we see their need. For the ways
in which we ruin relationships through neglect, and for
the ways we obstruct the love you would let flow for all,
we ask your forgiveness and a new way to live. Transform
our hearts so that our actions may follow. When we enjoy
abundance, free us from the fear of scarcity, and open our
hands to heal your people and your land. Set our feet on
new paths and guide us to the up-welling spring of your
grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
One:  Friends, believe this good news: nothing can dam
the waters of God's love. The Compassionate One
guides all those who seek the better way and will
reconnecting us to a higher call and new life. Love
flows to us this day, and by God's power we are
forgiven!
All:  Thanks be to God!

PASTORAL PRAYER
When we have crouched in fear, most holy, loving One, your
presence has given us strength. When we have been alone
and unsure, you have sent companions and messengers
across deserts, across seas, across time itself to remind us
that no one is forgotten. When we have hung our heads
in despair, you have raised up children, generation after
generation, who have proven that with you, all things are
possible. We thank you for your unrelenting pursuit of
our well-being; for the drops of mercy within us that make
great rivers of compassion when we join them together. You
immerse us in healing waters, and we are glad. Guide us to
take part in shaping a world where all people know such
joy. Let hunger end by the open hands of generous hearts.
Let none be thirsty, as your love freely flows through each
of your people! Let health be restored to the sick of body,
mind or spirit, and in Jesus’ name, let us help. We who have
known mercy are a people of mercy, strengthened through
you and through your Son, Jesus. With a renewed and holy
Spirit, we are joyful; we pledge justice; and we will make
peace on all of your mountains and plains. Mag such love
flow through all your people, now and always. Amen!

LITANY
For the litany consider using a table-top fountain to provide
the sound of living water. A worship leader could also pour
water between two pitchers as the congregation responds.
If the service will be online or if you can project images
in your worship space, this litany is appropriate for use
with a series of images beginning with a single drop and
proceeding to a large waterfall, river, or ocean. Using photos
or videos of bodies of water near and familiar to your
congregation will give depth and power to the meditation.

One:  Almighty God, your compassion washes over your
people. People made in your image, yet weak when
alone...
All: Small as drops, but love flows.
One: And like drops your people gather, seeking the way to you: drops make streams...
All: Wearing away the stone to let love flow!
One: Joining in a murmur of praise, the stream unites ...
All: In ever-flowing current to let love flow!
One: From the banks of hillside creeks and the streams that irrigate our fields, may our love converge
All: in a mighty river of mercy to let love flow!
One: For this we know: drops alone may dry too soon, but drops together are a flood of love!
All: In this and every hour: Let Love Flow!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
One: Come to the table where all are made welcome.
All: Let none hunger or thirst in the presence of our God!
One: The table is prepared! From East and West, North and South, come to the feast.
All: The people of God gather in thanksgiving and praise. Together we are made whole. Together we remember Christ’s life, love, and promise.
One: Come to the table, friends. All is ready!

COMMUNION PRAYER
God of earth and stars, you breathed on the waters and brought forth life. Like springs in the desert, you sent forth prophets and teachers filled with wisdom to wash over your people. Beside the rivers they preached. With your word they liberated our hearts and helped us cross the divides to your promise. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus to dwell among us, who offered the water of eternal life to all who would hear. The clear flow of your unending grace washes over us now, and we join in the river of praise and love together with angels and mortals alike:

[Use a Sanctus appropriate to your tradition or this one as you choose]

Holy, holy, holy is the lord God of hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. As the heavens bring rain to water the earth, may your love water our hearts. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God’s love and mercy. Hosanna in the highest!

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY
“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty” is the hope of God in Isaiah. It is also the hope of this Week of Compassion offering. With the gifts of our hearts, we let love flow, like new well-water to a thirsty village; for crops, for cooking, for life! Let our giving be an upwelling of generosity and may the stream of love bring about God’s kin-dom. Our gift is prayer in action. Praise be to God.

DEDICATION PRAYER
Holy giver of all good gifts, bless now this offering that great hours of labor have made possible. Bless the drops that become mighty rivers of grace and transformation. Bless the vision of a world transformed. Let a shining river of love flow through us to your waiting world, in Christ’s name. Amen.

BENEDICTION
May the Maker of rain and sea, Creator of all, and Giver of life awaken you that you may flourish with sister, brother, and human family.

May Jesus, redeemer of the lost and hope of the poor, call your name to follow in his footsteps;

And may the Holy Spirit flood you with such love, that you fill with joy all who drink from your well. God’s peace is for all and is now with you!

Our worship is over: Let our service begin! Amen.