
Worship Resources

Authenticity in a Culture of Masks Retreat: A Financial Conversation for Pastors and Lay Leaders

Themes: Social Holiness; Church as Community

Songs (can be sung or listened to):

- “Let Us Join, ‘Tis God Commands” (Charles Wesley, *Wesley Hymns* #104) Meter: 7.7.7.7, Tune: *Hendon*; Meter: 7.7.7.7.D w. Ref., Tune: *Mendelssohn* https://hymnary.org/text/let_us_join_tis_as_god_commands#pagescans
- “O How Good It Is” (Keith & Kristyn Getty) <https://www.gettymusic.com/oh-how-good-it-is/>
- “All Are Welcome” (Marty Haugen, *Gather Comprehensive, 2nd ed* #741) Tune: *Two Oaks* https://hymnary.org/text/let_us_build_a_house_where_love_can_dwe
- “As a Fire is Meant for Burning (Ruth Duck, *Gather Comprehensive, 2nd ed* #643) Meter: 8.7.8.7.D, Tune: *Beach Spring* https://hymnary.org/text/as_a_fire_is_meant_for_burning

Prayers/Readings (can be read singularly, in unison, or responsively):

- Psalm 40 or 133
- Ephesians 2:10-22
- “Let [the person] who cannot be alone beware of community . . . But the reverse is also true: Let [the person] who is not in community beware of being alone . . . Only in the fellowship do we learn to be rightly alone and only in aloneness do we learn to live rightly in the fellowship . . . both begin at the same time, namely, with the call of Jesus Christ.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (Harper & Row, 1954), pp. 77-78
- “. . . the basis for Christian ecclesial community, church, is a gathering around the person of Jesus Christ and a living in his Spirit. And that Spirit too is not some vague bird or abstract tonality. The spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, is defined in scripture as charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, fidelity, mildness, and chastity. Living in these virtues is what bind us into community . . .” – Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Longing* (Doubleday, 1999), p. 120
- “Solitary religion is not to be found [in the Gospel of Christ]. ‘Holy solitaires’ is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than holy adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection.” – John Wesley, preface to the 1739 edition of *Hymns and Sacred Poems*

- Sequence, Feast of Pentecost, Stephen Langton, in George Appleton, editor, *The Oxford Book of Prayer* (Oxford University Press, 1985), #676, p. 209

Come thou Holy Spirit
Send from highest heaven
Radiance of thy light.

Without thy holy presence
All is dark
Nothing free from sin.

Come, father of the poor
Come, giver of all gifts
Come, light of every heart.

What is soiled cleanse
What is dry refresh
What is wounded heal.

Of comforters the best
Dear guest of every soul
Refreshment ever sweet.

What is rigid bend
What is frozen warm
Guide what goes astray.

In our labour rest
Coolness of our heat
Comfort in our grief.

Give thy faithful ones
Who in thee confide
Sevenfold hallowing.

O most blessed light
Fill the inmost hearts
Of thy faithful ones.

Give goodness its reward
Give journey safe through death
Give joy that has no end.

- “As Children of Light” adapted from Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal #715 (Psalm 43:3; John 8:12b; 2 Corinthians 4:6a; Ephesians 5:8a; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8b in the NRSV)

Send out your light and your truth, let them lead me.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

It is God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone his light in our hearts.

Once you were darkness, but now in the lord you are light.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.

In order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket.

Instead they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Live as children of light.

Theme: Financial Narratives

Songs (can be sung or listened to):

- “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” (Rick Founds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6l6orjM3NI>
- “For the Fruit of All Creation” (Fred Pratt Green, *Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal* #773)
Meter: 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4, Tune: Ard Hyd y Nos https://hymnary.org/text/for_the_fruit_of_all_creation
- “Blessed Assurance” (Fanny Crosby, *Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal* #442) Meter: 9.10.9.9.
w. Ref., Tune: Assurance https://hymnary.org/text/blessed_assurance_jesus_is_mine
- “My Life is in You, Lord” (Daniel Gardner) <https://muzikum.eu/en/123-9985-112224/don-moen/my-life-is-in-you-lyrics.html>

Prayers/Readings (can be read singularly, in unison, or responsively):

- Psalm 107 or 139
- John 4:1-30
- “Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; Through Christ our Lord. Amen.” – *Collect for Purity, in The Book of Common Prayer* (Seabury Press, 1979), p. 355
- “Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” – *For the Right Use of God’s Gifts, in The Book of Common Prayer* (Seabury Press, 1979), p. 827
- “If God speaks to us at all in this world, if God speaks anywhere, it is into our personal lives that he speaks . . . his words . . . are ultimately always incarnate words . . . always veiled, subtle, cryptic, so that it is left to us to delve their meaning, to fill in the vowels, for ourselves by means of all the faith and imagination we can muster . . . it is mainly for some clue to where I am going that I search through where I have been, for some hint as to who I am becoming or failing to become . . . Listen. Your life is happening. You are happening . . . There is no chance thing through which God cannot speak.” – Frederick Buechner, *The Sacred Journey* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1982), pp. 1,4,6

- “Be the Gardener of My Soul” in Richard Foster, Prayers from the Heart (HarperSanFrancisco, 1994), p. 3

Spirit of the Living God, be the Gardener of my soul. For so long I have been waiting, silent and still—experiencing a winter of the soul. But now, in the strong name of Jesus Christ, I dare to ask:

Clear away the dead growth of the past,
Break up the hard clods of custom and routine,
Stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge,
Bury deep in my soul the implanted Word,
Cultivate and water and tend my heart,
Until new life buds and opens and flowers.

Amen.

- “A Prayer for Telling Our Stories” by Kelly Rae Roberts
<https://www.kellyraeroberts.com/stories/>

May we know our lives as beautiful,
messy, masterful works of art.
May we celebrate our fullness—the highs
and lows.

May we remain rooted in our heart's
truths, and not fall to comparison.

May we believe that we are immensely
valuable, wise and good. NOW.

May we embrace our power to recreate
and redefine our stories.

May we honor our wholeness.
May we speak our gratitude.
May we be, always, brave in love.

Theme: Vulnerability & Blessing

Songs (can be sung or listened to):

- “I Stand Before Thee, Lord” by Beverly Condray © 1971 by Word Music

I stand before Thee, Lord, with the knowledge of my humanness,
And in pure amazement that you don't love me less.

My weaknesses are great, and sometimes my life is just a sham,
Yet, in spite of all, Lord, you love me as I am.

I cannot understand your great love that's all encompassing,
Yet, I do accept it, and to this gift I'll cling.

Lord, help me to be free, free to live the life you've given me,
So that I may share it, and feel another's need.

It hurts to get involved, for that means I bear another's pain,
Yet, you bear it always, and for that Christ was slain.

Lord, you've forgiven me, and that brings responsibility,
Lead me now to be, Lord, what you would have me be.

- “Your Deep, Deep Love” (Terry & Randy Butler) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNCvxOoWwNk>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBdFFyL8Xjk>
- “He Giveth More Grace” (Annie Johnson Flint, *Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal* #101)
- “Be Not Afraid” (Robert Dufford, *Gather Comprehensive, 2nd ed* #596) https://hymnary.org/text/you_shall_cross_the_barren_desert; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEOt7yXCaJI>

Prayers/Readings (can be read singularly, in unison, or responsively):

- Psalm 23 or 40
- Luke 1:46-55
- “Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path . . . Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance.” – Brené Brown, *Daring Greatly* (Penguin Random House, 2012), pp. 34, 145-146

- “There is much to drag us back, O Lord: empty pursuits, trivial pleasures, unworthy cares. There is much to frighten us away: pride that makes us reluctant to accept help; cowardice that recoils from sharing your suffering; anguish at the prospect of confessing our sins to you. But you are stronger than all these forces. We call you our redeemer and saviour because you redeem us from our empty, trivial existence, you save us from our foolish fears. This is your work which you have completed and will continue to complete every moment.” – by Soren Kierkegaard, “Our Weakness, Your Strength” in *HarperCollins Book of Prayers* (Castle Books, 1993), p. 230
- “But all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” – Lady Julian of Norwich, in Richard Foster, *Prayers from the Heart* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1994), p. 19
- “Discipline” by George Herbert, in *HarperCollins Book of Prayers* (Castle Books, 1993), pp. 191-192

Throw away thy rod, Throw away thy wrath; O my God, Take the gentle path.	Then let wrath remove; Love will do the deed; For with love Stony hearts will bleed.
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For my heart's desire Unto thine is bent; I aspire To a full consent.	Love is swift of foot; Love's a man of war, And can shoot, And can hit from far.
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Not a word or look I affect to own, But, by book, And thy book alone.	Who can 'scape his bow? That which wrought on thee, Brought thee low, Needs must work on me.
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Though I fail, I weep; Though I halt in pace, Yet I creep To the throne of grace.	Throw away thy rod; Though man frailties hath, Thou are God. Throw away thy wrath.
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- “The Guest House” by Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi (1207-1273) in Coleman Barks, translator, *The Essential Rumi* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2004), p. 109

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
Some momentary awareness comes
As an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,

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Who violently sweep your house
Empty of its furniture,
Still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
Meet them at the door laughing,
And welcome them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
Because each has been sent
As a guide from beyond.

- “Patient Trust” by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, in Michael Harter, SJ, editor, *Hearts on Fire* (The Institute of Jesuit Resources, 1993), p. 58

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Themes: Action Steps; Covenant Relationships

Songs (can be sung or listened to):

- “Born by the Holy Spirit’s Breath” (Timothy Dudley-Smith, *Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal* #318) Meter: L.M.; Tunes: *Germany, Duke Street, Hamburg*
- “Arise My Soul, Arise” (Charles Wesley, *Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal* #432)
- “The Power of Your Love” (Geoff Bullock) https://hymnary.org/text/lord_i_come_to_you_let_my_heart_be; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga6Qtzd6vk>
- “The Summons” (John Bell, *Gather Comprehensive, 2nd ed* #687) https://hymnary.org/text/will_you_come_and_follow_me; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>
- “Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated” (Frances Havergal, *Sing to the Lord Nazarene Hymnal* #455)

Prayers/Readings (can be read singularly, in unison, or responsively):

- Psalm 16 or 103
- Romans 12
- “I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.” – John Wesley’s Covenant Renewal Prayer (1780) in Frank Whaling, ed, *John and Charles Wesley: Selected Writings and Hymns* (Paulist, 1981), p. 387
- “Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will—all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me.” – Ignatius of Loyola’s *Suscipe* (1576) in David L. Fleming, SJ, *Draw Me Into Your Friendship* (Institute of Jesuit Resources, 1996), p. 177
- “O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” – *For Guidance*, in *The Book of Common Prayer* (Seabury Press, 1979), p. 832
- “Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.” – *A Prayer of Self-Dedication*, in *The Book of Common Prayer* (Seabury Press, 1979), pp. 832-833

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- “A Prayer Everyone Can Pray” – Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* (Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux, 1958), p. 79

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think
I am following you well
does not mean that
I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this
you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear,
for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.