

2015 Worship Resources ❖ from Bethany Seminary

Responsive Call to Worship:

ONE: We gather together from our scattered lives,

ALL: Gathered as one body, asking for guidance and good news.

ONE: Yet we are reminded of a hurting world, harassed and helpless, seeking a shepherd.

ALL: May our time together strengthen our bonds to one another and to our commitment to share compassion.

ONE: As we hear the call of the Lord on our own lives, may we become the workers spreading the kingdom of God in this world.

Recommended Hymn: ♪ Here I am, Lord

#395 in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

Invocation Prayer:

Here we are Lord, answering your call in our lives—some to teach, some to pastor, others to heal. Knowing all are called to your ministry, may we recognize your work in the world and join that work with our whole hearts in the variety of ways you call us to be your hands, feet, and hearts.

Invitation to Give:

Just as we know Jesus's compassion reaches to all ends of the earth, we also know we are called to participate in sharing that compassion with our neighbors near and far. Give us courage to share God's kingdom, and give us generosity to recognize everyone as a neighbor and a child of God. May we give out of that generosity today to support this ongoing kingdom work.

Scripture - Matthew 9:35-38 (NRSV):

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

Closing Prayer:

Adapted from prayer by Joel Gibbel, Bethany MDiv student

Just as we have gathered together, so let us depart together as one body in Christ.

God be with us, in our coming and going, weaving us together even when we are apart.

Christ be our guide and our healer, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

There is always something to do. Even so, let us go in peace.