Worship Resources for The Altogether Christian

UMH = *The United Methodist Hymnal*

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER
UMH #607
Consider using this historic prayer as an Affirmation of Faith or Statement of Commitment during this sermon series.

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
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 thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
By Safiyah Fosua
Quoted from Worship Any Time or Place, Nelson Cowan, editor.
Suitable for any Sunday in the sermon series.

Gracious God, though we live in a culture that is reluctant to admit guilt, assume responsibility, or ask for forgiveness, we are so bold as to pray the words of the psalmist who said,

> Search me O God and know my heart;
> test me and know my thoughts;
> see if there is any wicked way in me,
> and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Search us, O God, and reveal anything in our lives that stands between us and your love. Search us, O God, and show us our sins so that we might confess them.
Search us, O God,
> **and show us places where we have neglected Christian responsibility,**
> **and then teach us how to live on this earth with each other.**

Search us, O God, and show us the faces of those we have wronged,
> **so that we might seek their forgiveness.**

Time of silent confession

Words of Assurance:
We have not been called to this hour of worship to wallow in sin and self-pity. God has promised to forgive our sins when we confess them and to cleanse us from all manner of unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Rise from your knees as children of God, forgiven from sin and empowered to lead holy lives. **Amen.**

The Altogether Mind

Theme: As followers of Christ, we embrace God's good gifts of thinking, reasoning, doubting, questioning, and learning.

Scriptures: Proverbs 9:10 • Romans 12:2 • 1 Kings 3:5-10 • 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Biblical witnesses who exhibit an altogether mind:
Paul, Solomon

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CALL TO WORSHIP OR ANTIPHONAL PRAYER 1
Make Me Your Love by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com

One: Rabbi Jesus, Promised Messiah, Son of the One, True, Living God
Your love is fierce and forever, abounding and intimate,
generous, goodness, and grace.
All: Fill me with your Spirit. Make me your love.

One: It is your command. It is your way. It is your gift. It is You and your work.
All: Yes, make me your witness. And yes, make me your will.
But first and always, make me your love.

Pause in silence to receive

CALL TO WORSHIP OR ANTIPHONAL PRAYER 2
Come, Holy One by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com
Inspired by Psalm 51:10

One: We come in thanksgiving and hope.
All: Come, Holy One. Create, renew, and transform.

One: Open our minds to Your wisdom. Turn our thoughts toward Your truth.
All: Renew a right spirit within us, so we may love You with all our mind.

CALL TO WORSHIP OR ANTIPHONAL PRAYER 3
Something New by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com

One: You call us from the familiar into something new.
All: Guide our steps. Help us follow.

One: You invite us to places we didn't expect.
All: Grant us courage. Help us say, "yes."

One: You interrupt our plans with Your greater purpose.
All: Give us faith. Strengthen our trust.

One: You call us to join You in healing the world.
All: Great God who calls, call again.

UNISON PRAYER 1
A Prayer of Benedict of Nursia

Gracious and Holy Father, give me the wisdom to discover You, the intelligence to understand You, the diligence to seek after You, the patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You, a heart to meditate upon You, and a life to proclaim You, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER 2
Prayer to the Holy Spirit, a traditional Native American prayer, UMH #329

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have placed in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER
By the Archdiocese of Chicago

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, all we have received is from Your hand. You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Wisdom of the Ages by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com

Holy God, Wisdom of the Ages, thank you for the great gift of learning and growing. Thank you for making us a thinking people and for the blessings of reason, curiosity, and discovery. Draw us to you as we explore the wonders of your world.

Strengthen all who teach, mentor, and expand knowledge. Inspire those who inspire us: authors, researchers, inventors, and scientists. Provide needed funding, collaboration, and resources. Bless them with joy in seeing their students blossom and grow, in seeing good and lasting fruit from their labor.

Generous One, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Open the windows of heaven so all may have access to the education and training they need, so all may have access to developments in medicine, technology, and helpful advancements. Guide us to use what is created wisely and equitably for the common good.

The congregation is invited to add their own petitions silently or aloud.

Rabbi Jesus, thank you for choosing us, each and every one of us. Thank You for making us more than what we are right now. Thank You for the chance to join You in Your great work of building up and making new. We bless you, Jesus, for saving us and leading us. We bless you for teaching us to live your prayer… *Conclude with all praying The Lord's Prayer*.