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.**

Altogether Strength

Theme: What would it look like to be all-in for Christ? To risk being "too much." To offer our muchness, our everything, the fullness of our energy, effort, resources, abilities, and influence.

Scriptures: Psalm 8 • 2 Samuel 24:24 • Romans 12:1 • Ephesians 2:8-10 • 1 Peter 4:8-11

Biblical witnesses who exhibit an altogether strength:
The Widow who gave her mites, Peter in Acts, the early church in Acts 2:39-49,
Jesus on the cross

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CALL TO WORSHIP OR ANTIPHONAL PRAYER 1
By Kwasi I. Kenna
Quoted from Worship Any Time or Place, Nelson Cowan, editor.

Love, without it we are like clanging symbols, **Love!**
We can speak like prophets, but we still have to **Love!**
We can build great buildings, but we need to **Love!**
We can preach and pray, thank God every day, but we must **Love!**
Be patient and kind, with no envy in mind, **Love!**
Don't be rude or resentful; don't insist on your own way, **Love!**
How can we live without it? **Love!**
How can we sing without it? **Love!**
Who can serve God without it? **Love!**
We just stopped by today so that God could remind us to **Love!**

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: Season our bodies for service, our voices for compassion,
and our resources for faithful use.
All: Renew a right spirit within us, so we may love You with all our strength.

CALL TO WORSHIP OR ANTIPHONAL PRAYER 3
Singing My Joy by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com
Inspired by Isaiah 61:10-11

One: People of God, rejoice!
The Eternal causes righteousness and praise to spring up for all to see.
All: I sing my joy to the Lord. My whole body thrills with delight and hope.
For God has dressed me in robes of justice and salvation,
like a groom with his garland or a bride with her jewels.

UNISON PRAYER 1
Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola, UMH #570

Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve; to give and not count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that we do Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER 2
Pour Out Your Spirit, Your Compassion, Your Power by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com
Inspired by Micah 6:8

Pour out Your Spirit upon us, and on all who work for justice.
Grant wisdom and strength to speak boldly for the marginalized,
to continue striving for the common good.

Pour out Your Compassion upon us, and on all who spread Your kindness.
Renew and sustain tender souls for tender, healing work,
so all may know safety and belonging.

Pour out Your Power upon us, and on all who walk in humility.
Open pathways for collaboration and encouragement,
for building bridges of care and hope.

May the grace of following You bring peace, dignity, and opportunity for all,
and may it bring honor to Your name. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER 3
Love Only by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

Loving One,
may all that I do today be love.
May my faith be this simple,
this urgent,
beyond all doctrine,
beneath all righteousness.
Every act, seen and unseen
an act of love.
Every thought and judgment
considered through the lens of love.
All my doubt and anger
held in the hands of love.
All my fears and desires
held in the hands of love.
Loving One,
enact your love through me.
Held in the hands of your love,
may I love in all I do.

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Full Days by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com

One: Our days are full of promise, full of hope, full of purpose.
All: Thanks be to God!

One: Our days are full of compassion, full of generosity, full of peacemaking.
All: Thanks be to God!

One: Our days are full of healing, full of grace, full of blessing.
All: Thanks be to God!

One: Accept and multiply these gifts so all may know You and the new life You bring.
All: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

By Ruth Duck

Quoted from Worship Any Time or Place, Nelson Cowan, editor.

God, we pray for our troubled world.
We thank you that you labor to renew creation,
that you seek not to judge but to save, not to destroy but to create.
We praise you that you call the nations to peace, and the peoples to justice.
With you we mourn that children around the world still fall in wars violence,
and that many children become homeless, hungry, and thirsty in the wake of war.
We pray for people everywhere who struggle for freedom
before those who rule through terror, who plunder the poor and imprison the just.
Save us, O God, from helplessness.
Speak to us and show us teach our part to play
in your mission of saving the world through your love.
Cleanse us from all that keeps us from serving you
and loving our neighbors in integrity of word and deed.
We pray to you in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.