# Worship Resources for The Altogether Christian

UMH = *The United Methodist Hymnal*

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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.**

## Offering Altogether Love

Theme: You shall make God's love real to all your neighbors. The fullness of God's love in action through us, making a difference.

Scriptures: Genesis 1:26-27 • Romans 13:8-10 • Luke 10:25-37 • 1 John 4:7-12

Biblical witnesses who exhibit an altogether love of others:
Ruth, the Good Samaritan, Barnabas, Tabitha/Dorcus, the early church in Acts 2:37-47, Jesus washing the disciples' feet or Jesus and the Woman at the Well

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CALL TO WORSHIP OR ANTIPHONAL PRAYER 1
*From Reformed Worship, 2001.*
*Quoted from Worship Any Time or Place, Nelson Cowan, editor.*

One:
If you are spiritually wary and in search of rest,
if you are mourning and you long for comfort,
if you are struggling and you desire victory,
if you recognize that you are a sinner and need a Savior,
God welcomes you here in the name of Christ.

**All:**
**To the stranger in need of fellowship,**
**to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**
**and to whoever will come,**
**this congregation opens wide its doors**
**and welcomes all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 eyes to see our neighbors- their beauty, their gifts, and their needs.
**All: Renew a right spirit within us, so we may love all our neighbors with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.**
**So we may love as You love.**

UNISON PRAYER 1
*The Prayer of St. Francis, UMH #481*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

UNISON PRAYER 2
*From Earth Gospel, A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation by Sam Hamilton-Poore*

Help me, dear God, to see my brother with the eyes of Christ,
to hear my sister with the ears of Christ,
to taste my neighbor's hunger with the mouth of Christ,
to smell creation's beauty with the nose of Christ,
to touch the world's pain with the hands of Christ
and to love life, each life, every life, with the heart of Christ. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER
*For Sharing and For All by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com*

Beautiful One, we join all creation in celebrating Your eternal goodness. You alone are glorious and worthy of all praise. Receive these gifts for the honor and glory of Your name. Multiply these gifts, so all may know You and have all they need. Your saving bounty is for sharing and for all. Such wonder, such blessing! Hallelujah! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Expectant by Lisa Degrenia, revlisad.com*
*This prayer closes with a quote attributed to John Wesley, modified into a prayer.*

Jesus, give us eyes to see Your presence, Your hope,
Your grace and love made real right now.

So much is unexpected and uncertain. So much is impulsive and unsound.
Give us eyes to see beyond our tears, our anger, our fear.

Help us live expectantly.
Expecting to see Your answers. Expecting to see the path forward.

Help us live expectantly.
Expecting to see people come to faith, growing in faith, living their faith.

Expecting to see people freed from poverty, delivered of disease,
making sacrifices for the greater good.

Expecting to see prayers answered, jobs found, bills paid,
schools thriving, everyone in housing.

Expecting to see wars end, corruption abandoned,
justice and opportunity abounding.

Expecting to see lives unshackled from addiction.
People and families made whole.
Neighborhoods and nations safe, open, and welcoming.
Division and hate a long-distant memory.

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

Jesus, You make the crooked straight, and the rough places a plain.
You make a way when there seems to be no way.

Jesus, free us from blame and blindness and inaction.
Align our hearts, souls, and minds with Yours.
Strengthen us to do all the good we can, by all the means we can,
in all the ways we can, in all the places we can,
at all the times we can, to all the people you can,
as long as ever we can. Amen.