



Sample “Worship Script” for a Conference

Marcia has designed worship for large-scale events across the country. She relishes the task of creating worshipful space in auditoriums, hotel ballrooms and gymnasiums - seeing them transformed into environments in which people can worship as well as work. This document contains an example of what Marcia produces when she designs worship - a “script” that includes all the rubrics and helps the local team as they organize volunteers and pull details together. This documents also aids the technical personnel in their work of preparing media, lighting and sound.

Marcia works with your theme, your preachers, your musicians and your goals for worship at your event.

Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference
Opening Worship
Thursday, June 5, 2008
1:30pm

LEAP OF FAITH: LIFTED ON SOARING WING OPENING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

[WORSHIP SCRIPT FOR LEADERS ONLY]

WE GATHER

[starts with hymn sing as people gather]

Procession

“Come into God’s Presence Singing Alleluia!”

[The light of Christ, the Bishop, worship participants and cabinet (?... whoever the Bishop wants) process as handbells (C’s & G’s) begin to random ring from all around the room.

Marcia leads the people in the chant, which develops into a canon when the Bishop gets to the stage]

Welcome
Bishop Middleton

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

*[continue with welcoming, greeting, theme-setting remarks, ending with...
“Let us take a moment to center our hearts on God”]*

Centering on God - Invocation

[two minute voluntary by Mark - starts meditative and grows; video images of things soaring such as hang glider, skier, airplane, clouds, etc. ... then the following litany is led by three voices from the chancel:

Leader 1: Wind, Word, Wonder

People: We gather as a people on which God has breathed the breath of life.

Leader 2: Welcoming, wandering, walking

People: We are a people on a journey together.

Leader 3: Wellspring, Wisdom, Wine

People: We are a people called in our baptism and gathered round the table.

Leader 4: Praise! Praise! Praise!

People: We rejoice in the One who has led us here.

Hymn of Praise

“Spirit of God” FWS 2117, vs. 1-4

[possible entrance/raising of flying doves or other visuals during this hymn]

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

[underscore of hymn continues... youth readers speak from microphones in the congregation]

Psalm 18

- Reader 1: I love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.
God is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- Reader 2: I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
and I am saved from my enemies.
The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- Reader 3: In my distress I called to the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.
My voice was heard from God's temple;
my cry came into God's ears.
God parted the heavens and came down;
dark clouds underfoot.
God mounted the cherubim and flew;
soaring on the wings of the wind.
- Reader 4: God reached down from on high and took hold of me;
I was drawn out of deep waters.
God rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me.
- Reader 5: You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.
With your help I can advance against a troop;
with my God I can scale a wall.
- Reader 6: For who is God besides the LORD ?
And who is the Rock except our God?
- Reader 7: It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.
- Reader 8: God makes my feet like the feet of a deer
and enables me to stand on the heights!
- All Readers: Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O LORD!
I will sing praises to your name!

“Sprit of God” vs. 5

[during Alleluia refrain, the Bible is processed into the congregation for the Gospel reading]

Gospel [or other] Reading
TBD per Bishop Middleton

Reprise Alleluia as Bible returns to altar.

Proclamation
Bishop Middleton

WE RESPOND

Affirmation of Faith
New Social Creed
[... chalice and paten processes forward at some point during this (other elements are already on the Table)]

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess this day that we have not been willing
to walk in the true spirit of reconciliation you have born within us.
We know that when we offend another, we offend you.
At times we allow our fear of the future to keep us from moving forward.
Grant that we might find the courage for leaps of faith,
trusting in your unfailing love.
Forgive us our sins
and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us.
Lead us into new life through your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for the sins of all. Amen.**

Words of Assurance•

God, who is rich in mercy,

out of great love even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

The Great Thanksgiving
"Communion Setting" TFWS 2257a-d

["Communion Setting: Preface" 2257-a]

[musical underscoring continues...]

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere
to give thanks to you.
You are a God of justice and peace.
You are a God of mercy and compassion.
You are God, living and true.
We worship you, we give you thanks. We praise you for your glory!
Praise, thanks, and glory be to you, O God!

In the beginning, you moved upon the water.
In the beginning, you raised us to life.
You turned night into day. You changed our tears into dancing,
and transformed our heavy hearts to soaring spirits.
You formed us, flesh and bone, in your own loving image.
Praise, thanks, and glory be to you, O God!

We are blessed and challenged, Living God,
as heirs of your everlasting covenant.
Though we come from points all across the conference, in you we are one.
In Jesus, we have become sisters and brothers.
In Jesus, we have become companions on our pilgrim way to you.
Praise, thanks, and glory be to you, O God!

United in you, prophets of your Word, we shall not be silent. We join in the great hymn
of creation.

["Communion Setting: Sanctus" 2257-b]

[musical underscoring continues...]

In your loving-kindness, you have not abandoned us but forged, through Jesus,
a bond that can never be broken.
In your loving-kindness, you have not condemned us but have shown us,
through Jesus, your saving love.
In your loving-kindness, you continue to call us, through Jesus,
into a life of community and love.

May your Spirit, which breathed upon the waters, breathe upon us now
that we might be a new creation.

May your Spirit open our eyes to the wondrous gifts you have given us
in this bread of unity, this cup of love.

We celebrate the gifts you have poured out upon us,
the freedom you have given us.

Gathered here, we remember the love you have shown us.

We believe the promises you have made to us.

We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

[underscoring ends]

We remember the witness Jesus gave. How, on that last night, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you."

We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

We remember the witness Jesus gave. How he took the cup of blessing, the cup of deliverance, the cup of memorial, blessed it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

[music begins]

With faithful hearts we stand...

binding ourselves in everlasting covenant to be one people.

And we proclaim the mystery of faith!

["Communion Setting: Memorial Acclamation" 2257-c]

[Liturgist: "I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture for prayer"]

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

[Liturgist: "I invite you to join hands."]

We pray that through Christ, we will be one in ministry to the world.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,

all honor and glory are yours, almighty Creator, now and for ever.

Let the people sing their Amen!

["Communion Setting: Great Amen" 2257-d]

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Because we are one loaf,
We, who are many, are one body,
For we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Holy Communion

Familiar communion hymns led by Mark & Marcia during communion

Prayer

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may continue our work here
in the strength of your Spirit,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

WE PREPARE TO CONTINUE OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK

Benediction

Bishop Middleton

Closing Song

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" TFWS 2153

Note: This worship is intended as a sample only. All resources were used with permission for this event. If you draw on this service, please obtain appropriate permissions for music and contact Marcia with regard to permission for liturgy.