



## Worship Resources for Sunday June 14th

Holiness Series Week 2, Proper 6, Liturgical Year A

We encourage you to read and reflect on these scriptures, songs, notes, and prayers as we look forward to our time of worship together this coming Sunday. You may access a PDF copy of this guide from our website, <https://emmausroadfc.org/worship-resource-20200607/>.

Please print this guide or have it handy in digital format for use during the service. And don't forget to join us Sunday immediately following the service in our virtual foyer for a group video chat! <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/202653556>

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Bold lines to be read aloud corporately. This is adapted from author Nancy C. Townley*

Father, you have drawn us together this day  
from a variety of backgrounds,  
experiences, hopes, and dreams.  
Be with us as together we experience your presence  
and your healing love.  
Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength,  
encouragement, and peace.  
For we gather under the banner of your son, Jesus.

**Though we come from different circumstances  
The Lord will make us one in worship.  
Though we have traveled different paths  
of struggles and successes  
The Lord will make us one in healing.  
Though each one of us experience struggle as well as joy  
The Lord will make us one in hope.**

Dear Lord, make us one

### MUSIC: INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

*Written by Leslie Jordan, Copyright © Leslie Jordan, 2020*

#### VERSE 1:

As long as we cling to  
The object of fame  
There will always be louder voices  
Calling our name  
Than the one we gave our lives to  
A long time ago  
Saying love the Lord your God with all your soul

#### VERSE 2:

As long as we're making  
Our idols of men  
There will always be a point of view  
We have to defend  
Than the one we gave our lives to  
A long time ago  
Saying love your neighbor's life as your own

#### CHORUS:

I'm not giving up on this fight  
I know there's still good to come  
Our battle is with the darkness  
Not flesh and blood

#### VERSE 3:

As long as we're pledging allegiance  
To this nation  
There will always be a reason  
Justifying our hatred  
With building up the walls  
Instead of tearing them down  
No, this ain't what the Kingdom is about

#### VERSE 4:

So let us be mindful of all  
That we're saying

There's room for every one of us  
And love is the way in  
Jesus is the life and light

For all humanity  
And we are his instruments of peace

## CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

*Bold lines to be prayed aloud corporately. Used with permission from Redemption Church in Olathe, KS*

In fervent hope that the arc of history does, indeed, bend toward justice, we lift up our prayers for racial healing, asking that you would bind our hearts together as a church, O Lord, empower us to break the chains of poverty, ignorance, prejudice, and despair which degrade the sacred dignity of humankind; teach us to love each other and the world around us, for your sake.

We confess that we are often blind to our own privilege.

**Give us a holy curiosity about what being Black in America is really like; and what it means to suffer injustice because of race.**

We confess that we are often blind to the subtle ways that race has shaped our hearts and minds; our speech and actions.

**Open our eyes, O Lord, and teach us to see the truth about ourselves and our world.**

We confess that the church has not always been on the side of the right;

**Guide us to seek your grace and forgiveness for the terrible things that often have been done in your name.**

We confess that we have not always been on the side of the right; we acknowledge our cold hearts and weak knees.

**Free us from our cherished notions of being "good" that keep us from hearing this truth. Forgive our silence and insensitive speech; forgive our fearfulness and willful blindness.**

We draw to mind those who have died, due to racism and racial violence.

*silence*

We draw to mind those who work for racial justice, that they may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love.

*silence*

We draw to mind those of our family and friends who continue along the path of racism and injustice, and ask you to turn their hearts toward your kingdom.

*silence*

We draw to mind the victims of racial discrimination and their families, that they may be filled with hope for a more just future.

*silence*

Give us the eyes of Christ, to see ourselves, and the world around us with humility and compassion.

**Healing our own wounds, and the wounds of others; give us courage to advocate for change and for peace, and the grace to overcome hatred with love.**

We pray for the society in which we live, that we might learn to celebrate our racial diversity and the distinctive contributions of our rich cultural fabric.

**We pray for wise and decisive action on the part of local and national leaders, that the scandal of racism may be eradicated from our society.**

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception.

**Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being.**

Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family.

**Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others.**

Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change.

**Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history.**

Teach us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us.

**And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. (Galatians 4:4-7 NIV)

**All: Thanks be to God**

## MUSIC: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*Written by Mary Lynn Lightfoot and Robert Lowry*

VERSE 1:

My life flows on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentation  
I hear the sweet though far off hymn  
That hails a new creation  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing  
It finds an echo in my soul  
How can I keep from singing

VERSE 2:

What though my joys and comforts die  
The Lord my Savior liveth  
What though the darkness gather round  
Songs in the night He giveth  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that refuge clinging  
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth  
How can I keep from singing

VERSE 3:

I lift mine eyes the cloud grows thin  
I see the blue above it  
And day by day this pathway smoothes  
Since first I learned to love it  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart  
A fountain ever springing  
All things are mine since I am His  
How can I keep from singing

REFRAIN:

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that refuge clinging  
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and earth  
How can I keep from singing

## WORD

You may download these sermon notes in a formatted layout: [Download PDF](#)

## Holy - Week Two

Sermon Scripture: [Exodus 3:1-6 \(NSRV\)](#)

### INTRODUCTION & RECAP

Holy means set apart and unique.

In the Bible, God, time, people, things, and places are all called holy.

From this we learn that God's holiness is meant to be shared. God's holiness doesn't distance us from him. Rather, it invites us to participate in his own holiness.

However, God's holiness hasn't always been understood as inviting.

Did you notice that God said to him, "Don't come any closer!" and that Moses was afraid and covered his face.

Early in the biblical story, the presence of God is seen as dangerous to the impure person! This had significant

implications for temple worship. Remember, the temple was the place where God's holy presence dwelled. Israelites that wanted to worship had to go there. Priests had to work there. If God's presence was dangerous to an impure person, how could priests work there or worshippers gather there?

#### PURITY LAWS

The solution was that the priests and others had to become pure.

There were two types of impurity:

Moral impurity meant you had committed a sin and your sin needed to be atoned for through animal sacrifice.

Ritual impurity came from contact with anything related to death like diseased skin, dead bodies, even some bodily fluids.

God gave Israel detailed instructions on how to become pure in order to enter into His presence. The instructions are detailed and hard to manage (examples are found in Leviticus 11-15).

For a long time the people of God lived within this framework. Always worried about whether they were clean or unclean. It was a big weight to carry.

#### TABLE

*Prepare the elements of "bread" and "wine" for use as we gather around The Lord's Table. These can be any items convenient around the home that symbolize these for you.*

#### CONFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: In unity with the Church throughout the ages, we confess our faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*As we pray together, we invite you to share your own requests and testimonies with us this week. If you have a request you can share it live in our video stream chat, or you may email us at [emmausroadfc@gmail.com](mailto:emmausroadfc@gmail.com)*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those**

#### HOLY LOVE

Having a longer history in mind, we have come to know, through Christ who is the full revelation of God, that God's single disposition toward humanity is love. The fullness of His holy presence is love.

But, that holy love can be dangerous....if we choose not to receive it. Theologians throughout history have articulated this:

*"Love is....unquestionably given commonly to all. But love's power acts in two ways: it torments sinners, while at the same time it delights those who have lived in accord with it." -Isaac the Syrian, 7th century*

*"It is not God who is hostile, but we; for God is never hostile." -John Chrysostom, early church father*

God's holy love is inviting us to forgive, love our enemies, free the oppressed, see the value in every life and if we participate in this love then we are transformed by it. If we refuse this love, we are tormented by it.

**who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

*And now, receive this benediction as our worship service draws to a close.*

May God, who gives patience and encouragement, help us live in complete harmony with one another, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then may we all join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

*(Romans 15:5-6 NLT)*