

Call to Worship/Call and Response

One: God of all Creation,

All: What do you require of us?

One: to do justice,

All: seeking peace & reconciliation, standing with the marginalized and forgotten

One: to love kindness

All: showing compassion and unconditional caring for those in need

One: to walk humbly

All: following in the steps of Jesus, lifting up not the work of our hands but the power that sustains our service.

Beth Merrill, current BVS volunteer

Prayer Litany for Peace

One: We pray for all those who hunger and thirst for justice, that their lives and their work might be rededicated to doing the work of Christ.

All: We pray for the homeless and displaced people of our nation and the world, that they might find comfort, that their suffering might be lightened.

One: We pray for persons who are lost and in pain, that they might find the love of Christ that exists in the love we show to each other.

All: We pray for the children and the youth, who are so often neglected and discounted, but who have so much to offer, for they are not merely *the future*, but are a vital part of the present.

One: We pray for guidance and strength in times that are uncertain at best and life-threatening at worst, and when our lives are in transition.

All: We pray for our loved ones who face illness, pain, joy, sorrow, loss, grief, love, compassion, kindness, rejection, and stress in their daily lives.

One: We pray for peace, for there is no greater gift of God.

All: We pray all these things in Jesus, who lived a life of radical service all his days. Amen.

John Harvey, former volunteer, BVS Unit #207

ONE: In our success-oriented society, we have learned to fulfill requirements in order to earn high marks on school assignments, to achieve an extra bonus or a promotion in our jobs, and even to catch special accolades from peers. Yet to work for justice, mercy and humility doesn't come with earthly rewards. In fact, quite the opposite. If we were to truly serve those whom God serves, the cost would be high and we risk losing the status, power and privilege with which we are comfortable.

ALL: In confession, God, we can no longer feign ignorance. You have, indeed, shown us what you require. May we willing to pay the price for You and Your Kingdom here on earth.

Angela Lahman-Yoder, Circle of Peace, Peoria, AZ

Call to Worship:

Oh God,

We come before you today with gratitude,

Gratitude for the opportunity to share with each other and to give to each other.

Gratitude for the example of Jesus, who teaches us to love our neighbors and serve those around us. Please open our eyes to new visions of service and faithful living.

Thank you for the opportunity to expand our hearts, our communities, and our lives through your grace.

Amen.

Angie Breidenstine, former volunteer, BVS Unit #190

Scripture Jam based on Micah 6:8

Person 1: Here I am, Lord

Person 2: What do You require of me?

Person 3 (God's voice): I have shown you what is good

Person 1: But, what do you require of us?

Person 3: To do justice

Person 2: We are blessed in many ways, may we share our gifts and blessings with our global community.

Person 1: Isn't it enough just to tithe every week?

Person 3: To love kindness

Person 1: We share Christ's love as we have been taught through God's teachings and through our community of faith.

Person 2: Isn't it enough just to raise my children to follow you, God?

Person 3: To walk humbly with your God

Person 1: God asks for more than just our offerings and devotion.

Person 2: God asks us to share our gifts, our talents, our resources and to walk alongside all of our sisters and brothers – serving and sharing.

Person 1: Our faith and our works should humbly show our commitment to Christ.

Person 3: So that you may “Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24)

Responsive Reading

A litany of Service based on Matthew 25: 31-46

Leader: Jesus is clear about what he expects of us who follow him.

People: What does he tell us?

Leader: He tells stories of those, like the Good Samaritan, who was marginalized, yet who know we are all neighbors.

People: Who are our neighbors?

Leader: Jesus describes ten bridesmaids, five without oil and five with oil, for their lamps. Does he want us to be like the five who withhold their oil from those in need? Who claim their social privilege is a sign of their worthiness in God's eyes? Does he want us to be like the bridegroom who closes the door on the five women when they return with their hard-got oil?

People: Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, all people, and to give to those who have nothing.

Leader: What does he tell us?

People: He says we are to give food to the hungry. He says give drink to the thirsty. He says clothe the naked, care for those who are sick, visit those in prison. Always, we should welcome the stranger.

Leader: Why should we do those things?

People: We do these works because every time we serve another it is the same as if we were doing these acts for Jesus himself.

All: God of the oppressed, protector of the poor, liberator of the unfree, help us to live our lives in service to our neighbors and so in service to you.

Amen.

Phyllis Tenney, former volunteer BVS Unit #188

Invocations and general prayers:

Creator God,

Lend us your strength to do your will.

Give us hearts for justice and peace.

Grant us loving hearts of compassion.

Walk with us as we seek to care for your creation, your children, your heart.

Amen.

Beth Merrill, current BVS volunteer

A Prayer of Wondering:

Lord,

We come before you today knowing what it is that you require of us but wondering how to achieve these things you ask of us. As we continue to ask ourselves how to better serve you and one another, guide us, support us, and encourage us. Guide us in making the right choice.

Support us as we work to follow those decisions. Encourage us so that we may always be asking the questions and striving to find the answers. In your name we pray.

Amen.

Sharon Flaten, current BVS volunteer

Oh God

Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer-

How do we thank you?

How do we show our gratitude?

Do you want signs and sacrifices?

Do you want gold and cattle?

Can we turn over our children to you?

Would that repay our debt, make everything right?

Tell us, what do you require in return for all your goodness?

Oh God,

Our teacher, example, companion-

You have shown us what is good,

and call us to remember

that what you require is not

repayment of debt

or settling the score,

but obedience.

Show us, God

When to do justice,

how to love kindness,

and where to walk,

humbly,

with You.

Amen.

Dana Cassell, current BVS volunteer

Dear Lord,

Help us follow the path that Jesus walked
To learn what needs to be done
To serve others
To connect with our church and our community
To care for those who suffer
To know ourselves
To share our gifts
To love one another
To seek and embrace peace

Amen

Kathleen Campanella, Director of Partner and Public Relations at New Windsor Conf Center

To Do Justice:

Lord, open our eyes and hearts to those around us. Let us see the hurts and questions and doubts in each other. Let us respond with compassion, empathy and kindness.

To Love Kindness:

Lord, let us show kindness to each other, not just on Sunday mornings, but everyday. In traffic, at our jobs, with our children and parents, enemies and families.

To Walk Humbly:

Lord, show us the way to be the hands and feet of Jesus.
To be the people of God's peace. Let us walk your path while serving you.

Amen.

Callie Surber BVS Orientation Coordinator

Benedictions

(From Amos 5 and Isaiah 6) Now, go forth from this place with renewed inspiration to the work of God. Seek good, not evil, love goodness, and establish justice. This the greatest offering we can make; letting justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. Go in peace, with love for our neighbors.

Phyllis Tenney former volunteer of BVS Unit #188