

Service Sunday 2022 Worship Resources

Calls to Worship

One: Come, let us worship the Lord together.

All: May we learn to have boundless faith.

One: We are learning that our faith doesn't have to look the same as everyone else's.

All: May we learn to have boundless faith.

One: We can take the leap to go beyond simple answers because you are always with us.

All: May we learn to have boundless faith.

One: Remind us that we don't need to see you to feel your spirit moving within us.

All: We walk by faith, not by sight.

One: As we question the things around us, we remember you have prepared the way for us.

All: We walk by faith, not by sight.

One: We walk by faith, not by sight.

All: We are here, Lord. We are ready.

- *Erika Clary, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Unit 329*

God has called us into faith in that which we can't see

We walk by faith, not by sight

God has called us into faith that requires action

We walk by faith, not by sight

God has called us into faith that extends to every person around us

We walk by faith, not by sight

Let us worship God with a bold and boundless faith

Amen

- *Zech Houser, Coordinator of Short-Term Service*

Prayers

God who knows no bounds, grant us curious hearts and minds that are willing to ask the important questions in life. Give us courage to break out of our comfort zones and delve into the mysteries of your love. May we seek out brave spaces with one another to explore our boundless faith together as one body. Amen.

- *Jen Houser, Director of Brethren Historical Library and Archives*

God of great light, your grace knows no bounds. Your love knows no bounds. Your reach knows no bounds. May we surrender our worries and fears to you even on the darkest night when the pathway ahead seems dark and daunting. Remind us that even in the darkness, your spirit and guidance are like a lantern we hold within ourselves. We don't need to physically see you because we can feel your presence in us. You are our light. Bestow in us the strength it takes to have boundless faith. The strength that doesn't need the path to be physically lit, because it allows us to walk by faith instead. May our faith in you inspire us to explore new paths, push the limits of conventional ways of thinking, and discover what it means to be one of your children. For this is the faith we walk by. We walk with you. We walk in your love. Amen.

- *Erika Clary, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Unit 329*

**All: God in the name of Jesus,
Thank you for your presence and your love.**

One: Thank you for calling us together in service for such a time as this.

Many: May we always move in the direction of your calling and leading.

One: When we are uncertain, may we seek your word and abide in your presence.

Many: Thank you, Jesus, for leading us in service. And in serving may we discover you more, your will, your ways, your word made flesh in our midst. May healing take place, renewal, new discoveries, fresh revelation of what is possible.

One: We remember all in need of prayer. People, places, and locations.

(Take a moment to lift up names and locations.)

**All: Spirit of Christ, thank you for your refreshing, thank you for your renewing, thank you for your call.
Amen.**

- *Rev. LaDonna Sanders Nkosi, Director of Intercultural Ministries*

Prayer of Invocation

God beyond boundaries, we come before you seeking to expand our horizons and deepen our relationship with you. Draw alongside us and guide us as we break new ground and walk new paths in our journey of faith. Give us a bold spirit to trust in you, even when we don't know the path before us. Inspire our worship this day and our hearts to continue serving you beyond the safe and familiar spaces in our lives. Amen.

- *Zech Houser, Coordinator of Short-Term Service*

Poems

I stand alone at the edge of a dark wood. Utterly isolated and cold, I have nowhere to go except into the forest. The trees stand tall above my head, their branches shivering in the wind. I can't make myself take that first step. I am about to turn back when a firefly buzzes past me. Its body lights up the wood, and suddenly the forest doesn't seem so frightening.

I walk through the wood, following the firefly. We come upon a fork in the path. The firefly stops, waiting for me to make the choice. I wish the firefly would make the choice for me, but I know that no matter how long I stand there, it won't move until I move. I close my eyes, take a deep breath, and blindly take a step forward.

I run to the end of the wood, keeping my eyes closed. The firefly has gone to find its own path, but I don't need it anymore. I know the way, even though I have never been here before. I keep going and going and going to the very edge of the forest. When I open my eyes again, I see the sun.

- *Michael Brewer-Berres, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Unit 325*

Unbelief:

Sometimes, the greatest acts of faith happen in moments of unbelief.

I choose to bow my head in prayer when others say that no one is listening.
I choose to show up when my schedule tells me I have no time to spare.
I choose to be holy even though I'll never know what it truly takes to get to heaven.
I choose to go to church when I haven't talked to God in days.
I choose to read scripture even when it seems far-fetched.
I choose to believe when I can't find evidence.
I choose to love when I don't feel loved.
I choose to be unconditionally faithful.

Loving Father, help my unbelief.

- *Lydia DeMoss, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Unit 329*

The Road of Faith

Shine your light, O Lord,
So that I may see,
Just where I am heading
And what's in front of me

Your word is the light,
The lamp unto my feet
It may not light far ahead,
Nor show me where it's steep

But it gives enough light
For each step I take,
Just enough to see ahead,
Along this road of faith

For this is what it surely is
As we walk with Jesus Christ,
The road that we are travelling on
Is by faith, not by sight

So shine your light, O Lord,
So we may see our way,
Though you only show in part,
It's enough for each new day.

- © *M.S. Lowndes*

Benedictions

Step out into the world, lean into your curiosities, trust that your feet will be steady as you walk together following in God's boundless footsteps. Dive into the uncertainties that surround us and search for answers that bring about God's peace and justice. Amen.

- *Jen Houser, Director of Brethren Historical Library and Archives*

As we go forth, help us to hear your wisdom. Help us to see the path laid out before us. Help us to know that you are with us. As we close our eyes, take our hands, and show us the way. We are here, Lord. We are listening. We are moving forward with boundless faith.

- *Michael Brewer-Berres, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Unit 325*