



2023 FaithX Commissioning Resources

Voices for Peace

Theme Scripture

Romans 15:1-6 (The Message)

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?” That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles, but waded right in and helped out. “I took on the troubles of the troubled,” is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it’s written for us. God wants the combination of God’s steady constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we’ll be a choir – not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Creator of our Master Jesus!

Theme Summary

The words in Romans 15:1-6 – this summer’s FaithX theme verse – create an important frame for a time of being together in service and community. They remind us of the importance of service – of stepping in and lending a hand to those who need help. During FaithX, participants will talk about their unique ability to use their voice to peacefully promote God’s vision for justice in the world. We are told that Jesus “took on the troubles of the troubled” and that we are to follow his example. After all, scripture tells us, “strength is for service, not status.” God has empowered and equipped us for serving others and encourages us to make a difference in our world. FaithX participants will explore the ideas of identifying injustice, receiving the call, bringing your voice, building the body, singing in harmony, and going with joy to become better equipped as a voice for peace.

Litany

Leader: Just as Jesus “waded right in” and humbly sought to serve, you begin your journey of service with a heart that leads with compassion, a voice that speaks with peace, and a life that seeks to reflect God’s goodness.

Congregation: Be present with those that you serve and spread God’s love to all that you meet.

Participants: We seek to go into the world as the hands and feet of Jesus to act as loving servants and voices for peace.

Leader: Just as Jesus responded to the Spirit’s leading, you begin your journey of service with the desire to receive God’s calls to action.

Congregation: Be open to hear God’s voice and willing to follow in the example of Christ.

Participants: We accept God’s call and look forward to intentionally following where the Spirit may lead us.

Leader: Just as Jesus stood up for the marginalized, the overlooked, and the forgotten, you begin your journey of service with the desire to identify injustice and support those who have experienced inequity and hurt.

Congregation: Be agents of respect who work to restore dignity and who desire to advance justice rather than judgement.

Participants: We yearn to cultivate justice and to approach all situations with the compassion and grace that Christ has shown to us.

Leader: Just as Jesus spoke life and called for changes to the status quo, you begin your journey of service with a willingness to speak up and with power to influence the world for good.

Congregation: Be leaders who confidently stand for what is right and who passionately seek to create a better world.

Participants: We will not be afraid to stand for justice and will provide space for all voices to be heard.

Leader: Just as Jesus sought to create community, you begin your journey of service with an excitement to open up to those around you and to build new relationships.

Congregation: Be welcoming so that you may create community within your FaithX group and among those that you serve.

Participants: We plan to intentionally fellowship with those that we meet in order to create meaningful moments and foster connection.

Leader: Just as Jesus encountered those unlike him and chose to love, you begin your journey of service with the knowledge that each of us possesses a unique perspective and opinion, yet has equal value.

Congregation: Be patient listeners who do not let differences divide and who honor one another.

Participants: We will cultivate harmony by sharing our thoughts with kindness and listening more than we speak.

Leader: Just as Jesus worshiped God with gladness and celebrated God's blessings, you begin your journey of service with excitement for what lies ahead and deep appreciation for the experience of serving others.

Congregation: We send you out to serve with glad hearts, and we will welcome you back home with joy!

Participants: We thank you for your loving support on this journey of faith and service – we leave this place with open hands and open hearts.

Prayer of Sending

God, we thank you for these youth and advisors and their desire to serve. We see your spirit stirring in each of them, guiding and supporting them as they seek to use their lives as examples of Jesus' peace, service, and love. Be with each one of them as they travel and do your work in (insert location of FaithX trip). We ask that you keep them safe and allow their hearts to grow as they work with people from all walks of life. We pray that they see examples of your love in everyone that they meet, and that they deepen their faith through the relationships they build and the service they share. Please be with our congregation as we support these youth and advisors while they act as your hands and feet in the world. Move us to grow our own faith, listening for your call and seeking justice in our home community as we await their return.

Amen.

Suggested Songs/Hymns

Fluye, Espiritu, fluye
For everyone born
Here I am, Lord
Will you let me be your servant