**Stop Being Nice: Be Kind**

Week 1 Worship Resources

**Call to Worship [[1]](#footnote-1)**

Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

**Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.**

Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

**Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.**

Let us worship the God of grace and truth, together, this day!

**Unison Prayer [[2]](#footnote-2)**

Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Offering Introduction**

Sisters and brothers, truly God has blessed us. I am grateful for the many ways in our church and community that we see and share God’s kindness. We give to say thank you, and also to extend the work of sharing God’s love with our neighbors. Today, give with a kind spirit, knowing that your gifts will extend the kindness of God to all who need to receive it.

**Offering Prayer**

Loving God, your posture of love and grace toward us inspires awe. We can think of moments when we did not deserve your kindness, and yet you loved us anyway. Today we honor you with these gifts. Thank you for your provision and grace; may these gifts extend them to more of your children. Amen.

**Music Suggestions (Traditional)**

Freely, Freely UM Hymnal #389

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service, UM Hymnal #281

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy UM Hymnal #121

**Music Suggestions (Contemporary)**

Living Hope, Wickham CCLI # 7106807

This is Amazing Grace, CCLI # 6333821

Broken Vessels CCLI # 7019974

**Stop Being Nice: Be Joyful**

Week 2 Worship Resources

**Call to Worship [[3]](#footnote-3)**

Good news! The Holy One, God Almighty, claims us as God’s very own!

**Rejoice in the Lord!**

Good news! The times of trouble are nearly over!

**Rejoice in the Lord, always!**

Good news! God is in our midst, ready to renew us with holy love!

**Rejoice in the Lord, always! Again we say rejoice!**

Good news! Good news! The peace of the Lord will dwell in our hearts!

**We lift up our hearts in thanksgiving. Thanks be to God!**

**Unison Prayer 3**

Move us, Joyful God, take our hands and lead us in your dance of creation. When we are uncertain, guard our hearts with your peace. When our steps falter, surround us with the strength of your Spirit. Guide us, Dancing God, until we are move and sing with the joy of your salvation. In the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray, Amen.

**Offering Introduction**

My friends, we have the opportunity to share the joy we find in the message and person of Jesus Christ. Through the ministries of this church (consider sharing one or two), our neighbors, community and congregation receive the joy only available through relationship with Jesus. As you give today, give joyfully, knowing that your gift spreads God’s message and work in this world.

**Offering Prayer**

Perfect God, you are the center of all our joy. We give you thanks for the many ways we experience you in the world that fill our hearts and spirits. Today we joyfully recognize your goodness and give back a portion of your many blessings. May it be used to spread your joy to others. Amen.

**Music Suggestions (Traditional)**

Go, Make of All Disciples UM Hymnal #571

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee UM Hymnal #89

Christ the Lord is Risen Today UM Hymnal #302

**Music Suggestions (Contemporary)**

10,000 Reasons, CCLI # 6016351

Old Church Choir, CCLI # 7071239

Again I Say Rejoice, CCLI # 4302823

**Stop Being Nice: Be Peaceful**

Week 3 Worship Resources

**Call to Worship 4**

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

**To give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.”

**“Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”**

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”

**For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.**

**Unison Prayer [[4]](#footnote-4)**

Beautiful God, we rejoice that we can come into Your house today and worship You with those who love You, too. Thank You for inspiring and leading Your people to establish Your house here in this place. We pray that all who worship here might experience Your love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. We pray for Your people all the world over, and we pray that they might prosper along with us as we serve You and others. May everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior find and experience peace with God, others, and themselves. Amen

**Offering Introduction**

This weekend we remember and honor those who gave everything to work toward peace and justice. We are thankful for the faithful witness of followers of Jesus to spread shalom, wholeness, wellness, peace and justice, for all peoples, especially oppressed peoples. Today we are called to join our gifts and hands to work toward peace and justice in our world. Through our giving today, we commit our finances and lives to continue God’s kingdom-building work in the world.

**Offering Prayer**

God who holds all things, You are our peace. We give you thanks for our many blessings, for abundance and provision. Bless these gifts which we give back to You. Grant us your peace as we give generously; and may these resources be used to bring peace to all Your peoples. Amen.

**Music Suggestions (Traditional)**

It is Well with My Soul, UM Hymnal #377

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine UM Hymnal #606

Let There Be Peace on Earth, UM Hymnal #431

**Music Suggestions (Contemporary)**

Yes and Amen, Housefires CCLI # 7048885

Tremble, Mosaic MSC CCLI # 7065049

Eye of the Storm, CCLI # 7051410

Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest) CCLI # 6534077

Sinking Deep, Hillsong Young and Free CCLI # 6605236

**Stop Being Nice: Be Loving**

Week 4 Worship Resources

**Call to Worship [[5]](#footnote-5)**

Awe-inspiring God, we gather together to praise you for your tender compassion and care of needy people.

**Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your prayers.**

Listening God, we gather to revere and honor your supportive concern for people who cry to you for help.

**Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your praise.**

People of every nation are called to gather together to worship God, in thankfulness for God’s loving mercies.

**Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your worship. Amen.**

**Unison Prayer [[6]](#footnote-6)**

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

**Offering Introduction**

I am so grateful for your partnership in ministry. Sharing the love of God isn’t just my job, it’s all of our job, and today I’m so grateful for your work. (This is a great opportunity to celebrate a ministry in the church which is actively sharing the love of God). And so God invites us to give; to share God’s love and to sustain ministries of love through the church. Your giving is supporting the work of our church to love the community and all of God’s people.

**Offering Prayer**

Generous God, we give you thanks that you first loved us. Truly, you have given us all good things. Today we give back a small portion of what you entrust to us. Use it so that Your great love may spread throughout our neighborhood, community and world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Music Suggestions (Traditional)**

I Stand Amazed in the Presence, UM Hymnal #371

How Can We Name a Love, UM Hymnal #111

The Gift of Love, UM Hymnal #408

God of Love and God of Power UM Hymnal #578

**Music Suggestions (Contemporary)**

Reckless Love, Corey Asbury CCLI # 7089641

How Great is Your Love, Passion CCLI # 7076958

Fierce, Jesus Culture CCLI # 7054535

One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails) CCLI # 5508444

1. written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. written by Peter Haynes, and posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Rev. Nancy J, on her blog, wonderings through life and other such nonsense. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. written by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. (© 2007), and posted on A Psalm and a Prayer. http://apsalmandaprayer.com/psalm122.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. written by Joan Stott, and posted on the Geelong City Parish, UCA website. If used in shared worship, please provide an acknowledgement as follows: © 2012 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B, used with permission. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Mary Scifres, on the Ministry Matters website. http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/blog/entry/1779/worship-elements-october-16-2011 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)