



## Week 1 Worship Resources: The Greatest Story

### **Scripture Passage: Acts 17:22-34**

#### **Call to Worship:**

We gather in this act of worship, seeking you, O God.

**Reaching out to you O Holy One, praying to find you, trusting you will find us.**

Celebrating that we live, move and exist in our Creating God.

**Trusting that You are never far away we worship you now.**

#### **Opening Unison Prayer:**

Almighty God open our hearts to receive your great story as it is proclaimed once more. Where we have unbelief, help us to trust. Where we doubt, help us to have faith. Remind us that your story is our story for we are your children, whom you deeply love. Direct our hearts and lives now and always. May our worship be pleasing to you and a blessing in our journeys. In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

#### **Offering Introduction:**

Family of God, everything on earth and in heaven belongs to God. God has blessed you so that you may be a blessing for others. As you give your tithes and offerings today, give as an act of joy and gratitude for all God has done for you.

#### **Offertory Prayer:**

Generous God, we can never repay you, we can only thank you. You are the giver of life, breath and everything else and we are forever thankful. Receive these offerings as a sign of our gratitude and an act of our commitment to bear witness to your great story of redemption and hope. Amen.

#### **Music Suggestions:**

Lord You Are More Precious Than Silver TFWS 2055

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Testify by Need to Breathe

Tell Me The Stories of Jesus 277

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing 57; CLUW #226; MVPC #1 Mil voces para celebrar

Wonderful Words of Life 600



**UNITED METHODISTS**  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



## Week 2: The Whole Story

**Scripture Passage: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

**Call to Worship:**

We come to hear the stories of our generous and compassionate God.

**We come to share the stories of God's love and mercy in our own lives.**

Teach us to embody your grace and be a witness to Your love in the world, O God.

**May we, like God, be generous and merciful with our lives and show compassion as we serve others.**

**May our lives give honor and glory to our Mighty God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Opening Unison Prayer:**

Redeeming God, we come before you to admit our shortcomings and our mistakes. We are your beautifully flawed people who have let you down, yet we come with hope into your presence. We humble ourselves before the one who can perfect us that we might live out our faith and witness to our own redemption. May our lives tell the story of your goodness and mercy. May we be your hands and feet to serve you by serving our neighbors. May our witness of your unfailing love and forgiveness offer hope to others. All this we pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Offering Introduction:**

God has been so good to us; blessing us by working in us, through us and in spite of us. Let us remember that all that we have belongs to God. Let our giving be generous and our gratitude for our blessings be overflowing. May we have the confidence to know that God can transform our gifts, and our lives, for the good of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

**Offertory Prayer:**

Life-giving God, nothing could compare to what we have received through your son, Jesus. Yet we come before you to offer our whole lives to you, not only our tithes and offerings, but our hearts, our gifts and our service. Pour out your favor upon us, and all that we bring before you, that through them, the world around us may find hope in the Good News that is Jesus Christ.

**Music Suggestions:**

Contemporary

Lord I Need You – (Matt Maher)

Amazing Grace – My Chains are Gone (Chris Tomlin); Sublime Gracia

How He Loves – Jesus Culture

Life and Favor – John P. Kee

Music Traditional

#156 UMH – I Love to Tell the Story; AAHH #513

#170 UMH – O How I Love Jesus

#2017 TFWS – Jesus, Name Above All Names



**UNITED METHODISTS**  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



## Week 3: God, where were you?

**Scripture Passage: Genesis 28:10-19a**

**Call to Worship:**

From the moment we open our eyes each morning, until we close them at night, God is with us.

**There is no one like you, our God!**

In times when we are surrounded with struggles, in all the surprising places we find hope, Jesus is with us.

**There is no one like you, our Brother!**

When we feel orphaned by the world, when we are welcomed into faith's family, the Holy Spirit is with us.

**There is no one like you, Witnessing Spirit!**

**Opening Unison Prayer:**

You speak, God – you always speak, if we will but listen. All we need to do is pause and turn our attention to the song singing from the heavens and whispering in the wind; to the flight of the dove, and the touch of its wings on our heads; to the giggling of the water, and the mark it leaves in our hearts. Your voice comes to us in faithful surround sound, beckoning us to join the chorus, share in the dance, and extend the invitation into all the earth. You speak, God – you always speak; and joyfully, we are listening. Amen.

**Offering Introduction:**

How awesome is our God! God showers us with blessings day and night! Now, at this time and in this house of God we have the opportunity to return those blessings with our gifts, our tithes, and our very selves.

**Offertory Prayer:**

We offer our gifts to you, Steadfast Love, not because you need them, but so others might be as blessed as we are by your presence, your power, and your peace. Amen.

**Traditional/Contemporary Global Praise Song Suggestions:**

# 6 Amor que por amor me amaste, frim

W&S #3034 – God of Wonders

UMH #117 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past

He Was There All The Time – Gary S. Paxton

**Additional Components\*:**

**Confession:**

Too often, too easily, our eyes are drawn down, God, to the suffering of victims and the pain of perpetrators, to the wounds we inflict on others and the wounds we inflict on ourselves. We need to see these things and pray, but we also need our eyes to be lifted, God, to the signs of your life among us, to the touch of your healing on our souls, to the cross that casts its liberating shadow across all human affairs. We need our eyes to be lifted, God, so our hearts may be filled with faith, hope and love. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> John van de Laar





## Week 4: News Worth Sharing: A Life Worth Living

**Scripture Passage: John 9:1-12**

### **Call to Worship:**

Why are you here? Maybe you are here because you recognize in your own story a greater story,

**One spoken since the beginning of time by prophets, preachers and peacemakers, a story where God calls the world into liberation and wholeness.**

Maybe you are here because you have glimpsed a moment of love that is beyond human reach,

**All the grace that lies just beyond our fingertips, that transforms the ugly into the breathtaking, the impossible into the real.**

Maybe you are here, not defined by faith but with a deep conviction

**That the ending to everyone's story is yet to be written and can be shaped into life by justice and compassion.**

Maybe you are here because there is someone who needs to hear your story and feel welcome into the story of God

**Let us join together in listening and sharing in the greatest story, the story of God's grace.**

### **Opening Unison Prayer:**

God, we bring our stories to this place, and we wait to be held by yours.

We bring our faithfulness: shape it with grace.

We bring our success: shape it with generosity.

We bring our weaknesses: shape them with compassion.

We bring our possibilities: shape them with hope.

We confess, God, that the way is hard, and we are tired.

Speak into our tiredness with your story of grace.

We confess that the way is unclear, and we do not know the path.

Speak into our wandering with your story of vision.

We confess that we are tired of waiting and we just want to make it happen.

Speak into our impatience with your story of wisdom.

Let your story be our story and we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Offering Introduction:**

As people of the Light of the World, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

Holy God, we give ourselves, captive and free, shaped by forces beyond our control, yet open to the power of your Spirit. Through us, and our gifts, may others know that when anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, and that the old way ends, and new life begins for everyone. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

### **Music Suggestions:**

Because He Lives – UMH #364; CLUW #285; MVPC #154 – Vive el Señor!

His Name is Wonderful – UMH #174; CLUW #203; MVPC #172 – Maravilloso es

Because He Lives, Amen – Matt Maher

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me – TFWS #2153

---

<sup>2</sup> Brian Wren

