

TOSSING AND TURNING

Week 1 Worship Resources: Fear

Scripture Passage: Deuteronomy 31:1-8 & Philippians 4:4-9

Call to Worship:

The presence of the Lord is here among us;

Protecting us, loving us, encouraging us.

We come as a people of hope to witness God's power;

Fixing our eyes on what is true and right and Holy.

May our hearts and minds dwell in the peace that only our Lord can provide. Amen.

Opening Unison Prayer:

Peace-giving God, we are your people, and we belong to you. While we are not of this world, we do live in this world with its challenges and obstacles. Often our fears and our anxieties overwhelm us. In our humanness we come before you, seeking the strength and courage that only you can provide. We come to grow in our confidence in you so that our faith will overcome our fears. We come to relinquish our worries and be freed from our burdens that we may fully experience your peace and joy through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

As we prepare our hearts for the offering, let us do so with gratitude for our blessings and the knowledge that all we have, and all that we are, belong to God.

Offertory Prayer:

Generous God, you have blessed us beyond measure. We pray that you will pour out your favor, not only on the monetary gifts we've given, but upon our very lives offered to you in a spirit of gratitude. Let our lives be focused on using our tangible gifts and our living witness to share and strengthen the faith of many. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Music Suggestions:

Traditional and Contemporary Global Praise Song

#2158 TFWS – Just a Closer Walk with Thee; AAHH#455

#2195 TFWS – In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less – UMH #368; MVPC #261; AAHH #385

CLUW #282 – Give to the Winds Thy Fears

#397 UMH – I Need Thee Every Hour; AAHH #451

Everlasting God – Chris Tomlin

You Are My Strength – William Murphy



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

TOSSING AND TURNING

Week 2 Worship Resources: Future

Scripture Passage: Matthew 6:25-34 & Isaiah 41:10-13

Call to Worship:

We come to worship, weighed down with worry;

Worry about money, worry about work, worry about the future.

We come to worship hoping to hear a word;

A word of hope, a word of assurance, a word of peace.

Jesus reminds us that we do not need to worry. If God cares for the birds of the air and the grass of field, won't God care for each one of us?

We come to remember that God knows our every need and will provide.

Let us worship God.

Opening Unison Prayer: God of yesterday, God of tomorrow, God of this very moment;

we confess that we often waste our energy in worrying about things over which we have very little control.

Help us to remember that we cannot add a single moment to our lives by worrying about the future,

and that worrying about the future keeps us from living fully in the present. Help us to trust in your love and goodness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Offering Introduction: When the future is uncertain it can be hard to share what we have with others. Fear of the unknown often makes us live in a mode of scarcity- what if we need that extra food in the pantry or bill in our wallet? And yet Jesus assures us that God will take care of us, that we do not have to be afraid, that in the midst of the unknown we are called as his disciples to share what we have with those who are in need now. Let us give freely, trusting that God will take care of us tomorrow, just as God is taking care of others today.

Offertory Prayer: Generous God, we offer these gifts today trusting you will provide for our needs tomorrow. We give you thanks for all that you give to us each day. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Music Suggestions:

Traditional/Contemporary Global Praise Song

UMH 130 God Will Take Care of You

FWS 2146 His Eye is on the Sparrow

UMH Trust and Obey 467



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



TOSSING AND TURNING

Week 3 Worship Resources: Finances

Scripture Passage: Luke 12:16-21, 1 Kings 17:2-16

Call to Worship:

We come here this morning looking for solace.

We've tried to find happiness in accumulating more, but instead have added stress.

We have come here this morning looking for hope.

We have seen where greed has led to sorrow.

We have come here this morning looking for answers.

We place our trust in your abundant love to fulfill our needs. Amen.

Opening Unison Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for your boundless and unqualified love. May we long for the things that draw us closer to you and let go of the drive for excess. When we are tempted to believe more is better, help us instead to be generous. Release us from anxiety and restore our trust in your care.

Offering Introduction:

We believe it is important to give back to God, in an act of trust, a portion of all God gives to us. These gifts are carefully used to spread the love of God in our community, our region and the world. We invite you to give to be a part of God's plan so that no one will need to worry about having enough.

Offertory Prayer:

Holy God, as people of faith, we wait in hope at the promise for the day that all will have plenty. We are thankful for the many ways you care for us. May these gifts be used to bring hope to the many who are in need of it. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Music Suggestions:

Traditional/Contemporary Global Praise Song

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah UMH 127

Where Charity and Love Prevail UMH 549

10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman

Doxology//Amen by Phil Wickham



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



TOSSING AND TURNING

Week 4 Worship Resources: Finality, The Anxiety of Choosing

Scripture Passage: Jonah 2:1-10, Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Call to Worship:

Every day we make choices;

Some choices are inconsequential; others are life changing.

This morning we choose to be here, in this place.

We choose to worship God, who is always with us no matter what decisions we make.

Opening Unison Prayer:

We admit, God, that sometimes we don't like the gift of having choices. We think life would be much easier if everything was laid out for us, a clear roadmap for our lives. Help us to remember that you have given us the gift of free will so that we must think, make mistakes and grow as your children. May your Spirit guide us in the choices we make, so that we do not need to be afraid but rather can trust that you are with us as we live into those decisions with peace. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

Someone once said that you can tell what is most important to a person by the way they spend their time and how they spend their money. Every day we have opportunities to witness to our faith in Christ and be participants in the work of God's kingdom. This moment is another opportunity where we can use the gifts that God has given us to support the ministry of the church and the building of God's kingdom through our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for pouring your blessings out upon all your children. Bless these gifts that are freely given, that they might bring hope to the hopeless and peace to those who are tossing and turning with uncertainty. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Music Suggestions:

Traditional/Contemporary Global Praise Song

UMH 473 Lead Me, Guide Me; AAHH #474

He Leadeth Me UMH #128; MVPC #237 Me gua El

Oceans – Hillsong

Yes I Will – Vertical Worship



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY