



Worship Resource

Scripture: Psalm: 78:1-7a

*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.*

*2
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,*

*3
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.*

*4
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.*

*5
He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;*

*6
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
7*

*so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God*

Call to Worship: Tell Us the Story

By Vanessa M. Wilson written for the Not Soon Forgotten Worship Service.

One: Our God is worthy of the highest praise; come let us worship and tell the stories of our God and our people.

Many: Please tell us the story from the old days.

One: It was the Ancient of Days who established a covenant with Abraham; blessed Sarah with a son; the covenant has been passed on from generation to generation. God honored the covenant with Hagar, Hannah, and Rahab; with our grandparents and our parents. We are a covenant people.

Many: Our God is a promise keeper; tell us of more about the God of the ancestors.

One: It was the Spirit of the Living God that guided Harriet Tubman as she led our people from bondage to freedom; and Sojourner Truth who cried out for the abolition of slavery.



Many: Our God is a liberator; tell us more about the God of the freedom fighters.

One: It was Jehovah Nissi that gave courage to Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King, as they embarked on a journey for Civil Rights through peaceful and effective protest; and to Fannie Lou Hammer, as she led the way for Civil Rights in Mississippi, as well as the fight for voter rights and Black people and women nation-wide. It was Jehovah Rophe that healed the broken bodies of John Lewis, Hosea Williams, Bob Mants, Albert Turner, Amelia Boynton Robinson, and the others who were beaten and tear gassed by police as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in non-violent protest.

Many: Our God provides courage, justice, and healing; tell us more about those who fought while rejected.

One: It was the Lord of Host that strengthened the Black men and women who fought in every war from the beginning of this nation. In the Revolutionary War, in service to a country where they were often oppressed and rejected; including the US Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War; the Buffalo Soldiers; the segregated Infantry Regiments in World War I; the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, and many others. They fought for freedom for all Americans and forgave the Americans who rejected them when they returned home.

Many: Our God provides strength to fight and the compassion to forgive; tell us more about the God of our Methodist leaders.

One: It was Jehovah Shalom who inspired Bishop Felton May to organize Shalom Zones and take a stand for Holy Boldness; it was the God of Love that embraced Rev. Gilbert Caldwell as he fought for Civil Rights and for inclusion of all people, and that empowered Rev. Ruth Brown Higgins to persevere in love as a teacher, a leader, and role model for women clergy; it was Jehovah Shammah who was with Rev. Sherrie Dobbs Johnson as she led congregations and wrote liturgy to inspire and empower.

Many: Our God is the God of peace, love, power, and a sound mind.

One: God is Love! So, teach us oh God, through your Word, through our history, that love is still greater than anything on this earth. That love does not delight in evil but rejoices with truth. That love protects, love trusts, love hopes, and love perseveres. Love lasts and never fails. Not hate. Not division. Not oppression. But love will sustain us from age to age, and it's your love that endures to all generations. So, as we enter worship, give God praise, give God our ears, hearts and minds; let's learn more of God and remember to always tell the story.

All: Come listen! Come learn! Come experience God! Come let us worship!



Prayer:

We come together to worship You, God of our Ancestors, our mothers, and fathers, of poppa and nanna, of our aunts and uncle. We give You the praise and confess that without you, we are lost. Holy Spirit fill the space where we worship, touch our hearts again, fill us again, teach us again. Help us never to forget the story of who you are and who we are in You. Empower us to tell the story to our children and our children's children. Thank you for who You are in our lives. This we pray in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen**

Litany:

All: God, we set our hope in you and do not forget what you've done for us!

Leader: God, we do not forget! We will not hide the deeds you have done for us and our ancestors.

People: We will tell the next generation of your love and the wonders you have done for:

**All: Shiphrah and Puah, Moses and the Israelites,
Garrett Morgan and Frederick Douglass,
Harry Hosier and Jarena Lee,
The Samaritan woman and the man born blind,
Martin and Malcolm.**

We will tell the next generation of your love and wonders, O God.

Leader: God, we do not forget! We will teach our children your ways and lead them in your paths.

People: We will not forget to lead them in your love and truth just as you led:

**All: Ella Baker and Ella Fitzgerald,
George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington,
Ida B. Wells and Mary McLeod Bethune,
Paul and Silas,
Lydia and Phoebe,
Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin
Mamie Till and Myrlie Evers Williams.**



Leader: God, we remember your eternal legacy of love and goodness. We rise up so the next generation will know you, your eternal love, leadership and legacy, and call you blessed.

People: God, we remember your mighty works and deeds of old - how you:

Led our ancestors out of slavery in Egypt,
Delivered our ancestors and us from the sin that so easily entangles,
Led our ancestors out of the days of Jim Crow and segregation,
Delivered us - now and in the past - from oppressive rulers, governments, and empires.

All: God, we will remember. We will tell and we will teach so that all can set their hope in You and not forget your works. Amen.

Giving moment:

When the hymnwriter Jennie Wilson wrote in 1913 the words, “ Time is filled with swift transition, Naught on earth unmoved can stand, Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God’s unchanging hand”...she understood too often in life we focus on temporary things, material things, uncertain things. But one thing is certain. God has been with us since the beginning of time. God continues to lead and guide us. Day after day, God loves us to life. Morning by morning, God offers new mercies for us. And God also calls us to do our part. To serve. To reach. To love. And To give.

So, we invite you into this moment now, to give. Not just to a building. But to a ministry. To the church, which is a living breathing thing. To reaching souls and helping communities. This is why we give. This is one of the ways we leave a legacy. And this is one of the ways we show our love to God.

Offertory Prayer:

Eternal and Loving God, thank you for how you have shown us how to love and to lead. Thank you for all the ways you pour out your love to us. Please now accept these gifts, our tithes and offerings, and we seek to reciprocate this love to you through our finances, our resources, our lives, and our legacies. In Christ’s Name, Amen.



Benediction:

Friends may the marks of our ancestors be made visible in our daily lives. Now go into this world and leave a mark in the generations to come by showing love and compassion for those who seem to be forgotten by our world but not by our God. Go and fight for justice for those that the world has turned their faces yet Jesus says: I am one of them.

Go and follow the path traced by those who were before us so their work may go on and never forgotten.
Amen.

Music Suggestions:

UMH #519 – Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH #525- We'll Understand It Better By and By

CCLI Song #1696443 – O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink

TFWS #2175 – Together We Serve

W&S #3101 – Love Lifted Me

Visit the webpage www.gnjumc.org/notsoonforgotten for pre-recorded music and poetry