

Camp Sunday Worship

Resources:

Call to Worship Suggestions:

Leader: In the midst of our lives

People: We know you are with us O, God.

Leader: In the midst of laughter and fun, joys and celebrations

People: We know you are with us O, God.

Leader: In the times of sadness and tears, grief and struggle

People: We know you are with us O, God.

Leader: At home, at worship, at camp, at work, among family and friends

People: We know you are with us, O God.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: God has set up camp in our hearts.

All: In God's love, we find community.

One: God has made community part of our nature.

All: In God's love, we find peace.

One: God gives us peace and a calling.

All: In God's love, we find purpose.

One: We are here because God's Spirit calls us to worship

All: We are here to offer praise for God's presence in our lives.

One: Camp is one of the special places God speaks to us.

All: Away from distractions and surrounded by community it is ideal.

One: Life changing experiences help us understand the power of God's love.

All: We are here to claim God's love is all around us.

One: Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Welcoming God, we praise you for all you are, all you have made, and all you give to us. We welcome you into this place, into our hearts, and into this worship. (Hands lifted up to heaven). Teach us to welcome one another, in grace and peace. Amen.

Prayer Suggestions

We come together in these holy moments, O God, as your people. Thank you for our church family and for the love and acceptance we find here. As we worship today, as we work, study, play, and even camp, keep us close to you and to one another. We come to see all



that you have to offer us and pledge that we will go and tell others of your wonderful gifts. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Loving God, you know how much camp and retreats have meant in our Methodist heritage. So many people feel your touch when they are able to take a time apart at camp or a retreat. May they reflect and grow in love with you. Send aid to those who need a camp experience and are met with roadblocks. Seek out those who need retreat and meet them on the path. Peel away the thick forests of our lives and offer us a clearing of our heads and hearts. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Time Suggestions

1. Take a Hike: Set up 3 stations around the sanctuary representing each of the camp sites in our Annual Conference (Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury, and Camp Wanake). Take the children for a "hike" to visit each "camp" and share information about each.

2. Show the kids a bag of marshmallows. Ask if any of them like to toast marshmallows. When they say "yes", invite the group to join you in roasting them, and hand one to each kid. Pretend to be confused; you can't find a campfire! Marshmallows are good by themselves, but they're better toasted and even better in s'mores. Sunday school & worship is good, but it's better at camp and even better if you bring friends with you!

3. Gather one ball and have a glow stick for each child. Say, "One of the most important things that I learned while at church camp was a song called "Pass It On"

What do you think that means?" Here pull out the ball and pass it around. Now make sure everyone gets to pass it. Say, "Wasn't that great? We passed the ball along. Is that what it's all about? UMMM no, that isn't what this song is about. Let me share the words..."

It only takes a spark to get a fire going. And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, You want to sing, it's fresh like spring you want to pass it on.

"So you see once you receive Christ, you want to share it with EVERYONE! It's like a fire, you can't contain a fire. And you can't contain Christ either. You have a light that you want to share with everyone. So on this Camp Sunday I want to give each of you a glow stick to remind you that you need to share the light that is inside of you that is Jesus. And that you should 'Pass It on.' "

Song Suggestions

From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

- 62 All Creatures of Our God and King
- 191 Jesus Loves Me
- 494 Kum ba yah
- 92 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 399 Take My Life, and Let It Be
- 77 How Great Thou Art
- 572 Pass It On

From *The Faith We Sing*

- 2222 The Servant Song
- 2152 Change My Heart, O God
- 2270 He Has Made Me Glad
- 2164 O Lord, You're So Beautiful
- 2032 My Life is in You Lord
- 2215 I Cast All My Cares Upon You, Lord

Also Consider:

- *God of Wonders* by Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong
- *10,000 Reasons* by Matt Redmond and Jonas Myrin
- *Your Grace is Enough* by Matt Maher
- *Mighty to Save* by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

Litany

Leader: Creator God, we pray this morning for our East Ohio Camps.

People: Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury, Camp Wanake, CYF, Reach Out, and Institute

Leader: We pray for all of the directors, staff, and volunteers who work to make your love evident in our camping ministries.

People: May you give them guidance, insight and wisdom as they plan for camp this year.

Leader: We pray for all those who will come and see you through one of these camps.

People: May they know your love and grace for each of them

Leader: For the children who will experience your creation this summer,

People: For the campers who will experience love and acceptance,

Leader: For the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened,

People: For the youth who will come to know you more deeply,

Leader: For all the friendships that will be made and strengthened,

People: For all who will serve and will offer others Christ.

Leader: We give you thanks, O God.

People: May your blessing be on our camping ministries in the coming weeks of summer camp and may you receive the glory.

Suggestions for Sermon/Meditation

Camp is Contextual - Camp is a place of intensive immersion experiences of community, lived out in the midst of God's good creation, which can focus the campers, the staff, and the parents upon the relational nature of life and faith. Have members of your congregation share their own camp experiences, either as a staff or as a camper.

Benediction

May God set up camp in your heart. May Christ offer you bread and fish by the fire. And may the Holy Spirit be the flame that lights your way. Amen.