

Christian Care Communities  
Fifth Sunday Worship Materials  
(Growing from Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16)

Call to Worship

Leader: As followers of Christ, we are called to live a life of love for one another.

People: As followers of Christ, we are called to a life of care and concern for those who have special needs.

Leader: As followers of Christ, we are called to a life of trust, believing God will take care of us.

People: As we worship today, may our lives reflect this care and trust and give honor and glory to God.

Invocation

Almighty God, may the presence of your Spirit today, inspire us to live as followers of Christ. Teach us to imitate him by loving one another. Through his example, help us care the deeply forgetful, for the frail and weak and those who have special needs. Through our lives, help us share your love in our world. Hear our prayer in the name of your Son and our Savior. Amen.

Children's Moment

The theme of the Children's Moment is "Caring for Each Other and All of God's People." It involves a motion for the children and congregation to participate in. Curl up your hands and hold them close to your chest. Say to the children, "This is a sign of shutting yourself off from others." Then slowly stretch out your arms and open your hands as if you are giving something away. Say to the children, "This is a sign of caring and giving yourself to another." Invite the children to participate in the motion. Then have the children form a circle and do the same motion as they face each other. Talk to them about how this feels. You may begin by asking, "Does it feel better to have your hands curled up and held close to your chest or open and reaching out toward each other?" Have the children face the congregation and do the same motion. Invite the children and those in the congregation to do the same motion facing each other. Then say, "As followers of Jesus, we are called to reach out to all of God's people, especially those with special needs. Today we will receive our Fifth Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities. This is one of the ways our congregation reaches out to show our love and care for others." Then ask everyone to face toward the outer walls of the sanctuary and repeat the motion as a sign of reaching out to all of God's people.

(Idea from 101 Creative Worship Ideas for Children's Church by  
Jolene Roehlkepartain)

Prayer

God, we thank you for Jesus, who reached out to the little children taking them in his arms showing them his love and care. We thank you that we are able to reach out to each other, the people we care for through Christian Care Communities and all of your people everywhere. Amen.

Offertory Thought

Today, we will receive our Fifth Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities. Through this special offering we practice the words found in Hebrews 13:15-16, "*Our sacrifice is to keep offering praise to God in the name of Jesus. But don't forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God*" (Contemporary English Version).

Through this Fifth Sunday Offering we help support older adults in Bowling Green, Corbin, Grayson, Hopkinsville, Lexington, Louisville, Owensboro and Taylorsville.

Some are bedridden requiring skilled nursing care, some are frail and weak and some are deeply forgetful. Many are self-sufficient simply needing the support of a caring community.

Give generously to our ministries here and give generously to those we serve through Christian Care!

#### Offertory Prayer

Loving and caring God, be present with us as you are with all; be present now as you are forever. To you we open ourselves, this and every day. To you we offer ourselves, as individuals and as a body. To you we bring our offering for the ministries of this congregation and our partner ministries through Christian Care Communities. Receive our gifts in the name of Christ who gave his all. Amen.

#### Communion Invitation/Meditation

This Table reminds us how deeply we are loved and cared for by God who sent to us His son, Jesus the Christ. This Table reminds us that Jesus loved and cared for us enough to offer himself as a sacrifice for our salvation. This Table reminds us that we are members of the Body of Christ, the Church. At this Table we gather with the followers of Christ of all times and all places, with persons of all colors and all nations, with the poor and rich, with young and old, with those who are gifted and those not so gifted, with those who are healthy and those who are frail, with those who seem to remember everything and those who seem to remember little and sometimes nothing, with those who live in happy families and those who have no family, with those who live in large homes and those who have no home. Christ invites all to his Table spread with his body and blood. Come join your sisters and brothers at the Table.

#### Benediction

May the God, who loves us and watches over us, abide in us. May God's presence let our love for one another continue and allow us to touch and bless the lives of others. Amen.