

Christian Care Communities
Worship Materials
(Growing from Matthew 25:31-46)

Call to Worship

Leader: You are blessed! Come and receive the kingdom prepared for you!

People: We are not worthy to worship the living God.

Leader: But Jesus said you have offered him food and drink, you have welcomed him and clothed him and have visited him in times of sickness and need. Jesus said that you are worthy.

People: But when did we do these things?

Leader: When you care for another, you minister to the Lord. Now come, rejoice and worship.

People: We come to praise the Son of Man and give him glory and honor.

Invocation

O God, in Jesus Christ, we pray that we may feel the touch of your hands on our heads, the peace of your presence in our hearts, and the warmth of your love that comes from experiencing your life among us. Come, gracious Jesus, come. Come and teach us to care for each other with love. Come with the joyful truth that as we love each other, we love you. Amen.

Children's Moment or Activity for Children's Worship

Have the children sit on the floor. Put a glove on the floor in front of them.

Ask:

What can a glove do all by itself?

What does a glove need in order to do anything?

Have the children take turns putting on the glove and showing what a glove can do with a hand in it.

Say: A glove can't do much unless a hand is inside it. A glove without a hand is a lot like a Christian who talks about Jesus and love but never puts the words into action.

Place the words "Shake someone's hand." on the glove in front of the children. Then, tell the glove to shake someone's hand. These are just words until someone puts the glove on and shakes someone's hand.

Place the words "Share some candy." on the glove in front of the children with a bowl of candy beside the glove. Tell the glove to share the candy. These are just words until someone puts the glove on and passes out the candy.

The Bible tells us not just to talk about love but to show our love through actions like --

Sharing what we have

Being kind
 Being considerate
 Being helpful

The Bible tells us that when we show love for others, we are showing our love for Jesus.

Prayer: God remind us to always be helpful to others. Please make us more like Jesus. Amen.

Adapted from 101 Creative Worship Ideas for Children's
 Church
 By Jolene Roehlkepartian

Offertory Thought

Jesus said that when ever we do an act of kindness and show love toward another person, we do that act of kindness and show love for Jesus. Through Christian Care Communities we provide care for older adults in Bowling Green, Corbin, Grayson, Hopkinsville, Lexington, Louisville, Taylorsville and Owensboro. We provide a place for those who simply need a safe and affordable place to live. Some of those we care for are frail and need constant care. Jesus said that each time we reach out in love to others, we love him. So joyfully prepare to bring your Fifth Sunday gifts to God in support of Christian Care Communities. Joyfully prepare to bring your gifts to God in support of the ministries of our congregation.

Offertory Prayer

We gladly return to you, O Christ, a portion of the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Use our Fifth Sunday Offering to care for the 2,500 older adults and their families we minister to as partners with Christian Care Communities. Help us to realize that we are caring for you when we care for them. Amen.

Communion Meditation

The woman across the aisle looks troubled, Lord, as she waits for the worship to begin. Is she worried about her aging father, her own health, her work, her property or her neighbor challenged with developmental difficulties?

The man across the street looks frail, Lord, as he slowly sweeps his walk. When I last talked with him he was confused and seemed not to remember me. Should I let his son know?

The child down the street, Lord, seems shy and lonely. He won't talk to me any more. I noticed bruises on his face and arms. What should I do Lord?

And so it is with a multitude of troubled people across the world, Lord, as they wait and wait, worried about family, friends, food, freedom, disease, death.

Give us the faith to look at each other, to touch when we meet, to walk and talk together as we gather at a shared table.

You are across from us, Lord, waiting for us
to see,
to touch,
to share
your bread and wine.

Benediction

In our going God, may we feel the touch of your hands on our heads, the peace of your presence in our hearts, and the warmth of your love that comes from experiencing your life among us. Go with us, gracious Jesus. Teach us to touch all those we meet with love. Remind us of the joyful truth that as we touch others with love, we love you. Amen.