



# Thy Kingdom Come:

Prayers and  
songs for the  
missional  
church



Part of the Missional Church Travel Bag  
Introduction by Marilyn Houser Hamm

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## **To: Worship Planners throughout Mennonite Church Canada**

It is with excitement and anticipation that we enter into the focus of being a missional church – aligning ourselves with God’s purposes in the world. At a time in the Christian church when much of the focus has been on personal renewal, the call now comes to us in a fresh way that personal reconciliation to God gives us a place and a task in becoming a part of God’s redeeming work for all of God’s creation.

Worship is at the foundation of this understanding. It is through our worship that we are called together as a people of God to affirm that God is God, to nurture within us the story of God’s healing and hope through the breaking open of God’s word, to joyfully offer our gifts and ourselves to the work of God’s kingdom, and to move from worship as a *sent* people into our world.

Such a worship calls forth new energy, new vision, new language, new songs, and a strong affirmation of the foundations upon which we build. “No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:11) Such worship calls for a renewed care for words – choosing the words which say who we are as a people of faith, and who God is. Such worship calls forth a creativity and unleashing of the arts to *bring forth* the message for a new time in the Post Modern age.

Enclosed within this packet are materials which *point the way*. Each piece can be used effectively in worship, but the intent is to illustrate something about a missional understanding in worship which is carefully crafted and designed to nurture and empower God’s people. Meditate on these pieces, and let them transform your own language in worship, your prayers. Let them inspire new writing, drama, song, dance, visual art, that all point to a people engaged in God’s purposes in the world.

May the Spirit move among us in ways far beyond what we could imagine!

Marilyn Houser Hamm  
Resources Commission, Mennonite Church Canada

## **Revelation 5:9-14**

### **Reader's Theatre**

Bringing focus to the mystery and greatness of our Lord affirms that God's power revealed in Jesus Christ is beyond what is human. Our worship is directed to the One Who is the Lord of the universe, and it is from here that our view of the world takes its shape.

## **REVELATION 5: 9-14**

- 1 And they sang a new song: You are worthy-
- 2 Who?
- 3 Me?
- 1 No. Jesus.
- 2 Oh. Worth?
- 3 You know, deserving.
- 1 And upright, to be praised!
- 2 Okay. Worthy!
- 1 Jesus is worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals.
- 2 Why?
- 3 Because Jesus was slain on the cross.
- 1 His blood purchased all of us for God, from every tribe and language and people and nation.
- 2 Jesus has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and we will reign on the earth.
- 1, Group 1 Jesus died for us!
- 2, Group 2 He is worthy!
- 3, Group 3 He is worthy!
- 1 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels.
- 2 How many?
- 3 Thousands upon thousands,
- 2 Thousands?
- 1 Yes, ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:
- 3 Worthy is the Lamb.
- 2 Jesus.
- 3 Yes, Jesus who was slain, to receive power and wealth,
- 1 And wisdom and strength,
- 2 And honor and glory and praise!

1,G1 Praise Jesus!  
2,G2 Honor and glory to Jesus!  
3,G3 Praise Jesus!

1 Then I heard every creature,  
2 Where? Here?  
1 Yes, on earth, and in heaven  
2 Under the earth and on the sea?  
3 Yes, everywhere. And all were singing:  
1 To him who sits on the throne,  
2 God?  
3 Yes, God. And to the Lamb.  
3 To Jesus!  
1 Right!  
2 What were they singing?  
1,3 Joyful songs of praise and honor  
1,G1 Praise be to God!  
2,G2 Praise be to Jesus!  
3,G3 Honor to the Lamb!  
1 A song of glory and power,  
1,G1 Glory to God!  
2,G2 Glory to Jesus!  
3,G3 He is powerful!  
ALL Glory to God!

2 How long did they sing?  
1 For ever and ever.  
2 Always?  
3 Yes, for ever and ever.  
1,2,3, For ever and ever.  
1 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell  
down and worshiped.  
1 Praise to God! Amen!  
2 Worthy is the Lamb! Amen!  
3 Glory to God! Amen.  
1,G1 Worthy is the Lamb!  
2,G2 Worthy is the Lamb!  
3,G3 Worthy is the Lamb!  
ALL Worthy is the Lamb! Amen!

Written by Charlene Schrag, Pacific Northwest Conference Youth Minister,  
Estacada, Oregon

**Morning Liturgy 2 Iona Community, John Bell  
Hymnal Subscription Service, 1998:2; Herald  
Press, Scottdale, PA**

This powerful liturgy frames our own limitations alongside God's greatness. Yet, God gives us the incredible gift of choice in accepting or rejecting God or God's revelation in Jesus to us.

The powerful statement of the people is the strong voice of those who know who they are, and WHOSE they are, and unite together to express it in worship. You may not wish to use it as it is, but let it find its way into your own expression as a congregation.

**935 Morning Liturgy 2**

Opening Responses (All Standing)

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

All: He it is who made us, not we ourselves:  
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Let us come into his courts with gratitude.

All: Let us enter his presence with praise.

(A song of praise)

Prayer (All sit or kneel)

Leader: Let us pray.  
From before the world began  
And after the end of eternity,  
You are God.  
From the sea bursting out its womb  
To the wind ceasing from its chase,  
You are God.  
In the vastness of the universe  
And the forgotten corner of our hearts,  
You are God.

All: You are our God,  
And we bless you.

Leader: Because the world is beautiful,  
And beauty is a tender thing,  
And we are stewards of creation,  
We need you, God.

All: We need you, God.  
 Leader: Because human knowledge seems endless,  
           The world is our oyster,  
           And we do not know what we do not know,  
           We need you, God.  
 All: We need you, God.  
 Leader: Because we can live without you,  
           And are free to go against you,  
           And could worship our wisdom alone,  
           We need you, God.  
 All: We need you, God.  
 Leader: Because you came among us,  
           And sat beside us,  
           And heard us speak and saw us ignore you,  
           And healed our pain and let us wound you,  
           And loved us to the end,  
           And triumphed over all our hatred,  
           We need you, God.  
 All: We need you, God.  
 Leader: Because you, not we, are God,  
           We need you, God.  
 All: We need you, God.  
           (silence)  
 Leader: Listen, for the Lord who created you says,  
           “ Do not be afraid,  
           For I have redeemed you.  
           I have called you by name-  
           You are mine. You are precious to me.  
           I love you. I honor you.  
           I am with you.”  
           (silence)  
 Leader: Listen, Lord,  
           It is your people who say:  
 All: We are your children,  
           The creatures of your care,  
           The bearers of your image,  
           This day we will walk by your light  
           Live by your Spirit,  
           And follow your Son.  
           This day  
           We will not offer to you offerings that cost us nothing.  
 For this is the day that the Lord has made.  
 We will rejoice and be glad in it. AMEN.

**Song – Alleluia Iona Community**  
**Hymnal subscription Service, 1998:2**

A simple piece such as this can speak powerfully of the transcendence of God as it is allowed time and space in the context of worship. A prayer of praise and devotion to God, this piece can also led itself to spoken prayers, both spontaneous and crafted.

928 Alleluia  
SOUTH AFRICA

(New hymn)

*Warmly and purposefully*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al -

le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al -

le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



**Songs - If You Believe and I believe,  
& Mayenziwe Iona Community,  
Hymnal Subscription Service, 1998:2**

Again, powerful songs of the people who have a strong sense of their role in worship. The song of prayer is one of expectancy in God's action in the world, and is strong enough to bear the weight of global concerns. Mayenziwe affirms God's will, God's way, and the priority of God's people as they engage the world.

923 If you believe and I believe  
ZIMBABWE irregular

(New hymn)  
Moderato

G C D<sup>7</sup> G

If you be - lieve and I be - lieve and

C D G C

we to - geth - er pray, — the Ho - ly Spir - it

D<sup>7</sup> G C D G

must come down and set God's peo - ple free, — and

set God's peo - ple free, \_\_\_ and set God's peo - ple

free; \_\_\_ the Ho - ly Spir - it must come down

and set God's peo - ple free. \_\_\_

Hymnal Subscription Service, 1998:2  
Herald Press, Scandale, PA  
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**MAYENZIWE**  
SOUTH AFRICA  
(from Many and Great)

*Not too quickly*

Ma - ye - (Ma - ye) nzi - we 'nta - nda y - kho. Ma -  
Your will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - (Ma - ye) nzi - we 'nta - nda ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -  
will (Your will) be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we 'nta - nda ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -  
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

nda ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - nda ya - kho.  
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

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## **Morning Liturgy 1**

### **Prayers of the Coming of the Kingdom**

Taking the theme of the Lord's prayer, but shaping its language to speak with power and clarity, the church in prayer has vision, focus, and new understanding of its role in worship.

Take only the phrase, "Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today," and use it as the beginning phrase of your congregational prayers for a month, a season, a year, and find its transforming power. Create your own prayers with the refrain, "Your kingdom come, your will be done."

### **Prayers for the Coming of the Kingdom**

Leader: Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.

Lord, God  
Because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,  
We hold to his word and share his plea:

All: *Your Kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where nations budget for war  
While Christ says, "Put up your sword."

All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where countries waste food and covet fashion  
While Christ says, "I was hungry...I was thirsty..."

All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where powerful governments claim their policies are  
Heaven blessed,

While scripture proclaims that God has no favorites,

All: *You kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of their  
Own church,  
As if Christ had come to build and not break barriers,  
All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where women who speak up for their dignity  
Are treated with scorn or contempt,  
All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where men try hard to be tough,  
Because they're afraid to be tender,  
All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where we, obsessed with being adult,  
Forget to become like children,  
All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where our prayers falter  
Our faith weakens,  
Our light grows dim,  
All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Where Jesus Christ calls us,  
All: *Your kingdom come, your will be done.*

Leader: Lord God,  
You have declared that your kingdom is among us.  
Open our eyes to see it,  
Our ears to hear it,  
Our hearts to hold it,  
Our hands to serve it.  
This we pray in Jesus' name,

All: *AMEN*

## Offering Prayers

The following prayers are taken from the Giving Project Resources for church renewal. It is through the offering time in worship that our priorities can be joyfully affirmed, God's work can be celebrated, and new vision which engages our resources can be called forth.

Use #1 With the following suggestion:

"As the prayer is spoken, you are invited to simply place your hands, palms up, in an open position of receiving and giving."

#5 Use in a similar way. Have people tightly grip paper money or coins, and then open their hands to release it joyfully.

#17 Theme 5: Joyful response to God's redeeming acts

## Offering Prayers

#1

(Based on Psalm 104:28)

Dear God,  
    You open your hands and we know your goodness  
You open your hands and the earth produces  
    For us.  
You open your hands and another child is born  
    Into the world.  
And God, you opened your hands and gave us  
    The greatest gift of all,  
    Your only Son who died so that we might live.  
And now, just as you open your hands to us,  
    We now open our hands to you.  
    Take these, our gifts to you.  
    Take them and pass them on to any who lack  
    Food, clothing, shelter...  
    To any who need to know your goodness...  
    To any who have not accepted the gift of your  
    Son.  
We give them with joy.  
We give them with thankful hearts,  
    Our hands not holding tightly to what we keep.  
Amen.

**#5**

**Joyful release**

This money we once gripped in our hands is now  
 In these plates ( baskets, container, etc.)  
 You released us from its grip on us.  
 You freed us to give generously to your purposes.  
 Grip our hearts to live the rest of our lives devoted  
 To you,  
 Just as we devoted these gifts to you. Amen.

**#17**

**Joyful response to God's Redeeming acts**

When: Anytime in the service

Introduction: Read John 1:1-5, 10-13

(As the text is read or recited dramatically, someone lights a candle in the front of the sanctuary to highlight John 1:4.)

God created the world. Throughout history God seeks to redeem it through many saving acts. Today we respond to God's saving work in Jesus by giving ourselves to God through the offering.

(Receive the offering while a song about salvation is sung. Ushers bring the offering forward, then pick up individual candles, light them from the candle already lit, then hold their candles high.)

Dedication: Lord,

You have blessed us through the saving act of Jesus.  
 We thank you that our life can be rekindled in him.  
 The light came into the world,  
 But the darkness will not understand it,  
 Unless we respond by taking the light to the world. Amen.

(Ushers proceed slowly out of the sanctuary with candles lit and held high, symbolizing taking our light to the world.)

## **Closing Responses**

The language is clear that God is acting, even when we are not!  
The reminder is there that Christ is present in everyone we meet.  
The call is for our engagement with the Spirit in God's active purposes in the world.

## **Closing Responses**

Leader: For all that God can do within us,  
For all that God can do without us,  
All: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: For all in whom Christ lived before us,  
For all in whom Christ lives beside us,  
All: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: For all the Spirit wants to bring us,  
For where the Spirit wants to send us,  
All: *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: Listen.  
Christ has promised to be with us in the world,  
as in our worship.  
All: *AMEN, we go to meet him.*



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