



**Mennonite
Church**
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Edmonton 2006

ASSEMBLY SUNDAY WORSHIP RESOURCES

Introduction

From July 4-7, 2006 People from across Mennonite Church Canada will gather in Edmonton, Alberta to worship and work together.

The theme for this assembly is *God's People Now!* These worship resources are based on that theme and draw on the worship that has been planned for Edmonton 2006. We invite you to use this material on one of the following ways:

- As a worship resource on July 9, 2006, the Sunday immediately following the assembly in Edmonton.
- As a worship resource when your congregation's delegates report back to you about their experience at the assembly.
- At another time when the theme and material are appropriate.



Even as God called creation into existence, light out of darkness, we are a people called, equipped and sent to engage in God's work in the world.

Theme text: 1Peter2:9-10

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (NIV)

Call to Worship

(based on 1 Peter 2:2-10, 21-25)

- L: Come, worship the Christ, a living stone
Rejected by mortals but precious in God's sight.
- P: We are like living stones
Being used in building the spiritual temple,
With Christ as our cornerstone.**
- L: We will offer spiritual sacrifices
Acceptable to God through Jesus Christ,
- P: for we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
A holy nation, God's own people.**
- L: Once we were no people,
But now we are God's people.
- P: Therefore, we declare the mighty acts of God,
Who calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light.
We will be priests of good news
And serve each other,
With Christ as our example**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have called us to be whole,
Even as you are holy.
We confess that we have not lived
The disciples' life to which you have called us.
We have ignored our pledge to take up the cross
And follow in joyful obedience.
We have become more conformed to the world
Than transformed by new minds and natures.
We have relaxed our principles
And justified personal pleasure.
Forgive our unholiness, our unfaithfulness to you.
Empower us to be worthy disciples
Who follow the teachings of Jesus and grow in his image.
Help us live as a called-out people,
Holy and acceptable in your sight,
To whom be glory forever and ever. Amen

—Arlene Mark, From *Words for Worship*: used by permission of Herald Press

Sung Words of Assurance:

STJ (Sing the Journey) 23

HWB (Hymnal Worship Book) 145

Slowly Turning, Ever Turning

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Other Song Suggestions:

STJ 27 *God of the Bible*

STJ 42 *Listen, God Is Calling*

HWB 414 *God Who Stretched*

HWB 304 *There Are Many Gifts*

HWB 365 *Christ From Whom All Blessings*

HWB 418 *Move in Our Midst*

Ministry to Children

Choose one of the three main areas or combine all three to demonstrate calling, equipping and sending.

1. Remember a time when you were called to join in a picnic. (Bring a hamper packed for a picnic, or treats to share later) What did you pack? What treasures were put in the hamper or cooler to share later? What did you bring for activities and games? Were you prepared or equipped properly? Recall a time you forgot something and how that made you feel and another time when you were better prepared. (Recall the story of Jesus feeding the 5000, and how Jesus handled the dilemma of people not being prepared for a picnic). When you have had a great time together and its time to go home what do you say to your friends? (See ya! Lets do this again! A promise for the future).

At the close of our worship service we also receive farewell greetings. Find a blessing from scripture to share with the children.

2. Cookie baking (Have a pan in the oven at church to fill the sanctuary with its aroma.

Props could include an apron, cookie sheet, a ball of dough). Talk of baking together at a friends place. How would everyone find out when and where to meet (phone call, e-mail, or talk to a friend at school)? Who brings the ingredients and decides which recipe to follow or if the people getting the cookies have allergies? What is your favorite recipe? What would you need to bake a pan of cookies? What ingredients? What tools? What jobs are there when making a dough (measuring, pouring, mixing, placing on the pan). (sending) What do you do with the cookies you baked?

Take the time to go visit a neighbor or shut-in and share in the joy of eating together, or use them as a fundraiser for a special project.

(Give each child two cookies, one to eat and one to share. Or have children place dough on the pan and bake after the service as part of a potluck meal to share together).

Sermon ideas

Calling

1Peter 2:9-10

Genesis 1: 1-4 God calls creation from darkness in to light, to set the stage for our call from darkness into light

Matthew 5: 15-16

Stories of calling:

Moses, Saul on the Damascus road (use of light and darkness give interpretive possibilities), Jesus' call of his disciples (John's telling of the call of Nathaniel, "called to call"), give opportunity to tell about Biblical stories of "call".

Equipping

11 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound...abound in every good work."

11 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be thoroughly equipped..."

Sending

John 20:21 "As the Father is sending me, I am sending you."

Engage members of you congregation to tell their stories of being called, equipped and sent.

Benediction

(based on Hebrews 13:20 The Message)

May God, who puts all things together
Who made a lasting mark through the sacrifice of Jesus
Who led Jesus, our Great Shepherd
Up and alive from the dead,
Now put you together, provide you
With everything you need to please him,
All glory to Jesus forever and always! Amen