

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL DANCIN' AT THE ROCK DONALD MOORE
 WOMEN'S CHOIR

INVITATION INTO WORSHIP (*responsively*) (NEED TO CHECK SOURCE...MAYBE IONA ABBEY WORSHIP BOOK?)

One day is ending; another waits to unfold. Tonight we are gathered as Jesus' followers,

To celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ.

Tonight we have come to follow the One of Peace and

To celebrate a life lived with compassion and forgiveness.

Tonight we have come to remember we live in a hurting world and

To witness to a new way of living that celebrates the power of God's love.

Tonight we have come to proclaim the hope for renewed life, and

To join in God's work of creating a new world of justice and shalom.

As the current generation of witnesses to the resurrection, let us sing out our hope and praise;

Let us worship God!

HYMN ...SUGGESTION, "GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY" (NCH 436)

OPENING PRAYER (*unison*)

Holy God, we are here tonight because of our faith. We traveled from places close by and far away, leaving friends and family, other obligations and weekend routines to gather as your community. We live this sacrifice with joy and hope. By our time together, renew our vision of your realm. Increase our connections so that your will may be more fully done, making concrete the love you have for your people and your creation. Give us your wisdom and courage to continue working in faith, following you wherever you lead. Amen.

(Intro to the scripture readings...introduces theme of "Working in Faith: Putting Jesus First" and we're on a journey following Jesus; something or other to connect with the idea that tonight we're summoned to begin the journey (tie into lyrics of first verse) and invite people to intentionally following Jesus, leaving behind whatever and being fully present to his Spirit's leading in worship and throughout the weekend—this part wouldn't go in the bulletin but it might be done by whomever reads the James passage. I can write up the intro for the reader. Then we'd sing the first verse of "The Summons" and maybe it would play quietly underneath the scripture readings?) *Play underneath while reading*

***1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?***

JAMES 2:14-20 (THE MESSAGE)

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

¹⁸ I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

***2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?***

***3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?***

LUKE 24:36-40 (THE MESSAGE)

³⁶⁻⁴¹ While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

***4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?***

***5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.***

SERMON

THE REV. ALAN MILLER

WOMEN'S CHOIR – THE GIFT OF LOVE - HAL HOPSON

OFFERING (WILL INCLUDE INVITATION TO GIVE, OFFERTORY NOTES AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION)

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table (would work nicely with 2 voices)

I did not know his name
when he said, "Come,"
and took my arm in his
and led me to my gate,
as if the house were his and I the guest.

I did not know his name
when he said, "Listen,"
and spoke of other folk
I never knew
but who were soon to come and knock on my door.

I did not know his name
when he said mine,
and asked for loaves of bread,
a glass of wine
and to share a meal
with a new community gathered 'round.

I did not know his name
when he said, "Take,"
and at my table, with his friends,
he broke bread and shared his glass,
and said, "This is for you,"
and sang a love song to us all.

I never knew his name
until he rose to leave,
and kissed me on the brow,
and said, "I'm with you always now."
I said, "My Lord."
He keeps his word.

Communion Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise...

Liturgy will continue and includes breaking/pouring, consecration, rubrics for sharing the meal, any singing/music that happens during communion and a concluding prayer of thanksgiving

HYMN/SONG

WHAT ABOUT "IN CHRIST ALONE?"

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

In gratitude, in deep gratitude
for this moment,
this place,
these people,
we give ourselves to you.

**Take us out
to live as changed people,
because we have been touched by the living Christ
and cannot remain the same.**

Ask much from us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.

**So, God, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and as citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

The invitation to the communion table, "I Did Not Know His Name," and the closing prayer, "In gratitude, in deep gratitude" are used by permission and adapted from *Present on Earth* copyright © 2002 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH, Scotland.

Jesus shows both faith and works when he shows his scars to his disciples and invites their touch...it's a faith made real by a living sacrifice