

Call to Worship

Year B, Pentecost 3

By Beth Barnett

This resource uses Psalm 138 as a call to worship.
Use in any intergenerational service.

<p>You will need:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinaesthetic ministry leaders (a team of people to lead actions) • A leader, and readers (scattered among your gathering) for blue words • Call to worship on the screen or printed and distributed among your gathering
<p>Time required:</p>	<p>2 minutes</p>

Instructions

Prepare a team of people of any age, ability or body size and type to practice and present the actions that accompany the words of the psalm.

Prepare some readers to say one of the words in blue in the reading. The Call to worship begins with just the blue words called out by the readers as the kinesthetic ministry leaders do the accompanying actions.

Then the whole psalm is read with the readers calling out the blue words in context and the kinesthetic ministry leaders doing the accompanying actions again, and everyone joining on the lines in green italics.

Be sure not to rush through the reading. Let the changing voices and the actions slow the reading down and help make space for being present and attentive to its meaning and to God in your midst.

The movements for kinesthetic ministry leaders are listed in the reading below. These actions should be done twice. First as just the action words are read at the start of the reading, then again as the whole psalm is read and these words occur in the context of the reading.

Introduction

God calls us together to celebrate and confess and consider our lives. Our Call to worship is drawn Psalm 138 - it calls us to worship from the highs and lows, the ups and downs, from far away and from right in the middle of it.

Our kinesthetic ministry leaders will lead us in some actions, which you are invited to watch, or to follow and join in with - whatever will help you become fully present to meet with God in this time of worship.

Leader : We give you thanks O Lord

Readers: (from in amongst the gathering, one at a time, with leaders doing the actions)

with - actors stand shoulder to shoulder in pairs

before - actors stand face to face in pairs

down toward - half actors kneel down in front of the other actors

lifted up - all actors stand with hands lifted up

above everything - all actors stand with hands lifted up and face away from gathering

increased - all actors face gathering, place hands to chest then expand arms outwards

great - all actors circle hands up over head and out

high - all actors hands over head as a crown, fingers pointing up

lowly - actors either drop to their knees or bend from the waist

far away - actors who can, run out of the gathering space

in the midst - all actors move into the middle of the gathering space (Eg mid point in a central aisle) and stand facing inwards as a group

stretch out - all actors face outwards and stretch up, out, down with their arms in different directions.

As Psalm 138 moves us towards a posture of praise and worship, please join in the responses in green italics and any of the movements you would like to.



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Leader : We give you thanks O Lord

All: I give you thanks, O LORD,

with my whole heart;
before the gods

All: I sing your praise;
I bow **down toward**
your holy temple

All: and give thanks to your name

for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have
exalted your name
and your word **above everything**.

On the day I called,
you answered me,
you **increased** my strength of soul.

All: All the kings of the earth shall praise you,

O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
Great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high,
he regards the **lowly**;
but the haughty he perceives from **far away**.

Though I walk
in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you **stretch out** your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;

All: your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.



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