



Heart Havens Month 2018 Worship Resources

The theme for Heart Havens Month 2018 is “Life of the Party,” after Luke 14:12-14. Additional scriptures this year are Galatians 3:26-29 and Isaiah 58:6-12. We’re celebrating that when we make it a point to include everyone, blessings abound for everyone! You are welcome to use these resources as you plan your observance of Heart Havens Month. If you have any questions, or if you’d like to schedule a speaker to visit your congregation, please call our office toll-free at (877) 442-8368.

Special thanks to Rev. Rachel May and Rev. Danny Kesner for their assistance in preparing these resources.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

United Methodist Hymnal

"Help Us Accept Each Other" 560
"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" 581
"In Christ There Is No East or West" 548
"Many Gifts, One Spirit" 114

The Faith We Sing

"The Servant Song" 2222
"Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother" 2225
"Together We Serve" 2175
"Gather Us In" 2236

Worship & Song

"Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"—3122
"Draw the Circle Wide"—3154
"One Is the Body"—3156

MEDITATIONS

"Yet, we have our ways of distinguishing one from another, in order to structure our contemporary world. Oftentimes, these distinctions among us hinder us from true fellowship with one another. Jesus' story is a reminder to us about the company we keep." —Emerson Powery, WorkingPreacher.Org

"We often confuse unity with uniformity, because it is much easier to gather with people who are like ourselves than it is to reach across the divisions which mark our culture." —Brian Peterson, WorkingPreacher.org



"Paul reminds us that whatever human categories may describe us, they do not define us, "for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." All human categories are subordinate and ultimately irrelevant to our primary identity as members of the body of Christ." –Elisabeth Johnson, WorkingPreacher.Org

THE BISHOP'S PRAYER FOR HEART HAVENS

Creator God, you have formed us in your perfect image. Thank you for the gifts and talents you give each one of us to use in the building of your kingdom. We hear your call to live and work as one body, perfected in love. Grant us open minds to recognize the gifts our brothers and sisters with a developmental disability bring, and grant us open hearts as we include Heart Havens residents as active members of the body of Christ. Bless the Heart Havens staff, and all who give of themselves to empower their brothers and sisters with a developmental disability. This we pray in the name of the One who came to unite people of all abilities, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharma D. Lewis, Resident Bishop
Virginia Conference, The United Methodist Church

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ's table is open to all!

People: So too should ours be!

Leader: When we sit down together, we are called to look around:

People: Who isn't included? Who have we left out?

Leader: When we welcome everyone to our table,

People: Our churches are stronger, our neighborhoods are stronger, and God rejoices!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, thank you for the gifts and talents you have granted each one of us. Thank you for the mystery of your creation, and for your call for us to share your love with our brothers and sisters throughout our community. Help us to empower those with a developmental disability to be full participants in our churches, in your Kingdom, and at your Table. This we ask in the name of the One who came teaching us to pray: [The Lord's Prayer]



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

So, tell me something. Do you ever play with Legos? What sorts of things can you build with Legos? Perhaps a house, a barn, a tower? Maybe a castle or a spaceship?

How many different sizes and shapes of Legos are there? A whole lot, right? There are long flat pieces, and skinny pieces, and pieces made to be doors. What others can you think of? If you're going to build something awesome, you need a bunch of different kinds of pieces. A house isn't a house without door or window pieces, and you need smaller pieces to build a chimney than you do a wall.

What if I told you that people are like Legos? It's true! People are the Legos of the kingdom of God. God has made us all different. Some of us are good at math, some of us are good at drawing. When we put all our gifts together, we can do some awesome stuff. When we put all our gifts together, and work together, we can build the kingdom of God. God can use all of our gifts and talents, even the ones we don't think he can! God made us exactly the way he wanted us, and he made us to work with our brothers and sisters with all sorts of gifts and abilities to make this world the best it can be. I think it's pretty neat to be a Lego, do you?

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you for the talents and gifts you give us and our friends. Thank you for letting us be the building blocks of your kingdom. We love you and we praise you! In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

From the dust you created us,
each one individually, and granted us each
different gifts and abilities to use to glorify you
and to bless those around us.
Even when we fail to recognize and celebrate
the gifts of others, your love for each and every one
of your children remains strong and unchanging.



And so,
With your people on earth
And all the company of heaven,
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy lord, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
You sent him to earth as a living example of how
to truly love our neighbors, and now he
sends us into the world to spread justice,
to speak kindness, and to share friendship and love
with people of all abilities. Just as he opened the Kingdom
to everyone, he still calls us to open our hearts, and our churches,
to everyone, regardless of ability.

On the night in which he gave all of himself for us,

[officiant recounts the events of the Last Supper]

So, in remembrance of your perfect love embodied in Jesus Christ,
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
And on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make Christ known to us in the sharing
Of this heavenly meal, that the light of Christ
Might shine out of us and into the world,
That all people will know that they, too,
Have a place in this Body.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
Now and forever. **Amen.**