



WELCOME

Traditionally, Christians have used a "call to worship" to begin a formal time of worship. After welcoming everyone and going over logistical details (e.g., location of the bathroom, water, etc.) you can begin your time of worship by saying something like this:

"Jesus reminded his followers "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20). We gather today in Jesus' name to worship. Listen to these words from Psalm 95 as we begin:"

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Let's begin our time of worship by "singing for joy to the Lord."



Songs

"Everlasting God"

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our strong deliverer

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

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“King of My Heart”

Let the King of my heart be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from, oh, He is my song
Let the King of my heart be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life, oh, He is my song

You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh
You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh

Let the King of my heart be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves, oh, He is my song
Let the King of my heart be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days, oh, He is my song

Let the King of my heart be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves, oh, He is my song
Let the King of my heart be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days, oh, He is my song

You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh
You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh

You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down

You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down

You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh
You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh

You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh
You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh
You are good, good, oh, You are good, good, oh



Announcements

These are important announcements for the whole church to hear. These keep us unified and supporting McLane Church.

All of our current announcements can be found scrolling on the home page of our website. Here are a few you want to pay special attention to this week!

- Our **McLane Kids** have a great online adventure coming this Fall! Preschool kids will discover the story of God's grace through worship and the Bible app, while our elementary kids learn about being made in God's image. Check out all of the details at mclanechurch.org/kids! Also, join our **McLane Kids FaceBook group** for all of the latest news and updates.
- If you have lost someone close to you, consider joining our **GriefShare** support group either in person or online. Sessions begin on September 21 from **noon to 2 pm at our Edinboro campus** or via the **Zoom platform from 6:30 - 8:30 pm**. Meetings run about 90 minutes and include a 30-40 minute video and time for discussion. More information and registration can be found at mclanechurch.org/griefshare.



Lectionary Scripture

Our scripture for today is taken from the New Testament reading in the lectionary. The lectionary unites all Christians around the same scripture each day of the year, reminding us that we are a small part of Christ's Church.

Matthew 18:15-20 (NLT)

¹⁵ "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

¹⁹ "I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."



Offering & Prayer

This segment is a nice transition to the sermon. There are three ways to give. Please mention these rather than collecting money at your worship experience. No need to feel funny about this – it is a “spiritual act of worship,” which we believe changes each giver for the better.

The prayer is written by our worship leaders, serving as a model on how to pray and uniting McLane Church in heart and mind.

Ways to Give:

We are so thankful for the way that you support the work of McLane Church. There are several options that make it easy to give:

- **By Phone:** Text MCLANE to 77977, click on the link and follow the instructions
- **By Computer:** Go to mclanechurch.org/give
- **By Mail:** Send your gift to our central office at 12511 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412

Thank you for being a generous church!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

The enemy is good at distracting us. In times of stress, let us remember that it is Your desire for us to lean on You. Let us remember that You long to be the center of our lives. Please give us the strength we need so that we may experience the peace only You can provide. It is in Your name we pray.

Amen



Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

For the sake of time, you may want to choose one or two questions.

Saved Through not From

Warm Up:

Can you describe an experience in your life that you desperately wanted God to change or remove you from, only later to find yourself thankful that God allowed you to go through the experience instead of removing you from it? Share the experience with your group.

Read:

Revelation 7:1-17

Discuss:

- In Revelation chapters 6 & 7, the author describes the difficult and troubling realities of this life: war, famine, disease, pestilence, persecution, etc. How would the author's affirmation of these realities been, strangely, a comfort to his first century listeners/readers?
- In what ways could this present life be described as "tribulation"? What are the greatest challenges and difficulties you have faced in your life? What are the greatest challenges and difficulties you are facing right now?
- The "great multitude" in Revelation chapter 7 "comes out of the great tribulation." They are not spared from this time of difficulty, but rather are saved through it. Why do you think God often "saves us through" our difficulties and challenges instead of enabling us to avoid difficulties and challenges all together?



- The author of Revelation sees the great multitude around God's throne enjoying peace and blessing. God has wiped away every tear. How would this vision have been an encouragement to Christians in the first century? How is it an encouragement to you?
- The visions in the Book of Revelation contain both a future and present dimension. In what ways are the realities of John's vision of the great multitude present realities in our lives? In other words, how are you presently experiencing God's peace and blessing, even in the midst of the trials and troubles you may be going through?
- As a follower of Jesus Christ, you are "sealed by God." How does this truth give you confidence to face today--and every day?

Pray

Take a moment and close in prayer as a group. Thank God for saving us *through* our difficulties. Pray that we would all experience peace and blessing in the midst of tribulations that we may face.



Concluding Prayer

*This is a blessing or benediction to both conclude the service
and send people out to do good in the week ahead.*

Go out into the world in peace.

Have courage!

Hold on to what is good.

Honor all people.

Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the
suffering, and share the gospel.

Love and serve the Lord your God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And may the grace of our Lord

Jesus Christ be with you all.

In the name of Christ who, together with the
father and holy spirit, reigns now and forever,

Amen.