

WORSHIP SERVICE PLAN**(Traditional & Online Service)**

Build Disciples, Part One • The First Sunday in Lent

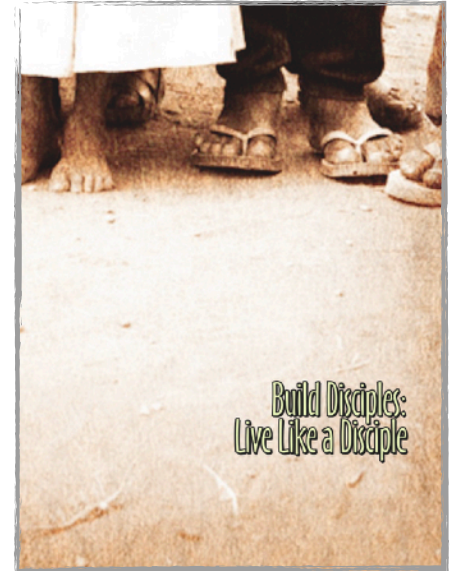
Matthew 28:16-20; John 13:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24*"Live like a Disciple"*

Being a disciple means living that kind of life.

(online only) Preparation for Worship

Gather these items for worship. If you don't have a particular item, fret not:

- a piece of white cloth
- an end table or stand
- a plate with bread
- a cup with juice
- a glass or bowl of water
- a lighter/match
- a driver's license
- a computer or internet-accessible device
- a thank you card to God for something this week



For each item you have, thank God for the provision. For each piece you do not have, thank God you don't need it. Place the table/stand in the area you plan to worship. If more than one person will be present, place the table in the middle of where you will be seated. Drape the cloth over it. Arrange the cup, plate, glass of water, and other items on the table. Keep the Bible in front of you. Be ready with enough Communion elements for each person in your household.

Questions for the announcement loop*In preparing for Worship, consider the following:*

- What are the limits on what you can do as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- What do you have left to learn as a disciple? What are you doing to learn it?
- What could someone learn about being a disciple from observing your life?
- Can building disciples happen at a distance or must you be close?

(10am only) Choral Introit:*"Jesus, We Are Here" GTG #392***(10am only) Prelude:***"When In Our Music God Is Glorified" arr. Lloyd Larson***Opening Sentence****John 13:35 (CEB)**

[Jesus said,] "This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

Welcome to this service of Worship, We are glad you are with us! We have a few Community Notes for you to consider as we worship throughout the week...

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here! Our nursery is in the Education Building and our restrooms are in the other buildings as well (if you need them).

One Step at a Time

We all have different paths. While this may be obvious, it becomes apparent that our penchant to judge comes from a place that forgets about that. Though every path is different there is one universal truth: everyone takes their path one step at a time. What are the steps God has placed before you? As you enter into the season of Lent consider the steps you will take this season and even this year. And don't just consider where you might be going. consider who, what, when, where and how you are stepping. What are you teaching others about faith in Christ from the way you are walking your path?

Building Disciples

Classically, the Gospel of Matthew ends with the charge from Jesus to "make disciples." That we are partners with God in the building of the Kingdom. Our church motto ends with this notion. How in the world do we do that? During the season of Lent, we are exploring that question and the practical

application of the Gospel in our lives and for the lives of others. Look for the study materials on our website and Facebook page.

Compass Communion Service

On Sunday, March 9th, we are hosting our worship service with Communion at Compass Health and Rehabilitation. We can use your help to make it happen! We need folks to prepare the Communion elements, to gather residents who need assistance, to help residents during the service, and getting folks back in place. We meet at the door closest to the Chapel (facing the front, the door to the right end of the building) at 1:30pm.

Prayer Chains

Do keep up with your Prayer Chain kit! When done, we will collect your chains and use them to adorn our worship spaces with the prayers of our community.

(10am only) Greet one another in Christ!

(10am only) "Make Me a Servant" CEL #669

**Make me a servant, humble and meek;
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

Being a disciple means living that kind of life.

In this moment, let us remain standing, take a deep breath, silence our devices, and continue in worship together. Let us be called to worship using the liturgy that is before you...(pause)

(10am only) Call to Worship

God has called on Hawfields Presbyterian Church

to share Jesus Christ

to grow in faith

to build disciples

Let us answer God's call

in the ways we choose to live

Let us sing our opening song together...

Sing:

"When In Our Music God Is Glorified" GTG #641

Prayer of Confession/Preparation

God believes we can live as disciples of Jesus Christ. But have shown that we believe otherwise. That's just wrong. It's important to talk about our shortcomings so that we're ready to hear what God has to say. Let us begin with silent prayer...

(Please pray silently...)

Pray: Lord God, your standards are high but within reach. Forgive us when we won't reach. Your will is plain and easy to engage. Forgive us when we complicate it. Your love is the defining characteristic of your Spirit and activity with us. Forgive us when we choose to be known by other stuff. You give us multiple chances to get it right. You give us time for which we didn't ask, strengths we sometimes won't use, wisdom we won't heed. Forgive us when we reject your gifts. May we come to reflect your generosity as enthusiastically as we receive it. Thank you for listening, God. Amen.

(10am only) Assurance of Pardon

God's love can change everything, even the power of our sins over us. And it is God's will that we have this power:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

(10am only) Gloria Patri (Glory to God)

Glory be to the Father

And to the Son

And to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning

It is now and ever shall be

World without end: Amen, amen.

Reading of Scripture

Say: The Word of God doesn't just inform: it reveals. The Word of God doesn't just tell us the truth, it empowers us to live our true path. The Word of God, by God's own Spirit, teaches us to live. Let us be open to this gift of God and ask for help to understand. Let us pray...(everyone sings)

Pray/Sing: "Lead Me, Lord" CEL#695

Lead me, Lord,

Lead me in Your righteousness;

Make Your way plain before my face.

Listen closely to the Word of God to us all and our ongoing place in God's story...

Read: Matthew 28:16-20 (CEB)

The Great Commission.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 (CEB)

The Christian Life.

¹² Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you, and instructing you. ¹³ Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. ¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray continually. ¹⁸ Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Don't suppress the Spirit. ²⁰ Don't brush off Spirit-inspired messages, ²¹ but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil. ²³ Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. ²⁴ The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us...

All: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Adults, you'll need:

- a step ladder
- Don't forget to wait for answers

"Hold Up"

- (pointing to the stepladder) So do you know what this is?...It is a stepladder! And the great thing about a stepladder is it can make you taller! If you're trying to reach cookies on a top shelf or put something away in a high closet shelf, the stepladder can lift you and get you in place.
- (Pick up the stepladder and press it to your body) Okay...ready to be TALLER!...hmm...okay, make me tall...(shake the ladder, speak to it, stroke it) hmm...this ladder must be broken. It's not working...(after they've had time to protest...)
- Yes, in order for the ladder to work, we must step on it. We have to put a foot on it and step up. Our life of faith is like this. God says we can do AMAZING things, even change the world! But to do that we have to take our steps. We have to allow God's love to hold us up, to lift us.
- So when you're around the people who care about you, be sure and ask them about what helps them take their steps.
- Don't forget to pray!

(10am only) Anthem:

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" arr. Lloyd Larson;
Duet: Noah and Lora Melton

Sermon: "Live like a Disciple"

As some of you know, my parents are ailing and from time to time my siblings and I make a pilgrimage to check on them. Recently when taking my turn, I got everything ready for the trip to West Virginia. I had cash for the toll booths, I had snacks for the road, I had the music playlist I put together and my maps app showed up as expected on my car's display. It wasn't until I stopped for gas that I realized **that my wallet had fallen out of my pants and was sitting there peacefully at the end of my bed.** I was already halfway to Mom and Dad's. Given my circumstances, I thought it best not to draw too much attention to myself and so I drove the speed limit the rest of the way. I wasn't TOO worried: I did have a legal driver's license. It's just that the actual *card* wasn't with me. Nevertheless, I still felt vulnerable, in violation, wrong.

It's not that having the license made me into something I'm not. In fact, I didn't suddenly gain powers I didn't earn. I had to pass the written test. I had to pass the sign and vision tests. I had to pass the driving test. I had to have the proper documentation and training. I had to have the service fee. And even after I got the thing, I still had to practice, had to *gain experience*. Having the license didn't turn me into an expert driver. All it says is that, as far as the state of NC is concerned, I'm allowed to try.

Y'all, our faith functions the same way.

Sure, my baptism and profession of faith makes me part of the family. I am possessed of God's Spirit same as any of you. I have access to Bibles (just about any translation you can imagine), study materials, I've been on mission trips, I have the benefit of the wisdom and experience of others, I mean, I even carry the label of—dare I say it?—*Christian*.

I am a follower of Jesus Christ.

So, that's it, right? There's just not much else to do. Some paperwork to identify my color preferences for my digs in Heaven and filling out the online survey. Oh, and there's the HOA fee. But outside of that, that's all there is to it. Once I'm labeled a Christian there's just not anything else for me to achieve or work out. Right?

We of course KNOW this is not so. **Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is far more than just what we call ourselves.** It's about what God calls us to *do*. Sure, I have a certificate on my wall that says I'm ordained but I still have to act as an ordained person. I have a ring on my finger but I still must act, everyday, as a husband. Yes, I claim Jesus as Lord, but I still must prove his commands with my life. Thus we start with the end of the story.

Online Read: Matthew 28:16-20 (CEB)

This is literally the end of Matthew's Gospel. What do we find here? When it says that **they worshipped him and some doubted**, I LOVE that! I mean, that's OUR starting place! Those folks

standing there, with Jesus before them, could've been us. There ARE us.

But pay attention to the movements in this passage. It's so few words and they come so fast that it can be easy to miss. **It says Jesus came near and spoke to them. Not the other way around.** If we think we're the ones moving towards God we're already *behind*. If we're waiting on God we're backing up: God's waiting on us. The idea of being a disciple didn't start with us. It started with God. It is so important that we keep this simple truth in front us. This path, this faith, started with God, not us. If possession is 9/10 of the law, then God OWNS this faith: **all the questions, the doubts, the struggles, the needs, the victories, the failures belong to God.**

And as if to press the point further, Jesus talks about **authority**.

"I have a problem with authority...Nobody does what I tell them..." (no, not that kind)

Thinking of changing my name to Authorized Personnel Imagine the places I could go with a name like that...(not that kind either)

This radio conversation was released by the Chief of Naval Operations on 10-10-95.

Americans: "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision."

Canadians: "Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision."

Americans: "This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course."

Canadians: "No, I say again, you divert YOUR course."

Americans: "THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. THAT'S ONE-FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP."

Canadians: "This is a lighthouse. Your call." (okay, definitely not that kind)

The kind of authority Jesus is invoking spans history and existence. Jesus is drawing on the authority that spoke Creation to be and parted Red Sea waters. The kind of authority that can fashion an entire dynasty from an immigrant woman. The kind of authority that send someone like Jesus in the first place. It is by this authority Jesus levels the job description of the ages. He gives what is known as the Great Commission:

Make disciples of all nations.

To walk through it, what do we already know about making things? We know there's a difference between instant stuff and crafted stuff. We know that made things take time. Made things take good ingredients. Made things take experimentation and risk-taking. Made things take practice. No comes to the pottery wheel a master potter. They apprentice until they get the hang of it and then practice some more, everyday. **It takes time to make anything worth while.**

Why would that NOT be true of making disciples? This critical mass part of being Christian takes time. We must take time to get to know each other, to hear another's story. We need to take time for each other's struggles. We need to take time to understand. We need to practice talking about our faith and considering the faith of others. We need to take time with God and the faith Jesus' life teaches us to lead. We need to expect the task of being and making disciples to take a life-time.

If you're like me, you grew up in a tradition that highlights the moment of profession of faith. Believe me, there's a place for that. But the task of being Christian is well beyond a profession. It is a life. It takes time to live a life.

But in an age of t-shirts, bumperstickers, hats and yard signs, **how do we best summarize the life of a disciple?** How do we boil down the life of faith to something we can really get our minds around? The stakes are huge. What mountains must we climb or motto to be adopted? What task must we accomplish to know we're on the right track? Jesus did exactly that after serving up the Last Supper and sending Judas on his way to affect his plan. Knowing the cross was coming the next day, that

the mock trial was coming that night, that his disciples would soon ditch him at the first sign of trouble, that Peter himself would deny him three times, Jesus told them all: **"This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."**

Whew. Love each other. That sounds simple enough. We certainly say and affirm it a LOT. I've definitely seen that on t-shirts, bumperstickers, hats and yard signs. I've heard it in song after song after song. And let's be honest: the Bible talks about it a LOT also. We even get it from the Old Testament: "Love God and love people." Love, love, love.

But even after meeting our request for simplicity we still don't seem to be getting the message. Seriously, there's so much going on in the world that can hardly be called love. Genocide, in all its forms, is not love. Poverty is not love. Slavery is not love. Violence is not love. Gossip and rumor mongering is not love. Greed is not love. And if the Great Commission is any indication, not taking time with each other is not love.

Okay. So what is? How can we tell if what we're doing is love and not just something we're *calling* love?

Online Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 (CEB)

It's quite the list. In fact, if you were to take any of the directives from this list in turn, each of them alone would take a lifetime to master. As it is, God seems to believe we can multitask.

Take the command, **"Help the weak."** Just think for a moment what that really takes to do well. First, you must grow strong. Then you have identify who is weak. You have to gain their trust and then convince them that you can help. They have to believe you really want to help. Then you have to actually help them. Rinse and repeat. What does all of that require? **Love: intimacy and time.**

What about **"Pray continually"**? You've got to learn how to pray, in all its forms. You have to work out how to talk with God, how to listen to God, how to anticipate how God thinks. Praying must become so much a part of your life that it becomes

background activity, like breathing. What does that require? **Love: intimacy and time with God.**

Hmm...I'm starting to see a pattern.

Making disciples, BEING a disciple, requires intimacy and time. Being a disciple means living that kind of life. As you contemplate that this season of Lent, be warned: this path is for everyone. The excuse that you don't know enough or you're not strong enough or aren't brave enough or that you have doubts or that you are young or old, rich or poor, or only human, none of that flies. Building disciples is *everyone's* responsibility. Being a disciple is everyone's call.

So take your pick from the list. Get started. Get living. And whatever you do, take your time. You have a lifetime to get it right. By the way, don't forget, Jesus "will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

May it be so, amen.

Song of Reflection

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" GTG #729 (lyrics p.8)

Offering

God chooses to love us, abundantly. We should respond by choosing to be loving, abundantly. This is why we should give and share what we have and who we are. Let us reflect together on what has been given...

(10am only) Offertory

"Create In Me a Clean Heart" arr. Mary Lynn Lightfoot

(10am only) Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God, above heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Blessing

(text online only)

Let there be no doubt, Great God: you love us. And we are grateful. Let there be no doubt, Great God: we should be loving in turn. As we receive the gifts

you provide, may the gifts we are meant to be emerge. In the great name of Jesus Christ, we pray this together. Amen.

Prayers of the People

- At God's invitation, let us lift up our prayers together before God who is ready to listen, to answer, and to make us part of the answer. The Lord be with you...and also with you. Let us pray...

"Come, Bring Your Burdens to God" GTG #851

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God,
For Jesus will never say no. (2 X's)**

- Loving God, how can it be? How in the world do you entrust us with such a mission? How do you maintain faith that we can meet your expectations and live into such a life? What makes you think we can be trusted with making disciples and building your kingdom? Even as we question, we express our thankfulness: what can we point to that we possess that you didn't provide? You have given us everything we need to live. Help trust you then for everything we need to accomplish your hopes for us.
- Help us be mindful of the command you've issued. Help us frame our thinking by love and shape our lives by the life list you've given. Help us show you our gratitude and love for you by living by what you've given. Let this be true where ever we are. Let this be true in whatever state we find ourselves. Let this be true in the home and the hospital. Let this be true in the DMV and public park. Let this be true at school and at work. Let this be true of retirement and vacation. Let the disciple kind of life be true of us anytime and anywhere.
- Thus, let us be Godly people. Let us make a habit of compassion and consolation. Let us make second nature your grace and mercy and sense of justice. Let us set aside safety and embrace risk-taking with you. May your healing balm reach through us to those around us, especially those on our prayer lists and those we will come to know. Help us love and give love. Help us value mercy as you do. Despite our collective answer of violence, of disdain, of division, of cynicism, to your love, may we truly be washed

by you and embrace hope instead...(take time to name your own prayers)

- Thank you for believing in us, Thank you for transforming us. Thank you for teaching us, even how to pray when words fail us, saying,
- **Pray: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending

(10am) "We Are One in the Spirit" GTG #300

Sending & Benediction

Let us say together our benediction...

Being a disciple means living that kind of life.

(raise your hands and say) "Get up, take heart, Jesus is still calling you..."; Go, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guide your hearts and minds this day and forever more. Amen!

Sing: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

GTG #700

I'm gonna live so God can use me,

Anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna live so God can use me,

Anywhere, Lord, any time! (2X)

(10am only) Postlude

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" arr. Tom Fettle

Changing the World

One of the express goals of God's Kingdom-building is to change the world. And it's not just to get things back to *factory settings*, their original working order. If the Book of Revelation is any guide, we're shooting for something new—albeit, recognizable, but new.

And trying to take in everything that's going on, it all feels too big, overwhelming. Food/water insecurity is a scourge and a by-product of human greed. Food/water insecurity should *not* exist: because there's more than enough to go around.

But how do we really end hunger? Political strife has been with us since the Garden and political violence since the first children even though God provided everything they needed. Political strife and violence should not exist. But how do we address politics in real ways and in ways consistent with God's will? Our human habits can be bad to just plain evil: isolation, envy, lust, selfishness, willfulness, stubbornness. We aren't just bulls in the china shop, we sometimes knock down the entire block of stores.

As I watched the meeting in the oval office between our President and others and the President of Ukraine, I found myself realizing in the exchange a shift in our world politics. My heart was full of questions about what comes next and whether anything I do really has any impact. Whether my *faith* really matters.

I believe that may at least be part of why someone asked me if these are the "End Times." They asked whether the players, even President Trump himself, might be the AntiChrist or harbingers of the Apocalypse. Whether the events in the Middle East, especially with Israel, are signaling the end of history as we know it. With all due respect to my colleagues and theologians in many parts of the world (and history), Jesus' very plain command is helpful: be ready.

It's not that the questions don't matter. Of course they do. But what matters more is what we're studying this season of Lent: the life of a *disciple*. What matters is that we are trying to live that disciple-kind of life. If we're doing that, y'all, it simply doesn't matter WHEN the Apocalypse happens: we'll be ready. What can we really know about the End Times? Nothing. No one knows, *Jesus* says. What we DO know is that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. It's here. It's now.

So how do I answer the problem of world hunger? I feed whom I can. How do I deal with the politics of my day? I act in my capacity as a citizen: serve where I can, speak up when necessary and love my neighbors. I address the ills of this world by making *shalom*—everything being set right—my personal mission. All of this in service to changing the world by paying attention to the one thing I

truly can change: myself. God is changing me. And as that transformation happens, the world changes: what I see, what I hear, what I feel, what I know, what I do.

And so, this season of Lent and beyond, allow God to change the world by making room for God to truly change *you*. Open yourself, really open yourself, to the idea that there is room for improvement in you, places for growth. Then improve. Then grow. Don't just talk about it. Don't just give up chocolate or social media for a few weeks. Give up whatever is holding you back from a disciple's life and embrace the very grace of God that is transforming you.