



2022 Worship Resource

Overall Theme:

Renew

Call to Worship:

The Prophet Isaiah reminds us:

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV)

Let us worship our God who constantly renews our minds and spirits, our lives.

Opening Prayer

All gracious God, you are the source of hope and strength. You formed the world and formed us as a people, your people, making us in your image. We praise you for you are such an amazing Father. Like a rock that is immovable, you stand in our midst, calling us to gather near your unchangeable love. Your faithfulness toward the world is beyond our understanding.

As we worship you, acknowledging your sovereignty, we seek to be renewed in your presence. Make a way in the wilderness of our lives, that we may see you more clearly, fill our dry land that we may become resplendent with the colours of your love.

On this day when we celebrate our larger Canadian Baptist family, let your Holy Spirit flow freely within our souls so that our faith may be strengthened and our witness be evident to all. Renew us from within so that we may become vibrant with life, your life we ask in the name of the One who came to save us, Jesus Christ who we proclaim Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

God says through Ezekiel,

“Repent! Turn away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.” (Ezekiel 18:30b-31a NIV)

Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have called us into a covenant through Jesus our Saviour. You have asked that we love you with all our hearts, minds, and soul. You have asked that we love each other.

We shamefully confess that we often let go of the commands to love. We ignore your voice at times. We let our anger towards others create a barrier. We let fear of the stranger prevent us from caring as you care. Instead of seeking unity within your body, the church, we have too often let our emotions create division.

You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we confess that too often we have willingly been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks.

We also want to confess to you the poverty of our worship. We focus more on ourselves than on you, when you tell us that our very body is your Temple, where you reside. We confess our prayers are so often for our wants and not your desires, they are for us and not the good of the other. We speak of being a family but fail to care and accept one another like brothers and sisters are called to do.

We confess our frequent hesitation to tell others about you or sometimes when we tell me we do so with such force that we scare them. And we confess that too many times, we deceive other by pretending everything is well within when it isn't, not allow other walk with us or giving a false image of what it means to live for you.

In the name of Christ, our Saviour who gave his life for us, Forgive us, O God. In your mercy, renew our souls, remembering your unconditional love, remembering that we remain your children, for your love knows end and your forgiveness redeems. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear now what God says to us through the words of the Psalmist. Remember, your sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ, not just a few, but all.

“Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s (Psalm 103:1-5 NIV).”

Offertory Sentence

Paul reminds the Corinthians, and us, that “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NIV)

Invitation to Prayer

As we prepare our hearts to speak to God in prayer, let us hear His Word:

“All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in his works.”
(Psalm 104:27- 31 NIV)

Pastoral Prayer

Father in heaven, you are so good to us. You provide us with everything we need, satisfying us with your goodness. Without shame, we admit that we depend on you for everything. Therefore, we come asking you to renew us— filling our needs and those of the world we live in. We come knowing that your open hand will gladly provide.

We are so thankful that you have created us in such a way that we are meant to be dependent upon you and each other. Therefore, we thank you for our family of churches, the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec. Continue your work of regeneration within our churches, our Associations, our whole family. Rekindle our desire to connect with each other, to fellowship and get to know one another at a deeper level, so that we can properly encourage and support each other as churches of the same family. Give your wisdom to our Executive Minister, Tim McCoy, the President, Craig Rumble, the Executive and all members of the of the CBOQ Board of Directors. Provide your grace and guidance to the office staff who serve our churches and leaders.

Living in a time of tension and division, we need you more than ever, O God. We hear of and witness violence every day, leaving so many people hurt, empty. So, we pray.

We pray for those whose stomachs are empty because of drought and famine in their country or because of war and conflicts raging and food being unable to reach those who need it. Bring them nourishment who are facing critical food shortages and must see loved ones, especially children suffer and even die. Let them all eat and drink.

We pray for those who are empty emotionally— those who have witnessed horrors and experienced trauma; those who are lonely and hope beyond hope for companionship; those who suffer from depression or other mental illnesses, feeling a dark cloud over them and seeking solace from their inner pain; those who grieve, having to adjust to a heartrending loss. Let them all find peace in your embrace.

We pray for those who are spiritually empty— those who are troubled by their past or present and don't know where to turn; those who long for purpose and meaning but can't seem to find it, especially those who have had to flee their homes because of violence or economic issues, many having to make decisions and don't know where to look, what to think; those who need you, but don't know it is you they are seeking. Let them all find.

Finally, we pray for ourselves for we still have parts of our lives that have empty places. Renew our spirits by pouring your Holy Spirit in us. Fill us with your compassion and love that we would willingly share out of our abundance, our resources, our treasure, our time, not counting what we would get in return or what we would lose, but joyfully sharing out of the abundance and freedom that we have received from you hand in our country. Renew us that we may truly be agents of your peace and reconciliation. Yes, give us a spirit of willingness to be transformed in the likeness of our Saviour Jesus Christ who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Let us go now from this place of worship, remembering that:

“The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31 NIV)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

A Few Suggestions for Hymns

- A Charge to Keep I have (C Wesley)
- Create in Me a Clean Heart
- Jesus, We Look to Thee (C Wesley)
- My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (E Mott)
- For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (C Wesley)
- Take My Life and Let it Be (F Hagervall)
- This Is my Father’s World (M Babcock)
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Watts)

A Few Suggestions for Contemporary Congregational Songs

- Beneath the Waters/I Will Rise (Hillsong)
- Breath of God (V Beeching)
- Christ is Risen (M Maher)
- Cornerstone (Hillsong)
- Father Will You Come (B Smith)
- Kyrie Elison (Getty Townsend)
- Lord, I Need You (M Maher)
- Oceans/Where Feet May Fail (Hillsong)
- Wild River (P Wickham)