

Worship Resources on Choosing God by Sharon Nearhoof May

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Choose this day whom you will serve. Will you serve violence and death or will you serve God?

All: We will serve the God of Peace.

One: Choose this day whom you will serve. Will you serve advertising agencies and the products they sell or will you serve God?

All: We will serve the God who is Enough.

One: Choose this day whom you will serve. Will you serve Nike, the Gap, Sony, MTV, and PlayStation or will you serve God?

All: We will serve the God who is All We Need.

One: Choose this day whom you will serve. Will you serve the homeless, the hungry, the lost, the angry, the lonely, and the hated? Will you serve God?

All: We will serve the God of Compassion.

One: Amen.

PRAYER

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, we come to you this day as people who walk this spinning blue ball we call Earth. We are small and we are many, we are so different yet we are much the same. Sometimes we feel powerful and sometimes we feel helpless as the world closes in around us. This day, we come searching for the truth about who we are. Are we small or are we great? Are we helpless or are we powerful? Do we really have choices or are our lives scripted for us? Can we change the world or are our lives without purpose?

We have so many questions for you, God. And yet, perhaps the truth is that those are questions you have for us. Perhaps you are asking us

whether we will be small or great, helpless or powerful. Perhaps you are asking us whether our lives will have meaning...and inviting us to answer.

If so, God, help us answer well. Help us face into the world around us, into the depths of our own hearts, into your stories of grace and healing, and help us choose to be great in all our smallness. Help us choose to be powerful in all our weakness. Help us choose to change the world and see purpose in our lives.

In the face of all the questions, God, help us choose. Do not let us become paralyzed, overwhelmed, or overburdened. Give us the courage, the daring, and the hope to risk choosing love, life, peace, hope, and trust.

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, you chose to create us, to give us a world to live in, to come and live with us this side of heaven so that we would know the power of one human life burning with Spirit. May we choose to live our lives on fire with that same Spirit, with the same courage and trust in the power of Love as did that One Galilee so long ago...Jesus, whom we call Christ.

Amen.

Litany of Exhortation (for 3 voices)

- 1: Choose Life...because life is the most powerful force in the universe and the greatest gift of God.
- 2: *Choose Love...because loving is the way we give life to each other and to this world God has blessed us with.*
- 3: **Choose Joy...because God walks beside us every moment so that we are never, even in our hardest hours, alone.**
- 1: Choose Meaning...because our lives matter, our lives have purpose, and we can change the world if we dare to believe that and give our lives meaning.

2: *Choose Hope...because there is a life that is deeper than death and God gives that life to each of us, over and over again.*

3: **Choose Peace...because there is a world coming where there will no more tears, where there will be no more bullets, where all will have what they need to be well.**

ALL: Choose God...because with God all things – Life, Love, Joy, Meaning, Hope, and Peace -- are possible. Amen.

BENEDICTIONS

1. Viktor Frankl, a Jewish man imprisoned in several Nazi concentration camps, once said that “everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” Today, may you choose to serve God, to serve Life, to serve Love, to serve Peace, and to work for the coming of God’s Kingdom on earth. Amen.

2. Today, God has given you a choice. You can choose life or death, trust or suspicion, hope or despair, meaning or meaninglessness, healing or destruction. Choose well...for you are the future and the Life of the world is in your hands. Amen.