

MISSIONAL CHURCH CONVOCAATION

A FORETASTE!
TRANSFORMING
LEADERSHIP
PRACTICES



July 23-25, 2015

Chicago area

the Center
for Parish
Development

A FORETASTE: TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

CONVOCATION
July 23-25, 2015



www.missionalchurch.org

the Center for Parish Development

Dear friend,

Welcome to the convocation!

Imagine what happens when church leaders and teams model Jesus' vision for community in their church!

This is our invitation to you as you enter into the 2015 convocation.

Christ's presence becomes palpable in the day to day interactions of congregation leaders and members as they receive the gifts of the Spirit and demonstrate through their life a Foretaste of the Reign of God. Together we will explore how the ways we interact with one another could provide a bit of experience of life in the reign of God in our congregational life. Expect your time here to provide a rich opportunity to cultivate your understandings and your experience of *leadership practices* that make a difference.

Wherever two or three are gathered in his name, there Christ is present, and there is the church. We hope you will have that experience in this convocation. We gather here in



God's name, offering our prayer and worship, opening our hearts to one another, and opening our minds to receive new learning. And as a result of this time together, may you have an experience of Jesus in community – a taste – that you will to share back home as well.

We are delighted to offer you this opportunity to engage with Paul Dietterich. We have shared closely with Paul in a labor of love at the Center for Parish Development now for many years. We have been shaped and mentored by him. We have been steeped in his stories! And we are eager to share him with you. Paul brings a lifetime of valued service to the church ecumenically and worldwide, and a commitment to research and practice for transforming faith communities toward a more flavorful foretaste of God's reign. Get your forks ready!

We are so very glad you are here,

Ray Schulte and Dale Ziemer, Managing Directors

Convocation Resource People

Featured Speaker: **Paul M. Dietterich**



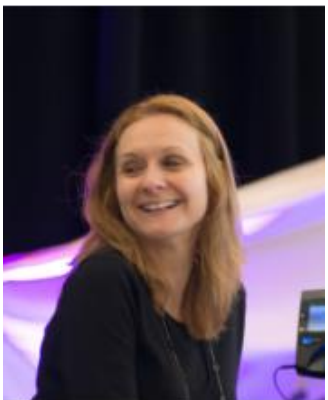
From 1971 to 2005 Paul Dietterich guided the work of the Center for Parish Development as its executive director. He is an ordained minister of the Iowa Conference UMC and has served congregations in Massachusetts and Iowa. He holds degrees from Ohio Wesleyan University and Boston University School of Theology, earning a doctorate in the field of planned change in church organizations. Paul is a major contributor to the field of practical theology, and is writing a book that expresses a life-long commitment to research and practice, *Foretaste! Leadership for the Missional Church* (working title).

Bible study leader: **Inagrace Dietterich**



Inagrace is director for Theological Research at the Center for Parish Development and Bible study leader for this Convocation. She is a theologian, researcher, consultant, and teacher with a deep commitment to the transformation of the church in today's world. She is a contributing author to *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, *Stormfront: The Good News of God*, and *Missional Evangelism*. Inagrace has authored numerous Bible study resources published by the Center for Parish Development.

Worship leader: **Laura Kline**



We are delighted to welcome Laura to the convocation as worship leader! She is a lifelong musician and blessed to be working with many amazing and talented people in the area of Worship Arts at Joy! Lutheran Church in Gurnee, IL. (We may be meeting some of them during times of worship at the convocation). Laura is also working on a Master of Divinity Degree at Trinity University. She is married to Jay and has three children: Alyssa, Andrew, and Leah. When she gets spare time she likes to travel, read, exercise, and spend time with friends.

A FORETASTE: TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

Learning Objectives for this Convocation

As a result of your participation in this convocation you can expect to:

1. Discover the importance of organizational climate in shaping the witness of the missional church.
2. Identify the leadership challenges and opportunities for cultivating the church as a foretaste of the reign of God.
3. Discover 1 Peter's vision of the identity, behavior, and faithful witness of God's people in a hostile world.
4. Explore leadership behaviors that form faith communities of worship, discipleship, and witness.

Realistic Expectations

You can realistically expect to:

1. Work in a variety of groupings: in the plenary group, working alone, with one or two others, but mostly as a table group.
2. Engage in worship and prayer together.
3. Participate in communal Bible study processes.
4. Be stimulated by thought provoking presentations.
5. Share your experience and learn from others as they share.
6. Discover a range of perspectives that can broaden your horizons.
7. Explore common ground for responding to the challenges and opportunities facing the church today.
8. Meet and learn with others, sharing stories of transformation and hope.

Proposed Norms

In this convocation, it is important to identify and embrace those norms that will help to create and sustain a learning environment. Therefore let us –

1. Take responsibility for our own learning.
2. Use your best active listening skills.
3. Make room in your table conversation for each other, making sure everyone has opportunity to speak and to listen.
4. Disagree with each other, share a divergent point of view.
5. Welcome each other with your words and actions.
6. Try out new ways of thinking, behaving, and perceiving in a safe environment.
7. Build on each other's ideas—and give them credit for it.
8. Have fun while working hard.

Christian Life in a Complicated World

My initial reaction after rereading 1 Peter was, “Are you serious?” First Peter’s call to good conduct, to acceptance of human authority, and to suffering may sound more like legalism or moralism than good news about new creatures in Christ. Or, might such living—based in hope and sharing in Christ’s own suffering—lead Christians to be intentional participants in God’s providential governance of their world and creative reshaping of society?

Marc Kolden, “Are You Serious?”

Convocation Design

Thursday, July 23

- 1:00 p.m. Gathering
 1:30 **SESSION ONE:**
 Worship
 Presentation
 Bible Study
 5:00 Worship
 6:00 Dinner
 7:30 **SESSION TWO:**
 Bible Study
 Group interaction and learning
 Worship
 8:30 Adjourn for the evening

Friday, July 24

- 8:00 Breakfast
 8:45 **SESSION THREE:**
 Worship
 Presentation
 Bible Study
 12:00 Lunch
 2:00 **SESSION FOUR:**
 Presentation
 Bible Study
 5:00 Worship
 Break
 6:00 Dinner
 7:00 Evening Activity:

Saturday, July 25

- 8:00 Breakfast
 8:45 **SESSION FIVE:**
 Worship
 Presentation
 Bible Study
 11:30 Closing Worship
 12:00 Lunch

Disciples of a Suffering Servant

Today's "seeker-friendly" congregations may well be turned off by 1 Peter's emphasis on suffering believers who are found on the margins of pagan society as its resident aliens, the disciples of a suffering servant. This letter is correspondence cast with images of hardship and in a tone of spiritual testing that demands costly and rigorous obedience; this is not an easy definition of Christianity for even the most persuasive teacher to pitch—at least to first-world congregations of post-Christian societies.

Teaching 1 Peter as Scripture, then, reminds congregations of the centrality of the very things they assiduously seek to avoid, or for others of the very thing they need to hear. Scripture, rightly read, has this remarkable capacity to afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted. Especially my congregation and my students, made comfortable by their undemanding variety of Christianity and niceties of their middle-class lives, need more teaching about a holy God who demands a holy life; a suffering Christ who establishes the necessity of expending considerable personal cost in service of God; a community whose communicants are considered "aliens and strangers" by outsiders because of their radical commitment to a virtuous life and the unconditional obligations of real friendship; and a view of history that ends with the triumph of God rather than the triumph of some humanistic or nationalistic agenda.

Robert Wall, "Teaching 1 Peter as Scripture"

Convocation Design

Daily schedule

Table Group Process

Worship

Thursday, July 23

1:00 p.m. Gathering

SESSION ONE

1:30 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, Worship

2:30 p.m. Presentation: **Leadership for What?** Paul Dietterich

The mission of the church is to be a sign, foretaste, and instrument of the reign of God. Every congregation is called to live in such a way that the kingdom becomes visible. Church leaders therefore are to help congregations become credible signs of God's reign in justice and mercy over the whole of life, become open fellowships whose concerns are as wide as the concerns of humanity, learn to care for their neighbors in ways which reflect and spring out of God's care for them, and develop a common life that is recognizable as a foretaste of the blessing which God intends for the whole human family. This first session will explore what it means for a community to "taste beforehand" a slight experience of life inside the reign of God which will be enjoyed and experienced more fully in the future.

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES

3:30 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. Bible Study: **The Foundations of Christian Existence: 1 Peter 1:1-12**

1 Peter is one of the New Testament's most exuberant books. It pulsates with joy, with surging hope, with optimism. Yet, paradoxically, it dwells on the question of suffering—that of Jesus and of the Christian community—with unparalleled single-mindedness. The letter of 1 Peter is written to Christians who are called “exiles” (1:1) and “aliens” (2:11). Having chosen a different way of life, these communities experience an exile of the spirit, an exile that results from being out of step with the values and goals of the predominant society surrounding them. One difficulty in hearing 1 Peter today is the fact that God's people, including ourselves, do not embrace rejection easily. We want to belong. We want status. We do not want to be strangers, aliens, people for whom “home” is not and can never really be “home.” 1 Peter works to reform the way we see things, the imaginations by which we make sense of life. Thus the author is concerned with the identity, the behavior, and the faithful witness of God's people in a world marked by hostility to Christian faith and life.

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.

Using language that may have been part of an early baptismal liturgy, the author gives a condensed description of the origin and mission of Christian existence. Verse 2 is a compact but complex sentence. Alien status does not contradict divine election.

a. What do we learn about God from this verse?

b. What do we learn about Christian identity?

2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12

a. Verses 3-5 are a single sentence that reveals the amazing riches God provides. List the reasons Christians should rejoice?

b. How do verses 8-9 define faith?

c. In verses 10-12, 1 Peter helps Christians see how their gift of faith fits into the entire sweep of salvation history.

(1) What is the role of the Old Testament prophets regarding the coming of the Messiah?

(2) What is the role of the Spirit?

God Faithfulness and Goodness

Challenges to the church from the outside provide the occasion for solidifying the church's internal identity, tracing its roots in the ancient purpose of God, drawing out the continuity from Israel of old to the contemporary life of God's people, and remembering that the primary orientation of faithful life is toward the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although Peter's blessing is a lengthy celebration of God's faithfulness and goodness, the situation of his audience occupies center stage throughout.

Joel Green, 1 Peter

5:00 p.m. Worship
 Break

6:00 p.m. Dinner

SESSION TWO

7:30 p.m. Bible Study: **The Purpose of Christian Existence: 1 Peter 1:13-2:10**

Having celebrated the good news of God’s mercy and placing readers within the overarching plan of God, 1 Peter now turns to the immediate purpose of the letter: an exhortation to live holy lives. The emphatic “therefore” in 1:13 indicates the move from describing the new perspective held by those who have been reborn to the demands of a new way of life. Their “living hope” (vs. 3) will be displayed in changed lives: “you shall be holy, because I am holy” (1:16).

1. Read 1 Peter 1:13-21.
 - a. Peter’s readers wore long flowing robes that hindered movement. When they were called to action, they would lift up their robes and secure them with a belt. What do you think it means to “gird up your minds”? What role do “our minds” have to play in lives of faith and obedience?
 - b. What are the connections between hope and holiness?
 - c. What role does Christ play in enabling Christians to have hope and to be holy?

2. Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:3
 - a. What reasons does 1 Peter offer for Christians loving one another?
 - b. Read Psalm 34:4-10. What do you think it means to “taste the kindness of the Lord”?
 - c. 1 Peter reminds us that there is more to salvation than initially being saved. What does it mean to “grow up in salvation”?

3. Read 1 Peter 2:4-2:10

Focusing on both the identity and the vocation of Christian communities, this is a profoundly theocentric text. Rather than human honor and glory, what matters is God's choice, God's election, God's appointment.

- a. As those who "have tasted the kindness of the Lord," how is the parallel between Jesus and Christians sketched out in 2:4-8. What do you think it means to be "living stones"?
- b. What different words and phrases are used to describe Christians in 2:9-10? Which catches your attention? Why?
- c. On what basis are Christians declared God's people? What is their mission or purpose?

Love One Another Deeply and Unceasingly

The word "church" (*ekklesia*) appears 114 times in the New Testament, but never in 1 Peter. Nevertheless, the message of 1 Peter is ecclesially oriented and ecclesially determined, more so than most other New Testament documents. The letter is the home of numerous images of family and household which emphasize the nature of ecclesial life.

1 Peter leaves no doubt as to origin of church. It is a community called into being by God. It owes its existence to the purpose of the Father, realized in the liberating work of Christ and the transforming work of the Spirit. The letter anchors Christians in the solid granite of Israel's ancient story, urging them to embody the call to Israel in exodus and exile to be holy in midst of Gentiles.

The wealth of 1 Peter's descriptors establish, assert, and promote solidarity and kinship within the community. The interest in unceasing love is focused in part on the practice of hospitality within the Christian community. Given the importance of honor and status distinctions in Greco-Roman society, we might expect 1 Peter's metaphors to signal relations of status and power. This is not the case. All are children and servants in the household of Father God.

1 Peter is not concerned with the priesthood of persons within the church but with the priestly function of the church itself. That is, to embrace the mantle of Israel's identity as God's people is inescapably to embrace Israel's vocation to mediate the purpose and blessings of God to the world.

Joel Green, 1 Peter

Friday, July 24

SESSION THREE

8:45 a.m. Worship

Presentation: **An Organizational Climate that Manifests the Reign of God**
Paul Dietterich

Every church has a climate. This climate is experienced by its members, influences their behavior, and can be described in terms of the values of a particular set of characteristics or attributes of the congregation. Over the past 34 years the Center for Parish Development has been engaged in studies of church climate. In this session, some of the results of those studies will be shared: how climate happens, why it is important, and how climate can be changed. A theory of church organizations will be offered providing leaders with practical ways they can help a church's climate provide a foretaste of life inside the reign of God.

SPACE FOR NOTES

10:30 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Bible Study: **Living “in Christ” in a Hostile World: 1 Peter 2:11-3:12**

With the words “Beloved, I urge you” (2:11), 1 Peter turns from an elaborate description of the theological and social identity of the Christian community to the behaviors that appropriately flow from that identity and help to shape it further. Lives based on the gospel demand inner freedom from destructive values, but they also mean full participation in the world so that the witness of genuine human lives can have its effect. Christians are to maintain a beautiful way of living so that a non-believer may eventually be enticed to the glory God.

1. Read 1 Peter 2:11-17

- a. How are Christians to conduct themselves in the world? Why?

- b. Christians are called to live as “free people” and also as “slaves of God” (2:16). How does that liberation and service shape their submission to civil authorities?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:18-2:25

The common lectionary avoids these difficult instructions to slaves and wives. Yet, notice that these slaves and wives are given the highest moral authority (after Jesus) in the internal life of the believing community.

- a. How do you respond to 1 Peter’s directives for slaves (vv. 18-20)?

- b. Read Isaiah 53:4-12. What is learned from this Servant Song about the purpose and the example of God’s suffering servant?

- c. How does Christ’s example (2:21-25) shape your interpretation of vv. 18-20?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:1-12

- a. 1 Peter 3:1-7 can be difficult for contemporary congregations to hear. Don Senior in his commentary characterizes this whole section of 1 Peter (2:11-3:12) as a “witness spirituality.” In what ways can “a gentle and quiet spirit” (vs. 4) be a witness to the holiness of God?

- b. In 1 Peter 3:8 five terms, all rare in New Testament usage, characterize a vibrant Christian community. List those terms. In what ways do they express a “witness spirituality”?

- c. How is this section addressing the entire Christian community related to the previous sections dealing with slaves, Christ, wives, and husbands?

- d. What have you learned from this section of 1 Peter about living “in Christ” in a hostile world?

Radical Trust and Obedience

First Peter’s call to obedience and suffering has sometimes been sorely abused in the church’s interpretation, turning a blind eye to violence against the oppressed. But this letter can also serve as a call to renounce violence, as did Christ himself, in a way that can transform evil into good.

Radical trust is at the very heart of this letter—the radical trust modeled by Christ, by the slaves and wives, by the entire community dedicated to pursuing peace rather than returning evil for evil. This idea, that believers do not need to seek revenge because their God hears their cry and will judge justly those who wrong them, is at the very center of the identity of these believers. It is that radical trust that permeates the letter from beginning to the end. It may be hard for us, but if we do not understand that revolutionary concept of letting God judge our enemies and make our justice for us, we will not really understand this letter.

Mary H. Schertz, “Radical Trust in the Just Judge”

11:50 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Lunch

SESSION Four

2:00 p.m. Gathering Worship

Presentation: **Support and Receptivity** Paul Dietterich

Key practices by leaders foster a climate that manifests the reign of God. This session will provide practical instruction for building up the church as a supportive and receptive community. A principle of supportive relationships will be explored as an expression of New Testament teachings about the church as a community where people affirm one another's dignity and giftedness. Receptive leaders encourage a climate of openness and mutual support in the congregation. The Center's research indicates that many clergy have a difficult time practicing receptivity, including seeking and using ideas of others. Yet this practice encourages increased creativity, builds trust, and stimulates high performance in doing the work of the church.

SPACE FOR NOTES

3:30 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. Bible Study: **The Obligation of Christians: 1 Peter 3:13-4:11**

How can it be that those who “do good” suffer? And who would confuse suffering with a state of blessedness? It is precisely by “doing good” that the righteous attract unwanted attention. But this attention also provides an opportunity for witness. 1 Peter assumes that Christianity is not only an experience or a style of life but that it has a rationale which has been reflected on and can be communicated to someone else. In a world distinguished by status-based distribution of power and privilege, 1 Peter calls those who would live “in Christ” to a different vision: to lives of mutuality and hospitality, to other-oriented service and unwavering love.

1. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17

- a. What do you think it means to “suffer for righteousness sake”? Can you give an example of someone who suffered for their faith?
- b. “Hope,” a radical trust in God that shapes our very lives, is at the heart of the message of 1 Peter. How could a sense of hope become a provocative question mark that stimulates non-believers to ask questions?
- c. What style or attitude is to shape the way Christians defend their hope?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:18-4:6

- a. How do the three examples in 3:18-22 encourage Christians to be faithful and persevere in their faith?
- b. Why are Christians to turn away from the behaviors and attitudes of their former lives?
- c. Even if in your non-Christian days you haven’t engaged in the sort of behavior 1 Peter describes in 4:3, how has living as a Christian rearranged your priorities and commitments?

3. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11
 - a. How are clear thinking, self-discipline, and prayer connected?
 - b. Describe the life and practice of Christian community as mapped out in 4:8-11?
 - c. How is God both the source and model for this image of Christian community?

Being Different to Make a Difference

The purpose of Christian existence as a whole is to “proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (2:9). The distance from society that comes from the new birth into a living hope does not isolate from society. For hope in God, the Creator and Savior of the whole world, knows no boundaries. Instead of leading to isolation, this distance is a presupposition of mission. Without difference, churches can only give speeches that others have written for them, only go places where others lead them. To make a difference, one must be different. The key question is how churches should think and live out their difference and their mission—both inalienable and mutually dependent dimensions of their identity.

The “soft difference” is strong, but it is not hard....People who are secure in themselves—more accurately, who are secure in their God—are able to live the soft difference without fear. They have no need either to subordinate or damn others, but can allow others space to be themselves. For people who live the soft difference, mission fundamentally takes the form of witness and invitation; they seek to win others without pressure or manipulation, sometimes even “without a word” (3:1).

Miroslav Volf, “Soft Difference”

5:00 Worship

 Break

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Activity

Saturday, July 25

SESSION FIVE

8:45 a.m. Worship

Presentation: **High Performance Expectations and Ministry Facilitation**
Paul Dietterich

A key question for all engaged in ministry to answer is: “What is the work of the church?” As missional churches, the work of the church is to discern and participate in God’s redemptive mission in a broken world as a sign, foretaste, and instrument of God’s reign. To define the church’s work in this way has major implications for the work of the pastor and of the entire congregation. It significantly redefines the areas in which congregations will seek results. Several key result areas for ministry performance will be explored. When church leaders facilitate the church’s work, they enable and support the ministry of the council and other leadership groups.

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES

10:00 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Bible Study: **Final Instructions to a Suffering Church: 1 Peter 4:12-5:14**

1 Peter never forgets the cost of discipleship. Part of that “cost” is the inner struggle to be free as Christians put to death their destructive desires (1:14; 2:11; 4:1-6). But the cost considered here is suffering which comes from outside, from an uncomprehending and abusive world. This, too, has been a strong current in the letter’s message. The ongoing work of salvation is a struggle, not an idyllic pilgrimage to glory. It calls for alertness and perseverance, for continuing responsibility. The community’s fortitude in the midst of persecution and trial from without is linked to the proper exercise of leadership within the church. 1 Peter leaves the Christian community with the gift that belongs to those “in Christ.” People whose hope is based on Christ, who pattern their lives of witness on the crucified and risen Jesus – to these “peace” belongs.

1. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19
 - a. Working together, sketch out the image of Christian suffering expressed in these verses. (For example: What is its source? What is its purpose? How should Christians respond? What gives encouragement? How does it differ from other suffering?)
 - b. 1 Peter calls Christians to “rejoice” as they share in Christ’s suffering. What kind of behavior can you imagine would cause contemporary Christians (personally and communally) to be “reproached for the name of Christ”?
 - c. What would it look like for congregations to entrust themselves to a faithful Creator by obeying the gospel of God and doing good?

2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-14

- a. How should those who lead the church behave? How should they not behave?

- b. How are older and younger members of the community to relate to one another?

- c. Much of 1 Peter is about suffering. On what basis can the letter end with the assurance of peace?

Doing Good

Contrary to the claims of the serpent in the Garden, the concepts of good and evil do not exist in a vacuum. These are not “objective realities, but must be understood in relation to some instrument of measuring. Living in a world that measures “the good” always in relation to the interests of “my group” or of “people like me” presses upon us choices that perpetuate disobedience, estrangement, disharmony, alienation.

What of “the good” as defined by God’s own words spoken over creation? Like those who live with lifelong disease, humans easily adjust their lives to account for their maladies. We can scarcely imagine what the freedom to choose God’s “good” would be, so much have we adapted ourselves to estrangement and alienation.

We are in need of the medicine of liberation—and this is precisely what God administers, according to 1 Peter: through Christ’s defeat of the powers arrayed against God; through his sacrificial death, by which the stain of sin was cleansed; through the power of the Spirit in evangelism and sanctification; through the community of believers, whose mutuality of love provides a new home and family; and through the new identity that comes as believers are written into the eternal narrative of God’s merciful agenda.

Joel Green, 1 Peter

11:30 Closing Worship

12:30 Lunch

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Borning, M. Eugene. "First Peter in Recent Study." *Word and World*, Fall 2004.
- Boyley, Mark. "1 Peter—A Mission Document?" *Reformed Theological Review*, August 2004.
- "Where the angels long to look!" First Peter as Advent Preacher." Editorial. *Word and World*, Fall 2004.
- Edwards, Sue. *1 Peter: Discovering Encouragement in Troubling Times*. Kregel Publications, 2012.
- *Green, Joel B. *1 Peter*. The Two Horizons New Testament Commentary. Eerdmans, 2007.
- Green, Joel B. "Living as Exiles: The Church in the Diaspora in 1 Peter." *Holiness and Ecclesiology in the New Testament*. Eerdmans, 2007.
- Green, Joel B. "Faithful Witness in the Diaspora: Holy Spirit and the Exiled People of God According to 1 Peter." *The Holy Spirit and Christian Origins*. Eerdmans, 2004.
- Kolden, Marc. "Are You Serious? First Peter on Christian Life in a Complicated World." *Word & World*, Fall 2004.
- Schertz, Mary H. "Radical Trust in the Just Judge: The Easter Texts of 1 Peter." *Word & World*, Fall 2004.
- Senior, Donald and Stuhlmüller, Carroll. *The Biblical Foundations of Mission*. Orbis Books, 1991
- *Senior, Donald. *1 & 2 Peter*. Glazier, 1980.
- Stenschke, Christoph. "Reading First Peter in the Context of Early Christian Mission." *Tyndale Bulletin*, January 2004.
- Volf, Miroslav. "Soft Difference: Theological Reflections on the Relation Between Church and Culture in 1 Peter." *Ex Auditu*, 1994.
- Wall, Robert W. "Teaching 1 Peter as Scripture." *Word & World*, Fall 2004.
- Wright, N.T. *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*. InterVarsity Press, 2012.

RESOURCES FOR PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Convocation 2015 Worship¹

Thursday: 1:30 p.m.

Song – How Great Is Our God / How Great Thou Art

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, & Ed Cash, 2004 Worshiptogether.com Songs

Verse 1:

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty
 Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
 He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
 And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice

Chorus 1:

How great is our God! Sing with me
 How great is our God! And all will see
 How great, how great is our God

Verse 2:

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands
 Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
 The God-head, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son
 The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb

Repeat Chorus 1 two times

Chorus 2:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Repeat Chorus 1 two times

Call To Worship: Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God.

¹ All songs used with permission, CCLI license #763119

All: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

All: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Song – To God Alone

Aaron Shust & Jason Ingram, 2008 Bridge Building Music

Verse 1:

Can You take me by the hand? Can You use me as I am?
Break me into who You want me to be
When the time is finally right will You open up my eyes?
Show me everything You want me to see

Pre Chorus 1:

This life is not my own

Chorus:

To God alone be the glory, to God alone be the praise
Everything I say and do, let it be all for You
The glory is Yours alone, Yours alone

Verse 2:

Take the offering I bring, You want more than what I sing
Can I give You every part of me
Turn these pennies into gold, take this life I call my own
Until I'm running after Your heart

Pre Chorus 2:

I'm needing to let go

Chorus:

To God alone be the glory, to God alone be the praise
Everything I say and do, let it be all for You
The glory is Yours alone

Bridge:

We will rise, and we will fall, but You remain after all
You're glorious and beautiful, You're beautiful

Chorus:

To God alone be the glory, to God alone be the praise
 Everything I say and do, let it be all for You
 The glory is Yours alone
 The glory is Yours alone
 Yours alone, Yours alone

Prayer**Introductions****Song Reprise – To God Alone****Chorus:**

To God alone be the glory, to God alone be the praise
 Everything I say and do, let it be all for You
 The glory is Yours alone

Bridge:

We will rise, and we will fall, but You remain after all
 You're glorious and beautiful, You're beautiful

Chorus:

To God alone be the glory, to God alone be the praise
 Everything I say and do, let it be all for You
 The glory is Yours alone
 The glory is Yours alone
 Yours alone, Yours alone

Scripture reading – Romans 12:3-8: Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Prayers of the People

Leader: God in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Song – Our God

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, 2010 Thankyou Music

Verse 1:

Water You turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You, none like You

Verse 2:

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

Chorus:

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer, awesome in power, our God, our God

Verse 2:

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

Repeat Chorus two times

Bridge:

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what could stand against
And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what could stand against
What could stand against

Repeat Chorus

Thursday: 5:00 p.m.

Song – Praise To The Lord

Christy Nockels, Joachim Neander, & Stralsund Gensangbuch, 2004 WORD Music

Verse 1:

Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation
 O my soul praise Him for He is Thy health and salvation
 All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
 Praise Him in glad adoration

Verse 2:

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
 Shelters thee under His wings uplifting, sustaining
 Have you not seen, all that is needful has been
 Sent by His gracious ordaining

Chorus:

Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah

Verse 3:

Praise to the Lord who will prosper Your work and defend you
 Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you
 Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do
 If with His love He befriend you

Repeat Chorus two times

Responsive Reading - Psalm 97 (NIV) excerpts:

Leader: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

All: The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

Leader: For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

All: Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Leader: Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

All: Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

Song reprise – Praise To The Lord

Verse 1:

Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation
 O my soul praise Him for He is Thy health and salvation
 All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
 Praise Him in glad adoration

Chorus:

Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah

Responsive reading – Psalm 103: 1-5 (The Voice):

Leader: O my soul, come, praise the Eternal with all that is in me—body, emotions, mind, and will—every part of who I am—praise His holy name.

All: O my soul, come, praise the Eternal; sing a song from a grateful heart; sing and never forget all the good He has done.

Leader: Despite all your many offenses, He forgives and releases you. More than any doctor, He heals your diseases.

All: He reaches deep into the pit to deliver you from death. He crowns you with unfailing love and compassion like a king.

Leader: When your soul is famished and withering, He fills you with good and beautiful things, satisfying you as long as you live.

All: He makes you strong like an eagle, restoring your youth.

Prayer

Song – Blessed Be Your Name

Matt & Beth Redman, 2002 Thank You Music

Verse 1:

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
 Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
 Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name

Chorus 1:

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
 When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 2:

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
 When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
 Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name

Chorus 1:

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
 When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Bridge:

You give and take away, You give and take away
 My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name
 You give and take away, You give and take away
 My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus 2:

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Thursday – 7:30 p.m.

Song – Doxology

Thomas Ken & Louis Bourgeois, Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him all creatures here below
 Praise Him above ye heavenly host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 A-men A-men A-men A-men

BIBLE STUDY in 1 Peter

Time for personal reflection & thanksgiving

Scripture reading: Psalm 148: 1-5, 13:

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights above.
² Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
 praise him, all you shining stars.
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
 and you waters above the skies.
⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 for at his command they were created.
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 for his name alone is exalted;
 his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Prayer

Song – Doxology reprise

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him all creatures here below
 Praise Him above ye heavenly host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 A-men A-men A-men A-men

Friday – 8:45 a.m.

Song – Holy Holy Holy

Arranged by Steven Curtis Chapman, Public Domain

Verse 1:

Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee
Holy Holy Holy, merciful and mighty
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity

Verse 2:

Holy Holy Holy, Though the darkness hide thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art Holy, there is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity

Chorus:

You are holy, holy, holy; God of glory, God of grace
You are holy, holy, holy and You are worthy of our praise
You are holy, holy, holy, and we bow before You now
We're singing holy, holy, holy

Verse 3:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
All thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity

Ending:

You are holy, You are merciful, full of mercy
Holy, holy, holy, You are mighty God, You are mighty
Holy, holy, holy, You are holy God, You are holy

Song Introduction

Song – Heart of Worship

Matt Redman, 1999 Kingsway's Thank You Music

Verse 1:

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus:

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, it's all about You Jesus

Verse 2:

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath

Pre-Chorus:

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, it's all about You Jesus
I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, it's all about You Jesus

Responsive Prayer

Leader: We worship You O Lord

All: Hear our prayer

Friday – 11:50 a.m.

Song – How Great Is Our God / How Great Thou Art

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, & Ed Cash, 2004 Worshiptogether.com Songs

Verse 1:

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice

Chorus 1:

How great is our God! Sing with me
How great is our God! And all will see
How great, how great is our God

Verse 2:

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
The God-head, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb

Repeat Chorus 1 two times**Chorus 2:**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Repeat Chorus 1 two times**Responsive Reading**

Leader: We give God all glory and praise

All: How great is our God

Song Reprise – How Great Is Our God / How Great Thou Art

Chorus:

How great is our God! Sing with me
 How great is our God! And all will see
 How great, how great is our God
 How great is our God! Sing with me
 How great is our God! And all will see
 How great, how great is our God

Prayer

Friday – 2:00 p.m.

Song – Praise To The Lord

Christy Nockels, Joachim Neander, & Stralsund Gensangbuch, 2004 WORD Music

Verse 1:

Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation
 O my soul praise Him for He is Thy health and salvation
 All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
 Praise Him in glad adoration

Verse 2:

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
 Shelters thee under His wings uplifting, sustaining
 Have you not seen, all that is needful has been
 Sent by His gracious ordaining

Chorus:

Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah

Verse 3:

Praise to the Lord who will prosper Your work and defend you
 Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you
 Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do
 If with His love He befriend you

Repeat Chorus two times

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 18:15 (NLT):

Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge.

Reflection on Proverbs 18:15**Responsive Prayer**

Leader: We listen for Your voice, Lord

All: Open our eyes and hearts, Lord

Song – Open The Eyes Of My Heart

Paul Baloche, 1997 Integrity's Hosanna Music

Chorus:

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you
Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you

Verse:

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

Chorus:

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you
Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you

Verse:

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy
To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Coda:

Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you
Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you
Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you
Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you

Friday – 5:00 p.m.

Song – Open The Eyes Of My Heart

Paul Baloche, 1997 Integrity's Hosanna Music

Chorus:

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
 I want to see you, I want to see you
 Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
 I want to see you, I want to see you

Verse:

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
 Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

Chorus:

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
 I want to see you, I want to see you
 Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
 I want to see you, I want to see you

Verse:

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
 Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy
 To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
 Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy
 As we sing holy, holy, holy

Coda:

Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you
 Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you
 Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you
 Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you

Responsive Reading (from Psalm 111 and Psalm 112):

Leader: Praise the Lord.

All: Praise the Lord.

Leader: I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

All: Blessed is the one who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands.

Leader: Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

All: His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Leader: Glorious and majestic are his deeds; and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

All: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

Leader: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

All: Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous one.

Leader: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

All: Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous one will be remembered forever.

Leader: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

All: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

Examen

The *Examen* is an ancient practice in the church that can help us see God's hand at work in our daily experience. Use this adapted outline for *Examen* especially related to your leadership practices:

- ❖ Becoming aware of God's presence, review the day with gratitude:
Prayers of gratitude
- ❖ Pay attention:
What are your feelings? What was an 'ah hah!' What was a challenge?
- ❖ Reflect, share and pray:
Identify one aspect of your own leadership where you found insight, something you found particularly helpful. Share with a neighbor at your table.
Pray for one another.
- ❖ Looking forward:
Share a hope or calling that you sense for going forward.

Song – Holy Is The Lord

Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio, 2003 Worshiptogether.com Songs

Verse:

We stand and lift up our hands for the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now, how great how awesome is He

Pre-Chorus:

And together we sing, everyone sing

Chorus:

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

Verse:

We stand and lift up our hands for the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now, how great how awesome is He

Pre-Chorus:

And together we sing, everyone sing

Chorus:

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

Bridge:

It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown

Pre-Chorus:

And together we sing, everyone sing

Chorus:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory, the earth is filled with His glory

Saturday: 8:45 a.m.

Song – Blessed Be Your Name

Matt & Beth Redman, 2002 Thank You Music

Verse 1:

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
 Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
 Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name

Chorus 1:

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
 When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 2:

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
 When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
 Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name

Chorus 1:

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
 When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Bridge:

You give and take away, You give and take away
 My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name
 You give and take away, You give and take away
 My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus 2:

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Story of Blessed be Your Name

Responsive Reading – Shelter in the Day of Trouble (based on Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble

All: He will conceal me under the cover of his tent

Leader: He will set me high on a rock.

All: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Prayers from the heart

Song reprise – Blessed Be Your Name

Chorus:

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
 When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Saturday – 11:30 a.m.

Song – Holy, Holy, Holy

Arranged by Steven Curtis Chapman, Public Domain

Verse 1:

Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee
 Holy Holy Holy, merciful and mighty
 God in three persons, Blessed Trinity

Verse 2:

Holy Holy Holy, Though the darkness hide thee
 Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
 Only Thou art Holy, there is none beside Thee
 Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity

Chorus:

You are holy, holy, holy; God of glory, God of grace
 You are holy, holy, holy and You are worthy of our praise
 You are holy, holy, holy, and we bow before You now
 We're singing holy, holy, holy

Verse 3:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
 All thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
 Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
 God in three persons, Blessed Trinity
 God in three persons, Blessed Trinity

Ending:

You are holy, You are merciful, full of mercy
 Holy, holy, holy, You are mighty God, You are mighty
 Holy, holy, holy, You are holy God, You are holy

Reading and reflection from Charles Spurgeon**Song – Heart of Worship**

Matt Redman, 1999 Kingsway's Thank You Music

Verse 1:

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come
 Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus:

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required
 You search much deeper within, through the way things appear
 You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
 And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
 I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
 When it's all about You, it's all about You Jesus

Verse 2:

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve
 Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath

Pre-Chorus:

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required
 You search much deeper within, through the way things appear
 You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
 And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
 I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
 When it's all about You, it's all about You Jesus
 I'm coming back to the heart of worship
 And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
 I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
 When it's all about You, it's all about You Jesus

Scripture Reading: Romans 15: 1-6 (The Voice)

So now what? We who are strong are not just to satisfy our own desires. We are called to carry the weaknesses of those who are not strong. **2** Each of us must strive to please our neighbors, pursuing their welfare so they will become strong. **3** The Anointed One Himself *is our model for this kind of living*, for He did not live to please Himself. And as the Scriptures declared, "When they insult You, they insult me." **4** You see, everything written in the days of old was recorded to give us instructions *for living*. We find encouragement through the Scriptures and a call to perseverance that will produce hopeful living. **5** I pray that our God, who calls you and gives you perseverance and encouragement, will join all of you together to share one mind according to Jesus the Anointed. **6** In this unity, you will share one voice as you glorify *the one True God*, the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, *our Liberating King*.

Sending**Prayers from the heart****Closing of the Convocation**

Song – Our God

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, 2010 Thankyou Music

Verse 1:

Water You turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You, none like You

Verse 2:

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

Chorus:

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer, awesome in power, our God, our God

Verse 2:

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

Repeat Chorus two times**Bridge:**

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what could stand against
And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what could stand against
What could stand against

Repeat Chorus**Song – Doxology**

Thomas Ken & Louis Bourgeois, Public Domain

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
A-men A-men A-men A-men

Benediction