

Camp Conference and Retreat

Sunday Worship Resources

(Please note: Items marked with an *were created using Chat GPT)
Thanks to Rev. Joyce Wealand, Rev. Lauren Roe, and Pastor Matt Kluchar for their recommendations!)



Helpful Hints

Here's some of things we do...

- ✓ Have registration packets ready ahead of time for all families. This will be mailed out from the Regional Church Office and available online to download. If you have time you can prep them with the appropriate-aged forms, so each packet is custom for each family.
- ✓ Sunday School time is in the fellowship hall singing camp songs, doing a camp-like lesson, making a camp-like craft. Potential campers in attendance enter a raffle for \$50 off camp registration. This year bingo winners will get \$5 off registration. (See attached Camp Bingo documents)
- ✓ Everyone is invited to wear Camp Christian t-shirts. We hang Camp Christian t-shirts all around the sanctuary.
- ✓ Message one year was people from the congregation sharing stories about camp. Another year we had a former camper and Camp Christian Committee member come and shared and previous year's campers shared during children's moment.
- ✓ We toyed with the idea of having camp-like name tags for everyone, but it was too many to have someone cut. Smaller churches may be able to do this.
- ✓ Provide black and white copies of Camp Christian, Chi Rho, & CYF logos for kids to color.
- ✓ Make sure the Summer Camp Poster with registration QR codes is put up around the church.

Possible Camp Songs To Use For Worship:

- *I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N*
- *Rise and Shine*
- *Down In My Heart*
- *Give Me Oil In My Lamp*
- *Peace Like A River*
- *My God And I*
- *Awesome God*
- *I Just Wanna Be A Sheep*
- *Pass It On*

Possible Hymns from the Chalice Hymnal To Use For Worship*:

- "Here I Am, Lord" – Hymn #589
- "Be Thou My Vision" – Hymn #595
- "I Am Thine, O Lord" – Hymn #550
- "Spirit of the Living God" – Hymn #259
- "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" – Hymn #32
- "Let Us Break Bread Together" – Hymn #415
- "Take My Life and Let It Be" – Hymn #609

- "Let There Be Peace on Earth" – Hymn #670
- "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" – Hymn #552
- "Give Thanks" – Hymn #643
- "Amazing Grace" – Hymn #636
- "Pass It On" – Hymn #477
- "Sanctuary" – Chalice Praise #49
- "We are an Offering" – Chalice Praise #152

Other Music: Bryan Sirchio has a great song, "Mark This Place" that lends itself to this theme:

<https://bryansirchio.bandcamp.com/track/mark-this-place>

Possible Scriptures To Use For Worship:

- Genesis 28:10-22 as sermon text and explore the "thin place" concept - places like camp where we've experienced God.
- 1 Timothy 4:12
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Matthew 13:1-9
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Responsive Readings:

#1: Call To Worship

Leader: God is alive in our midst.

People: We come to celebrate our faith.

Leader: We celebrate at all times;

People: when the sun is shining,

Leader: when raindrops are falling,

People: We praise the Lord!

#2: Call To Worship

Leader: When the world needs joy,

People: As one in the Spirit we rise.

Leader: When the world needs to remember the love of Jesus,

People: As one in the Spirit we rise.

Leader: When the world needs healing and forgiveness,

People: As one in the Spirit we rise.

Leader: When the world needs the hope of the Easter Promise,

People: As one in the Spirit we rise.

Leader: When the world needs united in the Spirit,

People: As one in the Spirit we rise.

(written by campers and used for evening vespers Otter Camp 2018)

#3: Celebrating the Joys of Retreats, Camps, and Conferences*

Leader:

Come, let us gather in gratitude for the times we've spent in retreat, camps, and conferences. These moments set apart remind us of God's presence in nature, in fellowship, in play, in learning and in quiet moments of prayer.

People:

We give thanks for the spaces where we've met God in the stillness, the laughter, and the beauty of God's creation.

Leader:

We celebrate the new friendships forged, the old bonds strengthened, and the community that reminds us we are not alone in this journey of faith.

People:

We give thanks for the fellowship that lifts us up, encourages us, and inspires us to live out God's love in the world.

Leader:

At summer camps, retreats, and conferences, we are reminded that God speaks in the stillness and in the noise—calling us closer to all that is Holy.

People:

We give thanks for the time set aside to listen, reflect, and grow, deepening our relationship with God and one another.

Leader:

We celebrate the refreshment of spirit, mind, and body that these experiences provide, as we step away from the distractions of daily life to focus on God's love for us.

People:

We give thanks for the renewal of our hearts, where God fills us with divine peace, joy, and vision for the future.

Leader:

As we return home from these sacred times apart, we are reminded that God's love is not confined to a camp or retreat, but is always with us, wherever we go.

People:

We give thanks for the courage to carry the lessons learned, the relationships built, and the joy of God's presence back into our everyday lives.

Leader:

Let us be inspired to continue seeking opportunities to retreat, refresh, and renew. May we always find rest in God, trusting in the constant and abundant love of God in Christ Jesus.

People:

We give thanks for the blessings of camp, conference, and retreat, and we commit ourselves to living out the joy and lessons we have received in daily living. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayers:

#1

Opening & Lord's Prayer (*Pray in unison using debts*)

Loving God, we come today giving thanks for all the ways we encounter you: in Sunday School, in Worship, in community, at work, at school, in our activities, and especially at Camp Christian. Thank you for coming into our lives through counselors, teachers, pastors, and friends. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us, "Our Father..."

2

Blessed are you, O God, for you have made us your children. You have brought us here to worship you and given us the confidence of your salvation. Teach us your truth, and send your Holy Spirit upon us this day. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us, "Our Father..."

#3: Camper Prayers (all are from First Christian Church of Zanesville)

Closing prayer: Evelyn

Father we thank you for guiding us in this worship service tonight. Thank you for bringing us to Camp Christian to learn more about Jesus and share His love. Protect us as we go to our cabins, as we fall asleep fill us with your love and care. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Opening Prayer: Ian

Father we give thanks for this day at camp. We thank you for the cooler weather and the time we have with our friends and camp families. Lord, fill us with your spirit as we gather now to worship you and celebrate YOU! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Prayer (written by a Counselor In Training – C.I.T.)

The CIT's and counselors are always here to accept you and love you no matter your relationships with God. we all hope you have as much fun at camp as much as we do.

hope that these children find friends and share the experience of loving God with each other and learn the importance of their role in the family of God. help them to form a family with each other and grow closer to them and your Son. no matter what the children do or have going on in there lives let them know that you will always except them and all they have to offer to your family

Opening Prayer: Nina

Let us pray... Dear Lord, Thank you for gathering us here tonight so that we can worship you, learn about you, and to also leave with a message that we can live by. Thank you for making today great and we hope to have another great day tomorrow. Amen.

#4 – Prayer of Thanksgiving for Camps, Conferences, and Retreats*

Gracious God,

We come before You with hearts full of gratitude, thanking You for the beautiful gift of time spent in Your presence at summer camps, conferences, and retreats, especially those at Camp Christian, but in other places as well. Thank You for the quiet moments of reflection, where we could hear Your still, small voice in the midst of nature's beauty and the simplicity of solitude.

We thank You for the community we find in these sacred spaces— for the friendships formed and the fellowship shared, for the encouragement we receive from others walking alongside us in faith, including Directors, counselors, and summer camp staff. Thank You for reminding us that we are never alone on this journey, but are bound together by Your love and grace.

Lord, we thank You for the lessons learned— for the times we've grown closer to You, for the spiritual refreshment that strengthens our hearts and minds. In the worship, in the teachings, in the quiet reflection, we encounter Your presence in a deeper way. You have renewed our spirits, reignited our passions, and given us fresh vision for the future.

Oh God, we pray that the experiences we've had at camps, conferences, and retreats would continue to bear fruit in our lives. Help us to carry the lessons of love, joy, and peace into our daily lives, and empower us to share the hope we've found in You with others. May we never forget the moments when we felt closest to You, and may those memories inspire us to seek You more deeply each day.

Thank You, God, for the gift of retreat, where we can pause and find rest in Your arms. We ask that You continue to use these sacred spaces to transform hearts and renew lives, and may we all find rest, renewal, and restoration in Your loving presence.

In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen

Fun Activity:

Camp Bingo (find cards here: https://www.ccinoh.com/media/410964/camp_sunday_bingo.pdf)

Copy off Camp Bingo board (5 different boards included). The children and youth each have a board. When they hear words during the worship service on the board they mark off the square. When they get a complete row marked they yell, "BINGO!" It doesn't matter at what point in worship it happens, they yell it out. Those who get BINGO, win \$5 off camp registration (we already pay half) and a pair of sunglasses.

Possible Order of Worship:

Celebrating Summer Camps, Conferences, and Retreats*

Prelude:

Instrumental music or a song reflecting the theme of renewal and community.

Call to Worship:

Leader:

Come, all who have experienced the wonder of retreat, camp, and conference, where God has met us in stillness, community, and joy.

People:

We gather in gratitude for the times we've spent apart, drawing near to God and one another.

Leader:

Let us worship the God who calls us away from the busyness of life to rest in God's holy presence, who meets us in the quiet and in the fellowship of the people of God.

People:

We open our hearts to hear God's voice today, and we offer our thanks for God's presence in these sacred experiences.

Hymn of Praise: "Here I Am, Lord" Chalice Hymnal #542

(Or another hymn that speaks to the theme of responding to God's call in camp or retreat settings.)

Opening Prayer:

Leader:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we come before You today with hearts full of gratitude for the times we have spent in Your presence at summer camps, conferences, and retreats. Thank You for the spaces where we have been refreshed and renewed, for the relationships that have been deepened, and for the lessons we've learned that continue to shape our lives. May our time together today be a reminder of Your constant presence and the transformative power of retreat, fellowship, and worship. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn/Song: "Kumbaya" Chalice #549 or "The River" (a song often associated with camp or retreat settings)

[Jordan Feliz - The River \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

(Optional: A more contemporary or acoustic-style worship song that fits the camp atmosphere)

Scripture Reading:

Leader:

Today's reading comes from **Matthew 11:28-30**, where Jesus invites us to come to Him for rest.

Reader:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God!

Reflection/Message:

A sermon or brief message on the themes of retreat, renewal, and community in Christ. The preacher may reflect on personal experiences of retreat or camp, or they may share insights on how such experiences deepen our connection with God and each other. A testimonial from a camp, conference, or retreat leader would also be appropriate here.

Prayers of the People:

Leader:

Let us pray for those who have experienced the blessings of retreat, camp, and conference, and for those who continue to seek God's presence in new and transforming ways.

Leader:

Lord, we pray for those who are seeking rest and renewal. May they find a safe space to pause and hear Your voice in the stillness.

People:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

We pray for those who have formed new friendships and deepened old relationships at camps and retreats. May these connections continue to grow in love and grace.

People:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

We pray for those who are planning on attending their very first camp, conference, or retreat. May they experience Your transformative presence and leave with hearts full of Your peace and joy.

People:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

We pray for all who are on the path of discipleship, that the lessons learned during times of retreat may continue to shape their lives and witness.

People:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

And now, we take a moment of silence for any personal prayers or concerns.

(Silence for personal prayers)

Hymn: "Be Still, My Soul" Chalice #566 or "I Will Arise (Prodigal Son)"

(Song reflecting peace, stillness, and the call to God's presence)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Leader:

We come now to the table of our Lord, a place where we are reminded of God's great love for us and His invitation to rest in His presence. Just as we have been refreshed by retreat, so we are refreshed by the body and blood of Christ.

Let us prepare our hearts for communion.

Prayer of Consecration:

(Prayer asking God to bless the elements of bread and wine, recalling the sacrifice of Christ, and inviting the Holy Spirit to make the bread and wine holy and to sanctify the worshippers.)

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup:

The congregation will receive communion, with ushers directing people forward. As they come forward, the leader may say:

"This is the body of Christ, broken for you. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

(Communion music can be played during this time, such as a simple worship song or instrumental music.)

Hymn of Response: "Come, Share the Lord" – Chalice #408

(Song of fellowship, inviting all to partake together in the communion of saints.)

Closing Prayer:

Leader:

Gracious God, thank You for meeting us here at this table, for the refreshment we have received, and for the deepening of our faith. As we leave this place, may we carry the peace and joy of retreat with us, sharing it with others. We offer our thanks for the times we've spent in Your presence at camp, conference, and retreat, and we ask that You continue to guide us in our journey of faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Go Now in Peace" Chalice #437 or "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Chalice #86

(Closing song of sending, celebrating God's faithfulness and inviting the congregation to carry the experience of retreat into the world.)

Benediction:

Leader:

Go in peace, knowing that the God who calls us to rest and renewal will go with you. May His peace, His joy, and His love be with you now and always.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Postlude:

Instrumental music or a reflective song as the congregation exits.
