

# Worship Toolbox



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# Hymns

## Celebrating Grace Hymnal:

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## 1991 Baptist Hymnal:

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“My Lord, I Did Not Choose You”	#289
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**2008 Baptist Hymnal:**

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“Yes, Lord, Yes”	445

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“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”	#453
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“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”	#606
“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”	#614
“The Voice of God is Calling”	#666
“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”	#342

## Celebration Hymnal:

“A Charge to Keep I Have” #666	
“Find Us Faithful”	#456
“May the Mind of Christ, My Savior”	#568

## Other Hymns:

“Lord of the Dance”	Sydney B. Carter
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## Contemporary Worship Songs

“In the Secret”	Andy Park
“Came to My Rescue”	Dylan Thomas, Joel Davies, Marty Sampson
“Let My Words Be Few”	Matt and Beth Redman
“Made Me Glad”	Miriam Webster
“Pure”	Kari Jobe
“When I Speak Your Name”	Klaus Kuehn, Elizabeth Clark
“When I Think About the Lord”	James Huey
“Create in Me”	Mary Rice Hopkins
“Cry of My Heart”	Terry Butler
“Holiness”	Vineyard Music
“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”	Spiritual
“Potter’s Hand”	Darlene Zschech
“Make Me a Servant”	Kelly Willard
“My Life Is in You, Lord”	Daniel Gardner
“Refiner’s Fire”	Brian Doerksen
“The Greatest Thing”	Mark Pendergrass
“The Servant Song”	Richard Gillard
“With All My Heart”	Bill Batstone and Morris Chapman
“Open Our Eyes, Lord”	Cull

“Holy Is the Lord (God Almighty)”	Chris Tomlin
“I Will Dance and I Will Sing”	Dave Crowder Band
“All That You Dreamed Of”	Isa Band
“Testify”	Isa Band
“How Can I Keep From Singing”	Chris Tomlin
“Everlasting God”	Brenton Brown
“Let the Worshippers Arise”	Michael Farren
“Emmanuel”	Michael W. Smith

## Responsive Readings

The text for 2-5 can be downloaded from [www.consideryourcall.org](http://www.consideryourcall.org).

### Responsive Reading #1:

1991 Baptist Hymnal #556

The Witness of the People of God: Evangelism and Missions

### Responsive Reading #2:

*(Based on Jeremiah 1:4-10; adapted by J. Thurman)*

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

I do not know how to speak. I am only a child.

“Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you.”

The Lord calls me. The Lord touches me.

“Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Lord, you have called me. Lord you have touched me. Lord, grant me the vision to live out Your calling. Amen.

### Responsive Reading #3:

*(For Discernment of Vocation and Affirmation of One’s Call)*

Leader: O God, as we worship together.

**People: We search for you, we listen for your voice, and we listen to others who can give us guidance and encouragement.**

Leader: We know that you call all Christians to you to do your work on earth, to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8 NRSV).

**People:** But perhaps your call to some of us is even more specific and we are being called to leadership in the church.

Leader: We will need to ponder and pray, examine and explore.

**People:** Guide us, O God, and keep our hearts open to the possibilities you give us.

Leader: You have made each of us out of your love and you have a plan for each of us.

**People:** What are we to do? How shall we use the gifts you have given us? Each of us is listening to your voice, Lord. Help each of us to receive your gift of vocation. Grant us insight and wisdom to know your plans for us. Amen.

#### Responsive Reading #4:

Unison Reading:

O God, giver of all good gifts, you have given me life.

You have bestowed upon me your love and that love includes your plans for me.

What am I to do?

All life is a call and a response.

I pray for grace to hear God's voice and a heart to respond. I am ready to listen.

Help me to listen to the rhythm of each day, day by day, so that I am not overwhelmed with thoughts of the future.

Yet guide me into that future so that I know who and whose I am.

I shall listen.

I shall listen to the voices of those witnesses who have lived before me.

I shall listen to those who are here to give me guidance and encouragement, for it is clear that whatever plans you have for me, I will never journey alone. I will listen to my feelings as I grow and change, processes that I know will be lifelong.

I shall listen to you.

And even though I want easy answers, I know that what you want is a relationship.

So when I answer you, may my response be to my potential and to your love of all creatures on your good earth. Let me serve with the gifts you give me.

O God, I know that vocation is truly a gift of your love.

What am I to do?

I am ready to listen.

#### Responsive Reading #5:

*Written by J. Williams*

Gentle and patient

God, you are calling.

Careful and persistent

God, you are calling.

In grieving and in praise

God, you are calling.

Through dawn and midday

God, you are calling.  
Unexpected and planned  
God, you are calling.  
In a still small voice and in power  
God, you are calling.  
Spontaneous and prepared  
God, you are calling.  
Willing or protected  
God, you are calling.  
Our God is eager to share with us, wherever we are in our journey.  
May we be diligent to listen.  
God, you are calling.

## Prayers

The text for 1-5 can be downloaded from [www.consideryourcall.org](http://www.consideryourcall.org).

### Prayer #1:

*written by J. Thurman*

O God, you have loved us in a way that trusts us with Your service. You have placed in our hands the opportunity to respond to Your calling. Thank You for being a calling God, participating in our lives. We are grateful that You renew our calling and partnership with You. This renewal is a picture for us that Your calling never ends. Thank You for loving with a love that is expressed through the life of Your Son, but also through the responsibility we have to allow Christ's Spirit to abound. This we pray, grateful for Christ's calling and our calling. Amen.

### Prayer #2:

*written by J. Thurman*

O Divine Influence, awaken us to the impulse of Your Spirit. (silence)  
Gift us with courage to turn our spirits in the direction of Your will. (silence)  
May the pulse of our hearts be united with Your guidance as You call us to follow Your will. (silence)  
Grant us wisdom to identify Your calling and the motivation to respond to Your service. (silence)  
As Christ has shown the way, we offer this prayer. Amen.

### Prayer #3:

*written by Nancy Poti*

Gift-giving God, you have blessed me with talents and skills. Help me to discern what my best abilities are and how to use them. You place demands and opportunities in my life. I seek your will for the work that I do and for the manner in which I do it. Guide me, O God. I ask these things in the name of the One whom you sent to show the way. Amen.

### Prayer #4:

*written by J. Williams*

God, you have surrounded us with many saints who have heard your voice, considered your call, and have responded according to your Spirit. There are popular song lyrics that say, "You just call out my name and you know wherever I am, I'll come running to see you again." God, without a doubt you have assured your children that your Spirit will come running when we call. Today, we earnestly plead that our hearts will sing that same song to you. May we be willing to run whenever you call out our names. This prayer is made in the name of the One who teaches us over and over again to run to your side. Amen.

### Prayer #5:

*National Council of Churches of the Philippines*

O Lord our God,  
We thank you for the many people throughout the ages  
Who have followed your way of life joyfully:  
For the many saints and martyrs, men and women,  
Who have offered up their very lives, so that your life abundant may become manifest.  
For your love and faithfulness we will at all times praise you.

O Lord, we thank you for those who chose the way of Jesus Christ.  
In the midst of trial, they held out hope,  
In the midst of hatred, they kindled love;  
In the midst of persecutions, they witnessed to your power;  
In the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.  
For your love and faithfulness we will at all times praise you.

O Lord, we thank you for the truth they passed on to us:  
That it is by giving that we receive;  
It is by becoming weak that we shall be strong;  
It is by loving others that we shall be loved;  
It is by offering ourselves that your kingdom shall unfold;  
It is by dying that we shall inherit life everlasting.  
Lord, give us courage to follow your way of life.  
For your love and faithfulness we will at all times praise you.

### Prayer #6:

Covenant Prayer from the *United Methodist Book of Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992), p. 743.

### Prayer #7:

Recognition of Our Common Ministry from the *United Methodist Book of Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992), p. 686.

### Prayer #8:

#### **And We Are Different**

“We are counted your people.  
We are grateful to be called by you, and  
Glad for our special way of faith in the world.  
You have marked us and named us and signed us,  
And we are different, different memories, different hopes, different fears, different commands, different ways of being.  
That difference we find glorious, but at times a burden too severe.  
We yearn to be like the others, like the others in power, in money, in freedom, in certitude, in security,  
Like the others, uncalled, unburdened, unembarrassed.  
We come to you in that deep trial of difference and likeness.  
Engage us in our difference, Give us courage for our different vocations, and energy for our different hope.  
In the name of your crucified, Easter One, so unlike all the others. Amen.”  
(taken from *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, Augsburg Fortress, 2003, p. 89)

## Prayer #9:

### A Hard, Deep Call to Obedience

“You are the God who makes extravagant promises.

We relish your great promises of fidelity and presence and solidarity, and we exude in them.

Only to find out, always too late, that your promise always comes in the midst of a hard, deep call to obedience.

You are the God who calls people like us, and the long list of mothers and fathers before us, who trusted the promise enough to keep the call.

So we give you thanks that you are a calling God, who calls always to dangerous new places.

We pray enough of your grace and mercy among us that we may be among those who believe your promises enough to respond to your call.

We pray in the one who embodied your promise and enacted your call, even Jesus. Amen.”

(taken from *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, Augsburg Fortress, 2003, p. 90)

## Litanies

The text for 1-2 can be downloaded from [www.consideryourcall.org](http://www.consideryourcall.org).

### Litany #1:

A God Who Believes in Me; Based on Jeremiah 1:4-10

by Emily Browning

- Reader 1 (a woman): I won't believe in a God who doesn't believe in me.
- Reader 2 (a woman): God said to me, “I know you, and I have consecrated you. A prophet to the nations—that's what I have in mind for you.”
- Reader 1: I said to God, “Look at me. I don't know anything. I am only. . .”
- Reader 3: . . . a middle-aged man, secure in my job as a businessman but always sensing that God is calling me to full-time ministry.
- Reader 4: I am only a young woman, struggling with my identity and living in fear that I will never find a meaningful path for my life.
- Reader 5: I am only an eight-year-old boy. My Sunday School teacher says that I should tell my friends about Jesus, but I am afraid they will laugh at me.
- Reader 2: I am only an elderly woman, fearing that as I lose my independence I also will lose my chance to make an impact on the world.
- Reader 1: I am only a thirty-five-year-old mother. I love my children, but sometimes I feel so tired and alone. How can I find time for my family, for myself, and for God?
- Reader 3: I am only a teenager, trying to figure out who I am. Should I go to college, join the military, get a job. . .? How do I know that God has plans for me?
- Reader 4: But the Loving God said to me, “You will go to all to whom I send you, and I will tell you what to say. Do not be afraid of anyone, for I am with you.”
- All: I won't believe in a God who doesn't believe in me.**
- Reader 3: I am male.
- Reader 2: I am female.
- Reader 4: I am Latino.
- Reader 5: I am African American.
- Reader 1: I am Asian.

Reader 3: I am white.  
 Reader 2: I am Native American.  
**All: I am called.**  
 Reader 1: I won't believe in a God who doesn't believe in me.  
 Reader 2: I am visually impaired.  
 Reader 3: I use a wheelchair to get around.  
 Reader 4: I recently suffered a brain injury.  
 Reader 5: I am hearing impaired.  
 Reader 1: I need a cane to keep me steady on my feet.  
 Reader 2: I was born with Down's syndrome.  
 Reader 3: Then the Creator's hand touched my mouth. The God of Grace said to me,  
 "Now I have put my words in your mouth. I have given you an important job to do."  
 Reader 1: I voiced my doubts.  
 Reader 2: But God promised to be with me.  
 Reader 3: I told God that I was afraid.  
 Reader 4: But God said that no one is called who will not be equipped.  
 Reader 5: The One who calls me promises not to desert me.  
 Reader 1: I am called and assured.  
 Reader 2: I am called in faith.  
 Reader 3: I am called and blessed.  
 Reader 4: I am called by grace.  
 Reader 5: I am called and equipped.  
**All: I believe in a God who also believes in me.**

## Litany #2:

A Litany for the Called

(Adapted from *The Common Book of Prayer* by Helms Jarrell, 2003)

One: We join together in the blessing of (insert name) as she/he commits to following the call of ministry in her/his life. (insert name), may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom.

Another : We who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a person's gift is prophesying, let that person use it in proportion to their faith. If it is serving, let them serve; if it is teaching, let them teach; if it is encouraging, let them encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let them give generously; if it is leadership, let them govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let them do it cheerfully.

(insert name): I have heard the call. I am prepared to follow and to learn with a grateful heart. Like Abraham, I will follow, trusting that God is showing me the way.

The Church Body: We commit you, (insert name), to this work, the work of following the call from God. We pledge you our prayers, our encouragement, our resources, and our support.

One: Following the call from God is not easy. It involves questioning and discernment, it requires dedication and persistence, it entails a listening ear and a faithful heart.

Another: We vow to walk with you, to listen with you, and to search with you. You are a member of the body.

The Church Body: Together we will follow God's leading towards the place of your giftedness and calling.

One: Almighty God, look with favor upon (insert name) who has reaffirmed her/his commitment to follow you and to serve your name. Give her/him vision, patience, and strength for the journey.

Another: And strengthen us all in our Christian responsibility to be a witness to the world and to be of service to others.

The Church Body: We lift up (insert name)'s life and our own lives to you this day and forever more. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### Litany #3:

by J. Williams

Leader 1: Immediately, they left their nets and followed him.

Leader 2: Oh, to be so willing, to be so eager, to have such faith, to gain such passion.

**All: Forgive us, Lord, when we let the details of life get in the way of following you.**

Leader 1: Immediately, they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Leader 2: Oh, to be so quick, filled with energy.

**All: Lord, give us a willing heart and bless us with an excited spirit to follow you.**

### Litany #4:

by J. Williams

Leader: He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

**All: They left their nets and followed him.**

Leader: He sees a construction worker and a contractor and says, "Follow me and we will build a community of Christ."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees a realtor and says, "Follow me and we will find homes for those in need."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees teachers among you and says, "Follow me and we will teach the unteachable."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees students in schools and says, "Follow me and I will teach you my ways."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees doctors, nurses, and caregivers and says, "Follow me and we will care for the sick."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees bankers, accountants, and those dealing with money and says, "Follow me and I will make all rich in new ways."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees lawyers, politicians, and government officials and says, "Follow me and we will make laws that honor my Father, our God."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees artists, musicians, and dancers and says, "Follow me, and your art will gain new meaning."

**All: We follow him.**

Leader: He sees each one of us, our gifts, our passions, and our vocations, and instructs us to bring who we are and follow him.

**All: Lord, help us to follow you.**

*You may add/adapt this litany to fit the vocations of those in your congregation.*

## Theatrical Readings

### Readers' Theater

*(Characters unfreeze at the same time, open their notebooks and move right into the readers' theater material.)*

Craig: We're all listening

Tom: because we're lost

Adam: without hope,

Charlotte: without purpose,

Sheila: without joy.

Sarah: We need a friend,

Hannah: a family.

Michael: We need a Savior.

Craig and Tammy: A Savior.

Tom, Sheila,  
and Sara: A Savior.

Charlotte, Hannah,  
and Adam: A Savior.

All: We need Jesus.

Michael: But how can we hear about Him?

Charlotte: How can we meet Him?

Sarah: How can we find Him?

Craig: How can we know Him?

Sheila: Who's going to tell us?

Hannah: It has to be ...

Adam: *(finds a face in crowd)* you,

Tammy: and you,

Michael: and you.  
 Sarah: You, sir,  
 Craig: and you, ma' am.  
 Sheila: You back there,  
 Tom: and you over there.  
 Charlotte: Why?  
 Michael: Because we need a Savior.  
 All: We need Jesus.  
 Tammy: Will you come?  
 Tom: Will you love us?  
 Sheila: Will you share with us?  
 Sarah: Will you break down the barriers?  
 Craig: Will you move out of your comfort zone?  
 Hannah: Why?  
 Michael: Because we need a Savior.  
 All: We need Jesus.  
 Charlotte: If you value us...  
 Tom: If you care...  
 Tammy: you'll come.  
 Adam: You've got the answer.  
 Sheila: You've got the truth.  
 Charlotte: Please share it.  
 Hannah: Please...  
 Sarah: We're waiting.  
 Tammy: All of us... out there... waiting.  
 Craig: Why?  
 Michael: Because we need a Savior.  
 All: We need Jesus.

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### Submission

Reader 1: God sets Himself against the proud and egotistical,  
 Reader 2: But gives grace continually to the lowly,  
 Reader 1: the humble minded.  
 Reader 2: So be submissive,  
 Reader 1: submissive,  
 Reader 2: submissive to God.  
 Reader 1: Stand firm against the devil, and he will flee from you.

Reader 2: Recognize your imperfections.

Reader 1: Get your soiled hands clean.

Reader 2: Realize that you have been a wavering servant with divided interests, and purify your hearts. (Jas. 4:7-8)

Reader 1: You know, God uses the purified hearts of wavering servants. For thousands of years our heavenly Father has relied upon the underdog, the failure,

Reader 2: and the sometimes unreliable to perform His work.

Reader 1: Through ages past, our God has taken broken instruments who were willing to submit to Him, and through them He has birthed nations,

Reader 2: conquered kingdoms,

Reader 1: and even parted seas.

Reader 2: Why?

Both: Submission.

Reader 1: For example, the Egyptians had reduced God’s children to severe slavery. Now Jehovah God was displeased, to put it lightly.

Reader 2: He searched and searched for someone to bring forth the freedom of His people.

Reader 1: *(During this line, Reader 3 turns around to face the audience, depicting the person described.)*  
Now, God could have appointed a perpetually perfect, positively prudent, and properly powerful performer. Instead, God pointed His long and loving finger to a very frail and ordinary, quite dull and defenseless bush...

Reader 3: *(looking confused)* Bush?

Reader 1: *(to Reader 3)* I’m not finished yet.  
*(to audience)* ...to capture the attention of a stuttering man of likewise character.

Reader 2: From His finger came a flame of fire, which traveled into this quite unattractive shrub.

Reader 3: Ka-boom! Where’s the smoke? Every fire has smoke. The bush is still standing. How can this be?

Reader 2: Thought Moses. I repeat “thought,” for if Moses were actually trying to verbalize this, it probably would have sounded more like this *(gesturing to Reader 3)*.

Reader 3: “Wh-Wh-Where’s the sm-sm-smoke? Every ff-f-fire has sm-sm-smoke. The b-b-b-bush is still st-standing. How can this b-b-be?”

Reader 1: From the bush came the voice of Jehovah God.

Reader 2: “Moses!”

Reader 3: “I-I-I’m r-r-right h-h-here G-G-God.” *(freezes with a funny expression while looking up to God)*

Reader 1: “Now, tell me... *(squeezing Reader 3’s cheeks together)* Is this the face of a grade-A, number-one servant of God?”

Reader 2: As incredible as it may seem to you and me, we all know from scores of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School lessons that Moses was exactly that.

Reader 1: A verified, grade-A, number-one, homogenized...

Reader 3: Homogenized?

Reader 1: *(shrugs shoulders)* ...servant of God.

Reader 2: The key?

Reader 3: Submission.

Reader 1: Submission?  
 Reader 2: Submission.  
 Reader 1: Let this same mind,  
 Reader 2: and purpose,  
 Reader 1: and attitude be in you,  
 Reader 2: which was also in Christ Jesus (*Phil. 2:5*).  
 Reader 3: (*bowing to the Father*) Father, let this cup pass from me, but nevertheless, not my will, but Yours be done (*Matt. 26:39*).  
 Reader 2: Let Christ Jesus our Lord be your example of submission.

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## Special Music for Solos, Small Ensembles, or Interpretive Movements

"Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name"	Spiritual
"Here I Am, Lord"	Schutte
"Find Us Faithful"	Mohr
"I Will Offer Up My Life" Redman (in <i>We Want to See Jesus Lifted High - Worship Together</i> )	
"Day After Day" (in Tim Hughes: <i>Here I Am to Worship</i> )	Hughes
"If There's One Thing" (in Tim Hughes: <i>Here I Am to Worship</i> )	Hughes
"May the Words of My Mouth" (in Tim Hughes: <i>Here I Am to Worship</i> )	Hughes & Hill
"A Call to Discipleship"	York/Schwoebel; Harold Flammer; SATB; A8575
"I Surrender All"	Arr. Moses Hogan
"Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace" SATB; 10/3509M	McDonald; Monarch Music;
"Praise You"  Solo w/ SAT; 080689 06869 0	Goodine/arr. Cymbala; Brooklyn Tabernacle Music;
"Order My Steps"	Burleigh/Schrader; Hope Publishing Co., SATB; C5083

“We Fall Down with Holy, Holy, Holy”

Tomlin/Keveren;  
PraiseSong; SATB; 08745264

“Weave Me, Lord”

Spencer; GlorySound;  
SATB; A6332

## Songs for Creative Worship

(interpretive movement, special music, reflections, etc.)

“Carry the Light”

Mark Harris

“Let Them Hear”

Ginny Owens

“When All Is Said and Done”

Matt Redman

“If You Know You’re Loved” Matt Redman

“Praying a Prayer”

Kyle Matthews

“The Door That Christ Has Opened”

Kyle Matthews

“Run to You”

Crutchfield Band  
([www.crutchfieldministries.com](http://www.crutchfieldministries.com))

“Kingdom of Heaven”

Crutchfield Band  
([www.crutchfieldministries.com](http://www.crutchfieldministries.com))

“You’ve Got a Friend”

James Taylor

“I Will Follow Him”

(from Sister Act 2)

## Call to Service

### Scriptural Calls to Service:

Deuteronomy 7:9

Micah 6:8

Ephesians 4:1-3

[Individual names or name of the congregation]:

You are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

(taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004, p.304).

# Benedictions/Sending/Closing Prayers

The text for 1-2 can be downloaded from [www.consideryourcall.org](http://www.consideryourcall.org).

## Benediction #1:

2 Thess 1:11-12 (NIV)

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Benediction #2:

Col 1:9-12 (NIV)

We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

## Benediction #3:

Reading #843 from *ChaliceWorship*, edited by Colbert S. Cartwright (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1997), p. 452.

## Benediction #4:

“We leave from here to bear witness to Christ in faithfulness to the Scriptures, in harmony with the church of the ages, and in unity with all Christ’s people.” – from *Our Song of Hope*, st. 7

## Benediction #5:

Leader: Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.  
**All: We go with the assurance of God’s blessing.**  
Leader: Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.  
**All: We go with the assurance of God’s grace.**  
Leader: Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.  
**All: We go with the assurance of God’s love. Thanks be to God!**

(taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004, p. 354).

## Benediction #6:

As you have been fed at this table, go to feed the hungry.  
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.  
As you have received, give.  
As you have heard, proclaim.  
And the blessing that you have received from Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be always with you. **Amen.**

(taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004, p. 354).

## Benediction #7:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, the privilege is ours to be called to share in the loving, healing, and reconciling mission of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in this age and wherever we are. Since without you we can do no good thing, may your Spirit make us wise; may your Spirit guide us; may your Spirit renew us; may your Spirit strengthen us so that we will be strong in faith; discerning in proclamation; courageous in witness; persistent in good deeds. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

(taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004, p. 358).

### Benediction #8:

God the Sender, **send us,**

God the Sent, **come with us,**

God the Strengtheners of those who go, **empower us, that we may go with you and find those who will call you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004, p. 358).

### Scriptural Benedictions:

Matthew 28:19-20

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Ephesians 4:1-6

Colossians 3:17

1 John 3:23

## Artwork

“The Annunciation”	Henry O. Tanner
“Girl Standing at the Window”	Salvador Dali
“The Burning Bush”	Paul Koli
“Christina’s World”	Andrew Wyeth
“Roads”	Sandra Jorgensen
“The Infant Samuel”	Joshua Reynolds
“Samuel’s Calling”	Brother Eric de Saussure
“The Prophet #1”	Charles White
“Vine and Branches”	Kimiyoshi Endo
“Sisters in the Wind”	Ethan Hubbard
“Outreach of the New Covenant”	Shin Young-Hun
“Taurian Osborne Prays at the New Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church”	Jeffery Allan Salter

## Poems/Books

“The Road Not Taken”	Robert Frost
“In the Dumps”	Maurice Sendak

## Quotes

“They [the disciples] were called by someone and sent somewhere. And when that happened, everything changed. They saw themselves differently, went places they never thought of going before, thought thoughts that never in a hundred years would have come into their heads, and did things they never in their wildest imaginations would have seen themselves doing.

Their world was turned upside down, too. They saw evil in what once had been business as usual, beauty and goodness in people and things they had scoffed at, scorned, or just plain ignored. Strangers became friends and enemies became neighbors. Called and sent — and everything was rearranged.”

Craig Dykstra, *Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices*, 2nd edition (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005), p. 158.

## Movies/Scenes Representing Call

**A list of movies with the topic of “call” can be found at [www.textweek.com/movies/call.htm](http://www.textweek.com/movies/call.htm).**

Neverwas (2005)

Bruce Almighty (2003)

Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)

The Lord of the Rings is a movie that, in following the book well enough, addresses many issues pertaining to emotions, faith, hope, pity, call, confronting evil, discernment, and many, many more themes. This movie is rich to bursting with possibilities, as it follows the book which was written around a mythical and religious basis. (Michael K. Doran)

Frodo the hobbit receives a “call” to destroy the evil “one ring” before its power is able to corrupt and destroy all of Middle Earth. This call involves a long and extremely dangerous journey and the likelihood that Frodo will not return alive. In one scene, Frodo expresses his fear and his wish that the ring had never come to him. Gandalf the wizard tells Frodo, “We cannot choose the time we live in. We can only choose what we do with the time we are given.”

(Pat Raube-Wilson, Auburn/Union Theological Seminary)

Keeping the Faith (2000)

Edward Norton talks about how even as young children, he and his friend (the old Catholic priest and the Rabbi line) knew that they were called to their ministries. (Jenn. Stiles Williams, Jax, FL)

Jenna Elfman is thinking aloud to Edward Norton about how she passed a certain painting in the museum and never noticed it until that day, and she wondered why she had never seen it until today. Edward Norton responds, “Sometimes we don’t see things until we’re ready to see them.” (Ken Dibble, Richmond, VA)

Mission Impossible 2 (2000)

At the beginning of the movie, Ethan Hunt is climbing a mountain. At one point, he hangs facing out from the cliff face, arms spread as though he were being crucified. He makes it to the top of the mountain, and stands looking out in a moment of exhilaration. Almost immediately, he is presented with the latest impossible mission, which will send him out to potential rejection and death -- “the secretary will disavow all knowledge...” (FUMC, Natchitoches, LA)

The Patriot (2000)

Halfway through the movie, the son walks into a church to recruit for the militia. Very moving as the plea is initially rejected, then a girl speaks up. Men begin standing, the music builds, a basic tear jerker. (Erin Baggett)

The Green Mile (1999)

Tom Hanks' character is "called" from his accepted (and societally acceptable) role as head honcho for Death Row to the cause of grace in the unlikely person of an enormous black inmate at the time of his being grasped through the bars by the compassion of his prisoner and healed of his terrible urinary tract infection, of all things. He is, as are we all when touched by the hand of God, irrevocably called and committed to a cause, a person, well beyond the pale of his previous existence. (Katherine Merrell Glenn, Alamosa, CO)

The Confession (1999)

Bleakie is influenced toward morality and relationship with God through the lives of Fertig and Mel as much as through their words/preaching.

Galaxy Quest (1999)

The aliens come to the Galaxy Quest convention and then to Jason's house, asking him to accompany them.

Jason collects his castmates to show them the Real Thing.

Brandon is called (literally!) to assist the Galaxy Quest cast in their attempt to save the ship.

The Matrix (1999)

Neo receives a "call" literally, by cell phone no less. (Mike Clark, Hamilton, Canada)

- *"Discovering your Destiny"/"Dealing with Fatalistic Thinking" - Matrix-*  
Neo is struggling to come to terms with his destiny. Morpheus asks him if he believes in fate- he doesn't because he likes to be in control of his own life. His visit with the Oracle reinforces this- she comments that he seems to be waiting for something instead of moving forward and that he doesn't believe in "all that fate crap." He finally comes to terms with who he could be at the end of the movie — great action stuff. (Mike Simpson)

Dogma (1999)

The angel appears to Bethany — a nonpracticing Catholic who runs an abortion clinic. (see review at Hollywood Jesus)

Cider House Rules (1999)

The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc (1999)

Joan is driven by what she is convinced is the voice of God to lead her people in revolt against English aggression. (Dennis L. Zimmerman)

Star Wars: The Phantom Menace (1999)

Anakin is called to the Jedi Council, called to become a Jedi.

The cute little boy is called [by the Emperor] to become Darth Vader! (Bill Mosley, Frelsburg, TX)

Is he ignoring his true call as he turns to the Dark Side?

Simon Birch (1998)

Patch Adams (1998)

Nothing will deter him from his heterodox practice of medicine and his love interest in the movie is killed simply because she chooses to live with the new idea of medicine. (Amy Wharton)

Responds to the urge within him to treat the whole person rather than the disease, in spite of the cost of this professionally? (Marie Loewen)

Dark City (1998)

John answers a phone call at the beginning of the movie.

The Mask of Zorro (1998)

Diego calls a thief to take his place and save the peasants from oppression, by being transformed.

(Bill Mosley, Frelsburg, TX)

In any Zorro - Diego's father calls him home because there is trouble, but how is he to fight it? By being transformed!

(Bill Mosley, Frelsburg, TX)

Contact (1997)

Ellie's call to study and then to experience the alternate reality.

The Apostle (1997)

Pentecostal pastor Eulis "Sonny" Dewey, using the name The Apostle E.F., enlists three people to help him start an interracial church in a Southern small town. First he goes to a retired African American pastor, asking to use an abandoned church building. Then he convinces a radio station owner to give him air time, as long as he doesn't speak in tongues. Lastly, he recruits a young mechanic to help fix up the church building. They become the core of the new church. (David K. Miller)

Men in Black (1997)

More an audition than a call!

Sling Blade (1996)

Karl's call to give up his freedom and his soul in order to help Frank and his mother.

The Spitfire Grill (1996)

Big Night (1996)

Two Italian brothers who own a good but struggling restaurant are supposedly helped by the owner of the hopping Italian restaurant in town. His help is that he is going to send Louis Prima and his entourage to this struggling restaurant. The formal publicity and "the buzz" created by Prima's presence will be the spark needed to get the restaurant going. The film becomes about all the preparation, excitement, and anticipation of this visit. They plan a huge party for him, but he never arrives. The successful restaurant fabricated the whole story. Yet in the midst of disappointment, they rejoice and understand that in the preparation, excitement, and anticipation, they created a wonderful night. I think of this story as I consider Luke 10 and the 70 who proclaimed the Gospel without immediate results. (Alfred Bakewell)

Dolores Claiborne (1995)

Legends of the Fall (1994)

The Stand (1994)

Mother Abigail's prayer (DVD pt 2, ch 7) (she is reluctant to follow)

Mother Abigail ("good") and Randall Flagg ("evil") each call their own chosen ones through dreams.

The Pelican Brief (1993)

The Sandlot (1993)

Scotty finally goes into the junkyard after the ball.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992)

Clip begins in the locker room after school, where Buffy is about to go to practice. Merrill appears, and admonishes her for not having met him. Following is a wonderful dialogue about being gifted, called, and chosen. PERFECT LINE: “Don’t you get it? I don’t WANT to be chosen!” After Merrill throws a knife at Buffy to prove to her that she is the chosen (apparently those with this gift have the capacity to catch knives thrown at them!) she punches him in the nose. Stunned at her own behavior, she says, “I’ve never hit anyone before.” With hand over face, Merrill says, “Well, you did it very well!” Scene ends with Buffy saying, “And I didn’t even break a nail!” (Paul Wiberg)

A River Runs Through It (1992)

My Cousin Vinny (1992)

Hero (1992)

Bernie tries to walk away from airplane crash and is called back to rescue other passengers.

Red Rock West (1992)

Michael tries to escape with the money he’s taken while pretending to be the hit-man hired to kill Suzanne. No matter what he tries to do to get away from town, he continues to be drawn back by one fate or another until he confronts Suzanne and the real hit man.

The Fisher King (1991)

This excellent movie is an exploration of the way in which the central character, a shock-jock radio host, seeks for forgiveness, having unwittingly incited a man to commit a massacre in a restaurant. He meets someone who has suffered a breakdown as a result of witnessing the massacre and tries in all sorts of ways to free himself of his own sense of guilt. The man he has met (played by Robin Williams) is convinced that the DJ has been sent to bring him a silver cup (actually a sporting trophy) which he thinks is the Holy Grail. The Robin Williams character repeatedly calls him to this task, but he dismisses it as ridiculous. Finally, though, when Robin Williams falls into a catatonic state, he realizes that, simply because he needs the ‘grail’ to get better he will retrieve it. It strikes me as relevant to the theme of ‘call’ because of the way in which it is circumstance which compels him, eventually, to do something only he can do. The act he is called to is ridiculous, but it is the doing of it which is really important. In fulfilling his ‘call,’ by doing something out of simple love, he not only heals someone else, but finds the freedom he has been seeking for himself.

The Silence of the Lambs (1991)

Clarice’s summons from Jack Crawford — the “call” from her dead father to follow in his footsteps.

City Slickers (1991)

When “Curly” and the character played by Billy Crystal are riding alone to round up some stray cattle. Curly then explains that all the rest of the stuff in life “don’t mean nothing” if you know the one thing that is the meaning of life. The Billy Crystal character asks what that one thing is. Curly tells him he has to find that out for himself. I used this in a service that asked the question, “What is it that is the basic focus of our lives?” The one thing (person) we need is Jesus Christ and all the rest of our life falls into place. (Vern Gauthier, Summit Hill, PA)

Glory (1989)

Glory was the true story of the first black combat regiment, the 54th Massachusetts, to fight in the Civil War. The commander (by law the officers had to be white) was the young, Harvard-educated, son of wealthy Boston abolitionists, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, played by Matthew Broderick. In addition to Broderick, the cast included Denzel Washington (who won an Oscar for best supporting actor),

Morgan Freeman, and Cary Elwes. It definitely touches on themes of call and courage — Shaw knows what he has to do, and ultimately that it will cost him his life. It also speaks well of race relations (in that time). This is a great film. (Richard S. Hong)

#### Field of Dreams (1989)

An Iowa farmer hears a mysterious voice borne on the wind blowing through his corn field, “If you build it, he will come!” The voice becomes more insistent, until he gives in and builds a baseball diamond, complete with lights for night games and bleachers for spectators. A host of long-dead ball players come out of the night fog of the corn to play on the ball field, one asking, “Is this heaven?” To which, the farmer responds, “It’s Iowa.” But the real “He” who was to come is the farmer’s long estranged and now dead father. In a simple game of “catch” on the field they have a chance to talk, see life from the other’s point of view, and experience forgiveness and a restored relationship. (Mark D. Johns, Instructor of Communication/Linguistics, Luther College, Decorah, IA)

#### Jesus of Montreal (1989)

The decision to do the play and the summons of each of the actors.

#### Dead Poets Society (1989)

Todd, Neil and the other students are “called” by Prof. Keating to “seize the day” and they reform the Dead Poets Society.

#### Journey to Spirit Island (1988)

Maria, a young member of the Makah Indian Tribe, living in the Pacific Northwest, is caught in a struggle on her reservation between tradition and enculturation into the dominant culture. Maria and her brother host two white visitors from the city and find themselves in the midst of a marvelous adventure. Maria experiences call in her dreams and visions. Excellent. I have used this for several years in Confirmation Classes when talking about calls to ministry and service. (Sharee Kelly)

#### Midnight Run (1988)

#### Last Temptation of Christ (1988)

Jesus experiences the call of God as a big headache until he accepts the call and feels free.

#### Babbette’s Feast (1987)

Inviting the town to the meal — the varied responses.

#### Forrest Gump (1987)

Forrest runs across US “for no particular reason.” He gains many followers. Start cue: on verandah and starts to run. End cue: “I think I’ll go home now, I’m tired.” (Luke Whiteside, Youth Alpha, Australia)

“Everyone has a destiny, Forrest. Mine was to be your mama.”

“What’s my destiny [calling], Mama?”

“Well, you’re gonna have to figure that out for yourself, Forrest.”

(Ken Dibble, Richmond, VA)

#### I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing (1987)

The very last scene of “I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing.” “Come and See” I can’t even begin to describe the event, it has to be seen. (Gayle Bach-Watson)

#### The Mission (1986)

Excalibur (1981)

There's a terrific development of call in Excalibur. First the sword in the stone bit, then the sealing of the call after Arthur's first battle. He has subdued his enemy, a nobleman, and they are standing together in a moat. People shout to have Arthur made king, but the noble (is he played by Patrick Stewart?) says he can't be king--he's not even a knight. So Arthur gives the disarmed knight his own sword and, kneeling and offering his head and neck, says, "Then knight me." Great scene. (Michael Hudson, Cullowhee, NC)

The Blues Brothers (1980)

Scene where Jake & Elroy visit the black church, and see the light. End cue: Elroy "The Band!...." (Luke Whiteside)

The "call" of various members of the band.

The Shining (1980)

Hallorann is called from his vacation in Florida to drive to the Overlook, despite his premonition that he will be killed there.

Star Wars (1977)

Luke is called to trust the force. (Bill Mosley, Frelsburg, TX)

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)

For Call Scenes... or possibly the theme of election, I remember toward the end of Close Encounters, a group of astronauts has been prepared and are ready to go off in the alien spacecraft. However, when the little aliens appear, the astronauts are ignored in favor of Roy who has been "struggling with his sense of call," if you will. The astronauts are left behind as the rejected one (Roy, previously thwarted by the government) is taken aboard the ship. (Jim Gooch)

Oh, God! (1977)

The link is with Jeremiah's call (Jer 1:4-10) - The hero, Jerry, a supermarket assistant manager, is entirely unequal to the task God puts on him. (Leslie Lewis)

Brother Sun, Sister Moon (1973)

The call of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Exorcist (1973)

Father Merrin and Father Karras are called to what they both seem to know will be their deaths in order to confront the demon.

Father Karras' call/immediate decision to sacrifice himself in order to keep the demon from killing Regan.

The Poseidon Adventure (1972)

The young priest calls the others to follow him. "I found it! I've been to the engine room, and we're going to go there! This Way!"

Fiddler on the Roof (1971)

"I know. I know. We are your chosen people. But, once in awhile, can't you choose someone else?" (Tevye)

Mission Impossible (television, 1966-1973)

A call/mission was always presented, and then the famous words, "should you choose to accept it!"

A Man for All Seasons (1966)

Becket (1964)

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

The Night of the Hunter (1955)

“Rev. Harry Powell” uses religious language and the disguise of a preacher to describe his “call” to find another woman to rob and murder. (Not all “call” are genuine, either those perceived or those expressed.)

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

Dorothy gathers disciples for the Wizard. (Bill Mosley, Frelsburg, TX)

# Special Music: "Follow You"

The audio file, lyrics, and sheet music can be downloaded from [www.consideryourcall.org](http://www.consideryourcall.org).

## "Follow You" by Gathered by Grace:

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it."  
Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)*

Am I just going through the motions  
Every hour, every day?  
I am looking for direction  
But I always try to do things my own way.

I wish I knew why I was here  
And what You've called on me to do  
I need to let it go and let You take control  
And I need to spend more time with You.

I know that I must listen to Your still voice  
Open my heart, Lord, and help me

To hear Your voice, I'll hear Your voice and I will follow You  
I'll hear Your voice, I'll hear Your call  
And I'll do what You ask me to  
When will You call, when will You call so I may follow You?  
I want to follow You.

We are weak, but You are strong  
We are small but You know all  
We need to let it go and let You take control  
So we'll be ready for Your call.

Lord, let us listen to Your voice, Open our hearts  
That we may know You  
That we may seek You  
That we may hear You.

We hear Your voice, we hear Your call and we will follow you  
We will be strong and not afraid  
Give us the courage to see it through  
We hear Your voice, we hear Your call  
And we will follow You  
We will follow You  
We will follow You.

Words and Music by Chris Grantier  
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## Sheet Music/Tabs for "Follow You":

Verse 1

**G** **C2** **D4** **G/B** **C** **D4**

Am I just going through the motions every hour, every day?

**G** **Am** **C2** **Am** **G/B** **D4**

I am looking for direction but I always try to do things my own way.

Verse 2

**G** **C2** **D4** **G/B** **C** **D4**

I wish I knew why I was here and what You've called on me to do

**G** **Am** **C2** **Am** **G/B** **D4-D**

I need to let it go and let You take control and I need to spend more time with You.

Bridge

**Em** **B/Eb** **G/D** **A/C#** **C2** **D**

I know that I must listen to Your still voice. Open my heart, Lord, and help me

Chorus

**G** **C** **D**  
To hear Your voice, I'll hear Your voice and I will follow You

**G/B** **C** **Em** **D**  
I'll hear Your voice, I'll hear Your call, and I'll do what You ask me to

**G** **C** **D** **C2**  
When will You call, when will You call so I may follow You? I want to follow You.

Verse 3

**G** **C2** **D4** **G/B** **C** **D4**

We are weak, but You are strong. We are small but You know all.

**G** **Am** **C2**

We need to let it go and let You take control

**Am** **G/B** **D4**

So we'll be ready for Your call.

Bridge

**Em** **B/Eb** **G/D** **A/C#**

Lord, let us listen to Your voice, Open our hearts

**C2** **D** **C2/E** **D**

That we may know You, that we may seek You,

**C2** **D**

That we may hear You.

Chorus

**G** **C** **D**  
We hear Your voice, we hear Your call and we will follow you

**G/B** **C** **Em** **D**  
We will be strong and not afraid. Give us the courage to see it through.

**G** **C** **D4**

We hear Your voice, we hear Your call and we will follow You.

**C2**

We will follow You (*repeat last chorus*)

**C2**

We will follow You.

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