

## GRACE LEADERS NETWORK: A WORSHIP CONVERSATION // March 2019

By Justin Fox & Beth Balmer

### Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

**Traditional elements in a service:**

Call to Worship: "An invitation to be human"

Invocation: "Utter dependence on God"

Confession and Assurance of Pardon: "Brokenness, Grace, Hope"

Offering: "Kingdom economics of gratitude"

Sermon: "Renarrating the World"

Communion: "Supper with the King"

Response & Benediction: "The cultural mandate meets the great commission"

Song: "Hymning the language of the Kingdom"

## WORSHIP EXPERIENCE:

*Sing: "May your Kingdom come, may your will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven."*

### Prayer:

LEADER: Father, you call us to pray for our Christian family who are suffering. Awaken us to the reality of their struggles and hardships. We confess that we allow the cares of our own lives to distract us from sharing in the suffering of our brothers and sisters. Thank you for the privilege we have of interceding for them. *Hear us as we pray.*

*Sing: "May your Kingdom come, may your will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven."*

LEADER: We pray for our brothers and sisters who live in places with the greatest persecution - North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Somalia and Maldives. Thank you for revealing yourself to them in spite of the fact that there is almost no gospel witness. Thank you for their faithfulness to your call on their lives. Give them courage and strength to face each day with the confidence that your kingdom cannot be overthrown and you are present in their suffering. Encourage them and provide for them. *Hear us as we pray.*

*Sing: "May your Kingdom come, may your will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven."*

LEADER: Where Christianity is oppressed, but where your church is flourishing -- China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Iran— we thank you for the movement of your Spirit in these places. Thank you for those who lead your church, who demonstrate courage as they teach others how to follow you. Empower them to lead with wisdom and humility. May your church be purified so your Gospel can continue to transform lives, systems and governments. *Hear us as we pray.*

*Sing: "May your Kingdom come, may your will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven."*

LEADER: Jesus, the whole earth waits for the day when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, when the crooked is made straight, and with the breath of your lips, you will judge the wicked. Righteousness and peace will flourish and all will say, "the world belongs God!" It is in your name, and for your glory's sake, that we pray these things. **Amen.**

## **Psalm 51**

(\*bold words are congregation's part)

*Sing: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"*

**Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.**

Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

**Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.**

*Sing: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.**

Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.**

*Sing: "Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and renew a right spirit within me."*

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### PART 1: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS and GROUP FEEDBACK

- what values/priorities does your current liturgy /service exhibit?
- what might be missing?
- what does your physical space communicate about worship?
- how do you show hospitality to the visitor in worship (I don't mean saying hello/welcome, I mean inviting them into parts of the liturgy that might be foreign to a non church goer?)

### PART 2: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS and GROUP FEEDBACK

- what does 'success' look like for a worship leader in your community? How can they measure/gauge the effectiveness of their leading? What kind of feedback loops exist or need to be created?
- what kind of evaluation questions should you use in a Monday morning post service eval?

**Bibliography:** *Essential Worship* by Greg Scheer - *Worship Matters* by Bob Kauflin - *Desiring the Kingdom* by James Smith - *Music Through the Eyes of Faith* by Harold Best

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