

## Worship Outline

Sunday, June 14 - for local churches

**“We Celebrate and We Wrestle!”**

(The following are some suggestions for your worship liturgy. Much of it is the same as the Friday worship liturgy at the Annual Meeting. The theme scripture for the whole Annual Meeting is Luke 5:1-11, “Going Deeper: Trusting in the Sacred Conversation”, so you will see reference to it and the Old Testament reading, Genesis 32:22-32, in the liturgy. The sermon focuses only on the Genesis text. We hope it will be helpful to you. You are free, of course, to adapt or revise it as works best for you and your congregation.)

### Gathering Music

### Words of Welcome

### Call to Worship

One: There are times when we think the work is over – we have caught no fish and we are resigned to what is.

**Many: And then Jesus invites us to try again – to put our nets into the deeper waters.**

One: Come, friends and strangers, let us, in our worship, cast our nets with hopeful anticipation into the deep and wonderful waters of possibility and promise.

**Many: There are times when we wrestle with the angels of change and calling, and the wrestling leaves us feeling wounded and broken.**

One: And then our God transforms our willingness to stay with the challenge into new life and our wounds themselves make us bearers of new beginnings.

**Many: Come, let us not give up our wrestling, but let us ask for God’s blessing within it. Let us seek out new ways and let us allow God’s hand to move us.**

One: In the deep waters of worship and communion, let us cast our nets of hope and faith. In this time of wrestling, let us open our hearts to God’s blessing.

**All: And in the midst of it all, let us celebrate that we are a People of God together in unity, through Christ’s love, and in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Come, let us worship.**

### Hymn/Song

*Tu has venido a la orilla (You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore) NCH #173*

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

*Somewhere else... people struggle for justice.*

*Somewhere else... there is not enough water for everyone.*

*Somewhere else... wars are fought and innocents die.*

*Somewhere else... people do not have our peace and our privilege because  
people must not be as worthy or loved by You as we are...*

**We confess, merciful God, that this is what we have believed.**

**This is what makes it possible for us to sleep at night.**

**And this is why our nets have come up empty when we have fished for the food of true righteousness and peace.**

**But now we are ready to wrestle.  
And in your grace, we are prepared to not let go or give up,  
because through Christ we are being guided to cast our nets...  
Somewhere else... in the waters of deep listening...  
Somewhere else... in the depths of confession and contrition...  
Somewhere else... in the loving grace of this faith community...  
Somewhere else... in the cleansing refreshment of new understandings and shared  
wisdom...  
We are guided by our Christ to trust one another and try again.  
But we confess that have not always been willing to try again.  
Help us, Holy Creator, to open our hearts and minds, so that your peace and  
abundance may be experienced not only in our lives, and among us today, but also...  
Somewhere else... by someone else. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon & Passing the Peace**

**Scripture Readings:** Genesis 32:22-32  
Luke 5:1-11

## **Sermon**

**Prayer Hymn** I Need You Every Hour NCH #517

## **Prayers of the People**

## **Offering of Our Gifts**

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication

**We bring our gifts of time, talent, and resources, to this offering, gracious Creator.  
Help us also to bring the gifts of our wounds and need for one another to You in  
humble thanksgiving. And then... bless this giving, we pray, that the world might be  
made more whole through it all. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** *We Shall Not Give Up the Fight* NCH #437

## **Benediction**