

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white, fringed cloth. The hand is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with the palm facing up. The cloth is draped over the hand, and its fringed edge is visible on the left side. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white. The overall mood is gentle and welcoming.

# *Welcome*

ONE ANOTHER

**Creative  
Communications  
Sample**

CAROL GEISLER

# Welcome!

THEFORE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST  
HAS WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

*Romans 15:7*

**W**elcome! We enter the church, expecting to join believers in praising God. That is what happens, but God does much more for us! When we come to worship, God welcomes us into his presence. He is ready to serve us, as any good host would be. He feeds us with his Word as we listen to the Scripture readings and sing the Psalms. He nourishes our faith with the body and blood of Jesus his Son in a holy meal of bread and wine. Are you worried that you have nothing suitable to wear? God takes care of that too. Through faith in Jesus, we are placed into a right relationship with God, who dresses us in the holiness of his Son. All dressed up and no place to go? Come to worship and enter the presence of God. It's an invitation like no other.

# Scattered Seed

THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD.

*Luke 8:11*

**W**e like to think that everyone is paying close attention in worship, and for the most part those present are participating in what is being said and done. But our attention can wander and there might be some daydreaming going on. We may have a little trouble gathering our thoughts, but what takes place in worship is more like scattering, that is, like scattering seed. We listen to words from God in the Scripture readings. Those words are reflected in songs and explained in the sermon. The Word of God is scattered among us like a farmer scatters seed across a field. The Spirit of God is at work in that seed; he causes the seed of the Word to take root and grow in our lives. From those small seeds a great harvest of faith will grow, to the glory of God!



**Lord God, help us as we worship to listen and learn from your Word, so that the precious seed will take root and grow in our lives. Amen.**

# Forgiven

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL  
AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE  
US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

*1 John 1:9*

**I**t can be difficult to confess our sins, because often we don't even want to admit that we have any sins to confess. But the commandments of God provide a very honest, if unflattering, mirror of our true selves. We sin every day in our thoughts, words and actions. To confess our sins to God is to admit that we have sinned, that we have rebelled against him. Yet out of his love for the world, God sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins, to suffer the penalty of death that we deserved. God didn't wait until we were good enough or tried hard enough. Scripture tells us, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). We have forgiveness, full and free, because Jesus paid the price for us.



**Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying on the cross  
so that we can be forgiven. Amen.**

# Joyful Noise


MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH;  
BREAK FORTH INTO JOYOUS SONG AND SING PRAISES!

*Psalm 98:4*

**W**hen a small fire erupted near a youth camp, firefighters extinguished the blaze and kept watch all night to make sure no sparks flared up. When the firefighters entered the dining hall the next morning, the campers and counselors rose up and gave them a round of heartfelt applause in thanks for saving the camp—and their lives. That is what we do in worship. We thank God for saving us as we offer up songs of praise for the gift of his Son, our Savior Jesus. Churches around the world use all kinds of instruments in worship—organs, violins, drums, trumpets, guitars, flutes—instruments that are pressed into service to lead our songs of praise. Scripture says, “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!” (Psalm 150:6). So take a deep breath and make a joyful noise.



**God and Savior, hear and accept our joyful songs  
of praise and thanks. Amen.**



What happens during the worship service? What goes on inside these doors? You are welcome in this place because here God welcomes all of us into his presence. Like a good host, he feeds us and serves us and seeks to meet our every need. This little book of devotions is a gift for you.

Welcome, in the name of Jesus!

This book, along with many other *Creative Communications for the Parish* products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#).

By Carol Geisler. Design by Jeff McCall. Cover image: Designpics.com. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. WL2