

Convention Opening Worship Celebration
June 9, 2008

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Leader: We have gathered to rejoice in our oneness in Jesus Christ! Each of us experiences faith and life in a unique way.

People: *Yet we have one God, one faith, and one baptism, and one Spirit who unites us all.*

Leader: Let us lift our hearts as one, in songs of praise, in prayer, and in listening for God's word.

All: *Even when we leave this place, let us be joined in common concern for humanity, like that shown by Jesus Christ. Amen.* *(Bread for the Journey, p 51)*

Hymn of Praise

For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gentle God, like a gardener you plant a seed of faith within our hearts and nurture that seed throughout our lives. So often we act as if we have no faith, failing to trust your care, reluctant to share your love with others, and hesitant to reach out in service to others in your name. Forgive our lack of faith and help us to remember that you have given us all that we need. And all that we need to do is act upon that gift of faith. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Jesus said that the birds of the air make their nests among the branches of the mustard bush. What better image do we need to know the potential of God's forgiveness and love? In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen

Hymn

Little is Much When God is In It

Prayer of Illumination

Plant the seed of your word in our hearts as we worship you this day. Send your Holy Spirit to open our eyes and our lives to see you in a new, fresh way as your word is read. Amen.

Special Music

Scripture Reading

Message

Beverly Stott, Convention President

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen (Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39)

Offertory Sentences & Introduction of Offering Recipient

Single Parent Family Therapy, CP Children's Home

Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Commitment

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Benediction

