Meditation and Worship Time

Summer Institute on Theology and Disability

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

8:30-9:00 am

**Opening Meditative Music-**K. Jackson, flute, David Morstad, guitar

**Opening Prayer-**led by K. Jackson and Shelly Christensen

Prayer written by Rabbi Michelle Greenfield <http://www.ritualwell.org/ritual/prayer-inclusion> Adapted by K. Jackson

Shelly: God of our ancestors, support us as we take on this work of creating and supporting holy communities. May our words and actions help to create an open, inclusive, accessible, and welcoming world.

Karen: Source of Connection, just as You take note of those who call out to You, help us to pay attention to the people in our community with disabilities and to take the time to listen as they communicate their needs, desires, and emotions.

Congregation: I know that the task is not mine alone. Help me to build partnerships and to remain mindful of my own limitations, and to continue the work even when it is difficult.

Shelly: Redeemer, may we continue to be a part of communities that value the gifts of each individual and that respect the challenges that each individual faces. Guide us as we work to create space where each unique person feels comfortable and seen, and where differences are seen as a blessing.

**Meditative Song-“Lord I Need You”,** by Matt Maher

Lord I need you, oh I need You.

Every hour I need.

My one defense, my righteousness

Oh God, how I need You.

**Scripture Reading**: Proverbs 3:3-6

“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

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**Introduction to** “Let’s Share a Journey”-Karen Jackson

**“Let’s Share a Journey” (on screen photos with instrumental accompaniment)**

Let’s share a journey,

The way it should be.

Let’s share a journey,

You and me.

Let’s share a journey,

And teach the ways,

God’s love can endure,

All of our days.

**Closing Prayer**:

**Leader**: As people of a faithful and loving God, we are called to love one another and to take care of and encourage each other. Please give us the compassion and wisdom to do this to the best of our ability.

**Congregation**: We thank you and praise you O’ God.

**Leader:** We are called not only to serve, but to give everyone, regardless of perceived ability or disability, the opportunity to serve. Please give us the compassion and wisdom to facilitate this in our own faith communities.

**Congregation**: We thank you and praise you O God.

**Leader**: Although we might sing different songs, recite different prayers or pray in different positions, we are all called to worship you. Please give us the compassion and wisdom to recognize and appreciate our differences.

**Congregation**: We thank you and praise you O’ God.

**Leader**: We are grateful for the opportunity to learn, to share our knowledge and to share our stories with one another today. Please give us the compassion and the wisdom to open our hearts to all of the ideas and people we encounter today.

**Congregation:** We thank you and praise you O’ God.

**Leader**: As we begin our day, we are grateful for the extensive work that went into organizing this unique conference. Please be with not only those present here this week, but all those working diligently around the country and the world to promote the inclusion of all people in our faith communities.

**Congregation**: We thank you and praise you O’ God.

**Closing Music**