



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

2021 - 2022



BECAUSE

PRESENCE

MATTERS

Worship Resources

Luke 24:13-35

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Responsive Reading Beloved Community

Leader: We are blessed to be a part of beloved community. Look around to your fellow Christ-followers.

Congregation: Lord, we are grateful for this community.

Leader: We may not always agree, but we are one in the body of Christ. We are part of the kingdom of God.

Congregation: Lord, we are grateful for this community.

Leader: As part of the kingdom of God, we are called to share this beloved community with others. We are called to share God's love and presence.

Congregation: Lord, help us be beloved community to others.

Leader: There are those around the world who desperately need a community. There are those like Rosalie, who are refugees looking for a safe place and helpful hearts.



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Responsive Reading (continued) Beloved Community

Congregation: Lord, help us welcome refugees with open arms.

Leader: There are those in our own town who desperately need community. There are those, like Bruce, who need someone to be their friend. There are those who will discover their worth only if someone befriends them and shows them that they matter.

Congregation: Lord, help us look past the outside and see Your divine spark in all those we meet.

Leader: There are those in our community who are lonely. Lead us to take the time to be present so that they know they are loved.

All: Lord, may we always remember the importance of beloved community. Amen.



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Responsive Reading

Based on the “Road to Emmaus” Account

Leader: There are times when we don’t recognize Jesus, even when He is right beside us.

Congregation: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we fail to see Jesus.

Leader: There are times when we, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, are caught up in our fear and what is happening around us.

Congregation: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we allow fear and the events of this world to control us.

Leader: There are times when we, too, could be called foolish for not seeing what is right in front of us.

Congregation: Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may see You.

Leader: Let there also be times when in our recognition of Jesus, we find courage.

Congregation: Help us to see what You are doing in our world.

Leader: May we, like the disciples, feel the presence of Jesus. And may the presence of Jesus give us the courage to share God’s love and presence with others.

All: Give us courage, O Lord, to share Your love and presence with everyone we meet.



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Children's Sermon 1

Because Presence Matters: Jenny Jenkin's work in Haiti

Good morning everyone!

Jenny Jenkins is a nurse. She works hard to try to help people feel better when they are sick. She is a CBF field personnel in Haiti. Many of the people in Haiti live a long way from doctors or a hospital, making it hard for them to see a doctor when they are sick.

In a small town in Haiti, there is a man named Lucien who is in charge of a church. He wanted to help the members of his church who were sick, so he talked to Jenny. Nurse Jenny comes once a month to take care of the people there. Now the people have easier lives because they can get the medicines they need. Now they know that if something happens, someone is there who can help them. Jenny and Lucien are working together to build a healthcare clinic so that all the people can have access to medical care.

When you are sick, your parents take you to see a doctor. But imagine if you had to walk to that doctor and it would take many hours to get there. It would be very hard to go see the doctor. But now, in Haiti, Nurse Jenny comes to help the people. And she is changing their lives. Her presence in their community is changing things. The people can get the medicines they need. They can get the help they need. Because Nurse Jenny is there, their lives are better.

In our community, our church helps others by...[Tell a short story about a way your church has been present for others in your community].



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Children's Sermon 1 (continued)

Because Presence Matters: Jenny Jenkin's work in Haiti

Presence, being there for someone, spending time with someone, matters. You may not be a nurse or a doctor, but you can still help someone have a better life. When you spend time with others, when you care about them and listen to them, when you encourage them and give them a hug when they are sad, it makes a difference. You can make a difference by being someone's friend.

Jesus asks us to help people who need help, to feed the hungry and take care of the sick. Jesus wants us to be there for people who are lonely and to share God's love with those who are hurting. We can change someone's life by being their friend. Our presence matters.

Let's pray:

Loving God,

Help us to have the courage to spend time with others whom people often ignore. Help us to share Your love with everyone we meet. Open our eyes to the people who need a friend. Thank You for Nurse Jenny. Please help her know how to help the people of Haiti. We love You, Lord. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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Children's Sermon 2

The Road to Emmaus

Good morning everyone!

Have you ever tried to play baseball by yourself? Or soccer? Or how about a board game? You can play for a bit by yourself, but you miss out on a lot when you don't play these things with others. You can hit the ball off a tee in baseball, but there's no one to catch it. You can kick the soccer ball, but there's no one to play with. You will win that board game, but it doesn't mean very much when you are playing by yourself.

And there's a reason for that: We are better together. God created us to work together, to help each other and to be there for each other. When Jesus came, he didn't simply tell people what to do. He was there for others. He worked together with others. He was their friend.

Jesus showed us that presence matters. Being there for someone, being their friend, matters. In Luke 24, we read about two of the disciples who were walking to a place called Emmaus. Jesus had died and all they wanted to do was get out of Jerusalem. So here they are, walking on a dusty road, talking to each other. And then another traveler comes up and asks them what they are talking about.

Now, we know that this traveler was Jesus; but the disciples didn't recognize him. And so they begin to tell the traveler about Jesus, about who Jesus was and what had happened to him. They talked about how something strange had occurred, that the women went to the tomb but didn't see Jesus' body.



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Children's Sermon 2 (continued)

The Road to Emmaus

And then Jesus began to explain the Scriptures to the two travelers. But they still didn't understand. When they finally reached Emmaus, they invited Jesus to stay with them. It wasn't until they were at the table with Jesus, when Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, that they recognized Jesus. And then Jesus disappeared!

These two disciples were so excited that they had seen Jesus that they ran back to Jerusalem! They found the eleven and told them that they had seen Jesus, that he had risen from the dead. Jesus was alive!

Jesus changed their lives. Those two disciples on that road to Emmaus had been trying to get away. They wanted to be far from Jerusalem before someone tried to arrest them too. They were trying to hide. But then Jesus spent time with them and they discovered that Jesus was alive! And it changed their lives. They hurried back to Jerusalem to share the good news, and from then on, we can imagine that they told everyone they met about Jesus. Jesus changed their lives by spending time with them. And we can do the same thing for other people.

You can make a difference in someone's life simply by being their friend. You can show others that they matter, that they are loved, by being their friend. You can help someone feel less alone and you can both have more fun. It's a lot more fun to play on the playground with others, to play baseball as a team, to play soccer as a team, to play a board game with others.



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Children's Sermon 2 (continued)

The Road to Emmaus

God created us to be in community with others. We were created to help each other, to share what we have, and to be friends with others. This week, look for people who could use a friend. Be a good friend to them by showing up. You never know how you might change their lives.

Let's pray:

Loving God,

We are thankful that You promise to always be with us. Help us to feel Your presence, O Lord. Help us to find ways to be there for others, to show them that they matter and that they are loved. Help us to be a good friend. We love You, Lord.

It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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Children's Prayers

Loving God,

We are so glad that You are always with us, even if we don't always see You. Help us to pay attention to what You are doing in our world. Help us to feel Your presence. Lord we know that You are with us at school and at home, when we close our eyes at night and when we open them in the morning. Give us courage to share Your love with others. Help us to be present. Give us courage to talk to the new kid at school and to eat lunch with the person who always eats by themselves. Show us ways we can help the elderly person who lives down the street from us. Help us to give to others so that everyone can have enough. We love You, Lord. Help us to share Your love with everyone we meet. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Loving God,

Thank You for always being our friend. Thank You for being our friend when we are happy and when we are sad. Thank You for being our friend when we are angry and when we are grumpy. Thank You for being our friend even when we are mean and cranky. Lord, we know that it is hard to be someone's friend when they are grumpy or mean or cranky. It can be hard to be someone's friend when they are not always kind. But You, Lord, are always our friend. And we know that being a friend matters. Having a friend can change your day, can change your week, and can even change your life.

Help us to be a friend when others need one. Help us to be a friend to people who need our help and to people who have just moved here. Help us to be a friend to people who have a lot and to people who don't have very much. Show us how we can help others and share Your love. Thank You for the friends You have given us. Thank You for their presence in our lives. They mean so much to us, Lord. Help us to be a good friend to others. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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Because Presence Matters Litany

By Nell Green

Jesus came near the two on the road.

Because presence matters.

Jesus went with the two on the road.

Because presence matters.

Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in the scriptures.

Because presence matters.

Jesus stayed with the two at their urging.

Because presence matters.

Jesus sat at the table in fellowship with them.

Because presence matters.

Jesus broke bread and gave it to them.

Because presence matters.

Eyes opened, recognizing their Lord, hearts burning, they rushed to tell the other disciples all that happened. They became bearers of Good News!



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Because Presence Matters Litany (continued)

By Nell Green

Because presence matters.

Following the example of Jesus, CBF Global Missions Field Personnel draw near to and go with those in their communities. Doing this they cultivate beloved community.

Because presence matters.

Following the example of Jesus, CBF Global Missions Field Personnel share the scriptures about Messiah and bring Good News. Doing this they bear witness to Jesus Christ.

Because presence matters.

Following the example of Jesus, CBF Global Missions Field Personnel are present to those in their communities as Jesus was present to the two on the road to Emmaus. Doing this they seek transformational development even as they are transformed.

Because presence matters.

God, we thank you for providing for the presence of CBF Global Missions Field Personnel through the Offering for Global Missions.

Because presence matters.

All: Jesus be present to all of us even as we are present to those in our communities and around the world. Because presence matters.



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