

# WORSHIP PLANNING

Liturgy resources to support Imagine No Malaria



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## CALLS TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is by God's grace that we gather for worship.

**People: And it is by God's grace that our lives are changed.**

Leader: We are counting on the active and amazing grace of God today.

**People: By your Holy Spirit, enliven our worship.**

Leader: Help us by our actions to be faithful followers of Jesus.

**People: For this, we give you thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is time to worship!

**People: So we thank God for providing in ways more than we can ask or imagine.**

Leader: It is time to worship!

**People: So we praise God for the privilege of gathering with a song in our hearts.**

Leader: It is time to worship!

**People: So we seek to honor God through our responses and our gifts today.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

Leader: As we gather for worship, Africa is on our mind.

**People: Yes, as we gather for worship we sense our connection to our larger global family.**

Leader: Our worship of God compels us to do something to alleviate unnecessary suffering.

**People: So we will join others in a common fight against malaria.**

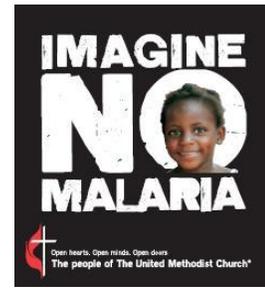
Leader: Together we will eliminate this dreaded killer of children and pregnant women.

**People: And today we raise our voices in a common cry.**

Together: **IMAGINE NO MALARIA!**

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## INVOCATIONS

Eternal God, we call upon you in your healing capacity today. Help us on this special Sunday to join forces with you in the fight against malaria. We want to make a huge impact against this dreaded disease. So be present with us and help us through our worship to align our resources in such a way that we strike a unified blow against malaria so that lives will be saved! Amen.

Today we join others across our Annual Conference and our church in the fight against malaria. We believe that God has called us to this fight and so we willingly offer ourselves in faithful commitment to the call of Christ. We are willing to expect great things from God as we attempt great things for God. Equip us great God by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

What a joy to gather with the assurance that God is with us. God is with us whenever we seek to be instruments of healing and wholeness. This day we gather with the conviction, that God is raising us up to make a difference in the lives of so many who are affected by malaria. The scriptures declare that there is a balm in Gilead and this day we will be a healing balm. O God be present in our witness and praise. Amen.

## OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Eternal God, through our gifts we seek to be faithful agents of change. We pray that your Holy Spirit will prompt us to give cheerfully and generously to the end that lives will be saved. Amen.

God our provider, we dare to imagine a world free of malaria. We pray, in the name of Jesus that these gifts will make healing the reality of many. Malaria is preventable, treatable and beatable. Through our gifts today, we join others in the fight against this disease of poverty. Amen.

Through this simple act of giving, we connect to the larger human family. In the sharing of God given resources, we are positioned to be agents of healing. Our prayer is that the world will know that ordinary people are often the instruments of healing that God uses. Amen.

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God: We thank you for the gifts of our lives, our families, and our communities who no longer have to live under the death threat of malaria. Only 50 years ago, our neighborhoods were faced with a malaria epidemic in the poorest communities. Only 50 years ago, our families lost their children to a mosquito that could be controlled through sanitation and pesticides. Only 50 years ago, our children died from a preventable disease.

Today, we are free from malaria. Our children thrive. Our communities flourish. Today, we are grateful for the eradication of malaria in our cities and among our most vulnerable citizens.

We pray for the hearts, the spirits, the minds to reach out to other vulnerable children, families, and communities to save their lives by sending bed nets. We pray that one day they can watch their children grow to adulthood because they have the gift of living without malaria. We are grateful we can respond to God's love and generosity to us by giving to others with that same love and generosity.

We thank you God for the enthusiasm for giving. We thank you that we can help people through imagine no malaria. We give our gifts with grateful hearts to alleviate malaria suffering and save the lives of children, families, and whole communities.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we are amazed by the abundance of your provision. You have cared for us lavishly and extravagantly. We confess that we have not trusted your abundance when faced with media reports that challenge our faith.

However, the good news is you have given us an opportunity, through the Imagine No Malaria, to strike a blow against fear and to emulate your extravagant generosity through our actions.

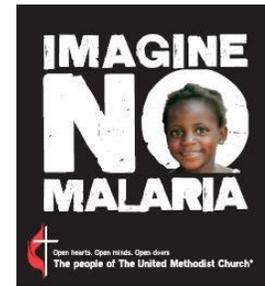
Help us move beyond our tendency to see only the headlines of doom and gloom and risk extravagant care for others that the world might be healed, that the world might be saved. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV)

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## RELATED HYMNS

"For the Healing of the Nations"	Hymn No. 428
"O God of Every Nation"	Hymn No. 435
"Amazing Grace"	Hymn No. 378
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"	Hymn No. 140
"Have Thine Own Way"	Hymn No. 382

## PRAISE SONGS

"We are Marching" (Siyahamba)	The Faith We Sing 2235-b
"Arise, Shine"	The Faith We Sing 2005
"What a Mighty God We Serve"	The Faith We Sing 2021
"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"	The Faith We Sing 2088
"Grace Alone"	The Faith We Sing 2162

## PRAYERS

"For the Spirit of Truth"	Hymnal No. 597
"An Invitation to Christ"	Hymnal No. 466