



## Heart Havens Month 2022 Worship Resources

The theme for Heart Havens Month 2022 is “A New World.” Heart Havens strives to create *A New World* - where people with a developmental disability are empowered to feel accomplished, give back, be creative, explore their community, make friends, celebrate and have fun. At Heart Havens, we believe people with a disability should have a life that is a lot like yours.

You are welcome to use these resources as you plan your observance of Heart Havens Month. If you have any questions, or if you'd like to schedule a virtual speaker to visit your congregation, please fill out [this form](#) and someone from our office will contact you.

### **BIBLE VERSES:**

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10 NIV

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

### **HYMN SUGGESTIONS**

Romans 12:10	Hymn 408	The Gift of Love
Galatians 6:10	Hymn 560	Help Us to Accept each Other
Matthew 7:12	Hymn 438	Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

### **MEDITATION**

Strong covenant God, save us from being self-centered in our prayers, and teach us to remember to pray for others.

May we be so bound up in love with those for whom we pray that we may feel their needs as acutely as our own, and intercede for them with sensitiveness, with understanding and with imagination. This we ask in Christ's name Amen.



### **THE BISHOP'S PRAYER FOR HEART HAVENS**

Almighty and Gracious God, you are known to us as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. You know that we all do our best when we are in relationship with you and others. Give us the wisdom, grace, love and knowledge to trust you and your ways and to realize that it is better together.

We pray for the ministry of Heart Havens. We lift up the residents; the staff in the homes, as well as, the staff in Richmond. We pray for all the churches and individuals who faithfully support this ministry in a variety of ways. Together, we are better as individuals; as the Body of Christ and in ministry to all of God's Children. Amen.

Sharma D. Lewis, Resident Bishop  
Virginia Conference, The United Methodist Church

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Christ's table is open to all!

**People: So too should ours be!**

Leader: When we sit down together, we are called to look around:

**People: Who isn't included? Who have we left out?**

Leader: When we welcome everyone to our table,

**People: Our churches are stronger, our neighborhoods are stronger, and God rejoices!**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Loving God, thank you for the gifts and talents you have granted each one of us. Thank you for the mystery of your creation, and for your call for us to share your love with our brothers and sisters throughout our community. Help us to empower those with a developmental disability to be full participants in our churches, in your Kingdom, and at your Table. This we ask in the name of the One who came teaching us to pray: [The Lord's Prayer]



## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Today we will be talking about kindness and how we treat others. Sometimes people are treated unkindly because they are different. People may look or act differently because God made each of us unique. It is important that we remember that God loves and specially made each person and we should love others with this same love.

[Show a tube of toothpaste]

### **Do you see this tube of toothpaste?**

This tube of toothpaste represents unkind words and actions.

**Now let's squeeze out some unkind words, or actions that leave others feeling sad or left out. Once we choose to say or act unkindly, those are forever imprinted on someone's heart. Just like we can't put the toothpaste back in the tube, the unkindness can never be undone.**

God loves each of us the same and we should look at others with God's love. Let's remember to show kindness and treat others like we would want to be treated.

### **Let's Pray:**

Dear God, thank you for your great love. Help us to remember to share that love and kindness. In Jesus name, Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.



From the dust you created us,  
each one individually, and granted us each  
different gifts and abilities to use to glorify you  
and to bless those around us.  
Even when we fail to recognize and celebrate  
the gifts of others, your love for each and every one  
of your children remains strong and unchanging.

And so, with your people on earth  
And all the company of heaven,  
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy lord, God of power and might;  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
You sent him to earth as a living example of how  
to truly love our neighbors, and now he  
sends us into the world to spread justice,  
to speak kindness, and to share friendship and love  
with people of all abilities. Just as he opened the Kingdom  
to everyone, he still calls us to open our hearts, and our churches,  
to everyone, regardless of ability.

On the night in which he gave all of himself for us,

[officiant recounts the events of the Last Supper]

So, in remembrance of your perfect love embodied in Jesus Christ,  
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
And on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make Christ known to us in the sharing  
Of this heavenly meal, that the light of Christ  
Might shine out of us and into the world,  
That all people will know that they, too,  
Have a place in this Body.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
Now and forever. **Amen.**