



## Camp and Retreat Sunday

Liturgy Resources for 2025 and Other Ideas

The PC(USA) designates various days on the church calendar for special emphasis. Below are Worship resources for celebrating Camp and Retreat Sunday on **February 9, 2025**. Use the following resources on this particular Sunday, or any day your congregation would like to highlight and celebrate the impact of camp and conference ministry.

**Revised Common Lectionary for Sunday 2/09/2025:** The Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year C). Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11  
(*The liturgy resources below emphasize the Gospel lesson.*) <https://pcusa.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2025/2/9>

### Call to Worship

*Based on Luke 5:1-11, Creation Care, and Camp Ministry*

**Leader:** Come to the lakeshore, where Jesus calls us to deeper waters and abundant life.

**People:** We come, ready to listen, to learn, and to follow.

**Leader:** Look around at the beauty of creation: the sky, the water, the earth teeming with life.

**People:** We marvel at God's abundant provision and give thanks for the gifts of creation.

**Leader:** God calls us to be stewards of this world, to care for the land, the waters, and all living things.

**People:** We answer God's call with open hearts and willing hands, ready to serve.

**Leader:** Jesus invites us into community, where we are transformed by God's grace and sent out to share God's love with the world.

**People:** Together, we embrace this holy calling, trusting in God's presence to guide us.

**Leader:** Let us worship the One who provides, sustains, and calls us to follow.

**All:** With joy and gratitude, we worship God, Creator of heaven and earth!

### Prayer of Confession

**Leader:** Let us come before God with humble hearts, confessing the ways we have fallen short in caring for creation, our communities, and our calling as disciples. Let us pray:

**All:**

Creator God, You have filled the world with beauty and abundance, yet we often take Your gifts for granted. We exploit the earth's resources and fail to care for the land, the waters, and all living things. Forgive us for our neglect and greed, for treating Your creation as ours to own rather than a trust to steward. (Moment of silence)

Christ, who calls us to cast our nets into deeper waters, we confess that we often resist Your invitation. We cling to comfort, avoid risks, and ignore the ways You transform and send us out to share Your love. Forgive us for our hesitation, our apathy, and our failure to follow where You lead. (Moment of silence)

Holy Spirit, who forms us in community, we confess that we have not lived as one body in Christ. We have overlooked the needs of others, turned inward, and forgotten that You send us to love and serve. Forgive us for our selfishness and for failing to reflect Your grace to the world. (Moment of silence)

Renew us, O God.

Restore us to right relationship with creation, with one another, and with You. Empower us to care for Your world and share Your love, so that all may know Your abundant life. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader:** Hear the good news: In Christ, we are forgiven and made new. When we turn to God with open hearts, God meets us with grace, transforming our lives and calling us to deeper discipleship. The Creator restores what has been broken. The Redeemer invites us into abundant life. The Spirit empowers us to care for creation, love our neighbors, and follow God's call. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**All:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth,  
Who made all things good and entrusted them to our care.  
We believe that all creation reveals God's glory,  
And that we are called to steward the earth,  
Nurturing its beauty, protecting its resources,  
And working for justice in all things.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer,  
Who calls us into community, transforms our lives,  
And sends us out to share God's love with the world.  
Through His life, death, and resurrection,  
We are reconciled to God and to one another.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Who empowers us to live as faithful disciples,  
Equipping us to serve and to care for creation,  
To reflect God's love in all that we do.  
We believe that the church, as the body of Christ,  
Is called to be a witness to God's kingdom,  
A place where all people may experience God's love and grace,  
And be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
We believe that God is at work in the world,  
Calling us to deeper faith, deeper relationship,  
And deeper care for all that God has made.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

**Leader:** Let us lift our hearts to God, trusting in God's abundant grace as we pray for the church, the world, and all creation. After each petition, we will respond:

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Creator God, You formed the heavens and the earth and called them good. We give thanks for the beauty of creation: for the lakes and forests, the mountains and skies, the places where we encounter You in the wonders of the natural world. Help us to cherish and protect these gifts, that all may experience Your abundant provision.

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** God of grace, You call us into community through the waters of baptism. We pray for camp and retreat ministries, (*or we pray for Name of Local Camp*) where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and disciples are shaped. Bless these spaces and all who lead, serve, and participate in them, that they may continue to inspire and transform lives.

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Jesus, You invite us to follow You and cast our nets into deeper waters. Give us courage to trust in Your abundance, even when we doubt. Guide us as we share Your love with others, building community wherever we are—at camp, in parks, on trails, and in our daily lives.

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, You unite us as the body of Christ and empower us to serve. We pray for the church, that it may be a faithful witness to Your love and a steward of Your creation. Strengthen us to care for the earth, work for justice, and live as a reflection of Your grace in the world.

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** God of mercy, we lift up those who are in need: the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and the oppressed. Surround them with Your comfort and peace, and inspire us to be agents of Your healing and hope.

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Eternal God, You call us to leave behind fear and follow You with open hearts. Send us out to be faithful stewards of Your creation, loving neighbors, and witnesses to Your transforming power. By Your grace, may we walk in the way of Christ, bringing light and life to the world.

**Leader:** Lord of creation,

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Trusting in Your promises, O God, we offer these prayers to You, confident in Your mercy and power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray all this in the way Jesus taught us to pray together, saying, Our Father...

## **Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, Creator of all things,  
We bring our gifts before You today,  
Grateful for the abundance You have given us.

We offer these gifts as gratitude for Your abundance,  
And as a way to honor Your call to care for creation and each other.

May these offerings support the work of Your church,  
To nurture faith, protect the earth,  
And share Your love with all people.  
Use these gifts to deepen our discipleship,  
And to further the work of justice, peace, and care for creation.

Bless the work of our hands and the hearts that give.  
Through our offerings, may we be transformed  
To live more fully in service to You and to all Your creation. Amen.

## Benediction

Go from this place as stewards of God's creation,  
transformed by grace, and sent to share God's love.  
May the peace of Christ guide you,  
as you care for the earth, serve with joy,  
and reflect God's love to all people.

As you go, remember the lessons we can learn from camp—  
where community is built, faith is nurtured,  
and hearts are inspired to live out God's call. Amen.

## Sermon Notes

Luke 5:1–11:

- Ask congregation members: What is a sacred outdoor moment that deepened your connection to God?" Perhaps this was at a camp experience of their youth, an adult weekend retreat, or if they haven't had those experiences, encourage them to think about a hiking or backpacking trip, time spent fishing on a canoe, laying in a hammock, bird watching, smelling flowers, or a time sitting still by the ocean.

Introduction:

- Reflect on the scene by the lake in Luke—Jesus teaching from Simon's boat and the miraculous catch of fish.
- Highlight the relationship between people and the natural world, using the lake as a metaphor for creation's abundance and the disciples' dependence on it.
  - (Other examples: Forests/trees provide oxygen, shelter for animals; Gardens providing provisions; Rivers offer water, transportation, and life to ecosystems and communities; Oceans tides and currents teach us about balance and rhythm of life; etc)

### 1. Listening to God's Call (v. 1–3)

- Jesus invites Simon to go deeper, both literally and spiritually.
- Just as Jesus used the lake as a place to call disciples, we, too, are invited to connect with God in the natural world. Camp and retreat centers, as well as accessible outdoor spaces—like parks, trails, and lakesides—offer sacred places where we can pause, reflect, and experience the divine presence. These spaces provide opportunities to reconnect with the earth, our Creator, and one another.
- Just as Jesus chose the lakeside as a place for teaching, camps and retreats are one place where we can step away from our busy lives to listen, learn, and grow in relationship with God and one another. However, we can find these spaces in our local parks, or a short drive beyond our city. When we step away, we can listen more closely to God's voice and witness God's creativity in the world around us.

### 2. Trusting in God's Provision (v. 4–7)

- Jesus invites the disciples to cast their nets into deeper waters, where they find an abundance of fish. This act is about trusting God's abundance in unexpected places. Despite Simon's doubts, he does as instructed and witnesses an overwhelming abundance of fish.
- Camps and retreat centers, or other outdoor spaces, offer us opportunities to go "deeper" in our faith. Whether we're actually at camp, or simply walking in a park, these places help us recognize the abundance of creation and learn to be better stewards of the earth.
- When we take time to be in an outdoor setting, we often experience the abundance of God's creation in new and profound ways. From the vastness of the ocean to the bloom of a wildflower, God breathes life. Whether in moments of silence, or shared activities with others, we see God's provision and are reminded of our role to care for and nurture the world around us.

### 3. Call to Discipleship (v. 8–10)

- Simon recognizes his unworthiness, but Jesus reassures him, and then broadens the mission: from fishing for fish to fishing for people. He shifts the focus from Simon Peter's self-doubt to his potential and calling.

- The image of catching people suggests community and collaboration. Discipleship is not a solo mission but involves drawing others into God's love and grace.
  - Camp ministry is about inviting others into a life-changing relationship with God, often through shared experiences in creation. It's a call to care for each other and the world around us.
4. Leaving Everything Behind (v. 11)
- The disciples leave their boats and work behind and follow Jesus. This symbolizes a transformative shift from their old life to a new calling.
  - Through practice at camp and outdoor spaces, we are reminded that when we set distractions aside, we are more able to hear God's call in our lives and in the world around us. The call to follow Jesus.

#### Conclusion:

The disciples' encounter with Jesus on the lakeshore transformed their lives, sending them out as stewards of creation and messengers of God's love. In the same way, camps, retreats, and outdoor spaces invite us to care for creation, trust in God's abundance, and build community wherever we are. When we can disconnect from distractions, we find spaces that nurture faith, deepen relationships, and remind us that discipleship is not a solitary journey but one lived in community.

- When we leave such sacred spaces, we are empowered to live out our faith—caring for creation, loving others, and answering God's call in our daily lives. How is God calling you to cast your net into deeper waters today?

### **Other Ideas for Celebrating and Recognizing Camp and Retreat Sunday:**

- Ask your local Camp Director or a Summer Staff Member to participate in Worship.
  - If they are unavailable, consider welcoming them for a moment for a moment for mission or an information session another time
- Ask campers from your congregation to share about the impact of camp in their lives and why camp is important
- Ask camp alumni (parents, grandparents, etc) to share an old camp memory
- Collaborate with campers (both former and current) to collect pictures and other memorabilia that can be shared
- Remember your camp all Spring by including program announcements in your bulletin
- Help your camp recruit summer staff among your young adults looking for summer job opportunities
- Host a retreat at your local camp or conference center! Even if it's just a day trip, camps provide beautiful space and hospitality for volunteer opportunities, Session trainings and meetings, youth outings, and family gatherings. Be sure to plan a campfire and bring supplies for s'mores!
- Camp is for everyone! Learn more about the program offerings, volunteer opportunities, Board member opportunities, supply/resource needs, and more by reaching out to your local camp or conference center
- If you are looking for other resources or information about PCUSA camps outside your area you can learn more from these websites- [Summer to Remember](#) (for summer staff), [BookaRetreat](#) (for retreat groups) and [BestSummerYet](#) (for summer camps) or from the [Presbyterian Church Camps and Conferences Association](#). In addition, Brian Frick is the Mission Associate for Camps and Conference Ministries in the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Camps and Conference Ministries)
- In addition, you can learn more from the Office of Christian Formation ([Wakelet Link](#)), or by contacting Brian Frick, the Mission Associate for Camps and Conference Ministries.

Resources prepared by Rev. Kellie von Borstel, Montlure Camp Executive Director

Office of Christian Formation: [www.pcusa.org/formation](http://www.pcusa.org/formation)

PCCCA: [www.pccca.net](http://www.pccca.net)



Office of Christian  
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