Responsive Call to Worship

(To Lead Into “Bring It To the Altar”)

Leader:
Brothers and sisters, we’ve had full and busy weeks. Some have had weeks of work and family, others weeks of service and study. Some of you are carrying weeks of delight and victory, others are carrying weeks of stress and sadness. Friends, whatever sort of week you are carrying, I encourage you to bring it to the altar.

Hear now our call to worship from Deuteronomy 12:6-7.

“you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. 7 And [here] you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.”

Leader prays:
“Lord, you gave the Israelites a promised land. That land was a gift. A place for the people of Israel to order, cultivate, and bring life. You declared that both their work and their worship would glorify your name.

All pray:
Today, Lord you have done the same for us. Each of us have been given a small place within this city to work and serve your name. You have gathered us from all over the city. You have gathered us to offer the fruits of our labor as sacrificial offerings to you.

Leader:
As we gather Lord, we carry unique stories from a week of work and service. For some, You have used our labors to advance Your Kingdom in beautiful and exciting ways. For others, our labors have been a place of frustration and heartache. And yet, we gather

- as parents and teachers seeking to raise children in the way they should go
- as doctors and nurses seeking to heal and bind up the wounds of others
- As engineers, janitors, and managers seeking to bring order to chaos
- As artists, programmers, and entrepreneurs seeking to imagine and create new things.

We confess that our efforts to restore order and cultivate fruit are a dim reflection of

your redemptive work. You alone can renew all things. Even so, we offer our work to you and ask that you accept it as worship.

All pray:
We carry our burdens, our goals, our productivity, our futility, and frustrations to you as living sacrifices, declaring that you alone are worthy of our worship. Amen.

Sing: “Bring It to the Altar”

Written for the Worship for Workers project of Fuller Seminary by Tim Payne from Frisco, Texas