Call to Worship (with “Bring it to the Altar”

The “people’s” section of this litany could be spoken or sung. If you are introducing this song, consider having a soloist lead the “people” with instrumental music underneath. As the song becomes more familiar, the congregation can join in and sing.

People:

Bring it to the altar
Lay it on the stone
Every sorrow and every joy

Leader:

The cross of Jesus is the final altar
There He alters us, our good deeds and shameful sins
The highs of life and love
The lows of relationships, reality, and risk

People:

Bring it to the altar
Don’t leave it at the door
Whatever you carry
Come and give it to the Lord.

Leader:

We bring you the work of our hands, the labor of our lives
God of Grace, we offer our tools:
Software, hammers, pens, trucks, Elmer’s glue, or scalpel
We bring the artifacts of our work, and offer them to You alone

People:

Come now, His hands are open

Bring your harvest with a song
Tell the story of his goodness
Come remember what he's done

Leader:

We remember:
Your good creation
The covenant of grace and gift of the law
Our covenant ancestors' exodus journey
and their stories live on in our hearts
Jesus, you dwelt among us, taught, died, rose, and sent
What you've done, O God, and continue to do
is why we are here, to worship

All:

Come now, His hands are open
We bring our ashes and tears
All our troubles, every burden
We find our comfort here

Written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Seminary by Case Thorpe from Orlando, Florida