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# I AM

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✦ A Worship Series on ✦  
the “I AM” Statements of Jesus



WORSHIP KIT

**Creative  
Communications  
Sample**

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# I AM

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✦ A Worship Series on ✦  
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LEADER’S GUIDE

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# I AM

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✦ A Worship Series on ✦  
the “I AM” Statements of Jesus

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# I AM

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## About the Series

*This series of worship services is based on six of Jesus’ “I am” sayings. Jesus calls himself the Bread of life, the Light of the world, the Door of the sheep, the Resurrection and the Life and the true Vine. He identifies himself with the name of God, “I AM.” Jesus is I AM, the God who saves and sets people free!*

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✦ A Worship Series on ✦  
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Week 1:

I Am

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Join us for a worship series in which we celebrate some of the names that Jesus gave himself, those beginning with the words “I AM.” Jesus identified himself with the holy name of God, the name that God gave to Moses when he set them free from slavery. He is I AM, the God who saves and sets people free!

Bulletin Notice

Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” He identifies himself with the God of Israel, who set his people free from slavery in Egypt. Today we join together to worship Jesus the Savior who sets us free from our slavery to sin.

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Week 2:

I Am the Bread of Life

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

This week we will worship our Savior, who said, “I am the Bread of life.” Jesus nourishes us with his Word and with his body and blood in Holy Communion. Come and worship our Savior, who is the Bread of life.

Bulletin Notice

Today we will worship our Lord and Savior, who said of himself, “I am the Bread of life.” Through faith we are nourished by Jesus’ Word and by his body and blood in his holy Supper.

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Week 3:

I Am the Light of the World

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

This week we will worship our Savior Jesus, who said, “I am the Light of the world.” We who follow him do not walk in darkness. We follow in his light as we too live as lights of the world.

Bulletin Notice

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.” At creation, God called light into existence, separating it from the darkness. The light of Jesus banishes the darkness of sin and death.



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Week 4:  
I Am the Door

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Jesus is the door of the sheep. Through faith in his name we enter into life, both now and for all eternity. Come and worship the Savior with us!

Bulletin Notice

Jesus said, “I am the door of the sheep.” Jesus our Good Shepherd shelters us with his love and care. He is the door through which we enter eternal life in his presence.

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Week 5:

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Join us as we worship Jesus, who called himself the Resurrection and the Life. Jesus died on the cross for us and rose from the dead. Because he lives, we will live also!

Bulletin Notice

Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.” We believe and we worship the crucified and risen Lord!

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Week 6:  
I Am the Vine

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Worship with us as we praise Jesus, the true Vine. Rooted and growing in him, we bear the fruit of love in our lives, to the glory of God the Father.

Bulletin Notice

Jesus said, “I am the true Vine.” He is our source of life and hope. We are rooted in him by faith and through him we bear fruit for the glory of God in works of love and service.

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✦ A Worship Series on ✦  
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Week 2:  
I Am the Bread of Life

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the “I AM” Statements of Jesus

Week 2:  
I Am the Bread of Life  
Order of Service

*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger,  
and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35*

Opening Hymn..... Werde Munter 87 87 77 88

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,  
Let your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to you forever!

Lord, your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;  
On your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unfailing.

Invocation (*John 6:48-51*)

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.

**C** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

**P** This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

**C** I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

**P** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.

**C** And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Confession and Absolution

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** Almighty God, instead of nourishing our faith through listening to your Word, we often try to satisfy ourselves with the temptations offered by the world around us. We turn from your ways to follow our own sinful desires. We try to fill our lives with things that can never truly satisfy us. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. He is the Bread of life, and in him we have eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C** We live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn ..... St. Thomas SM

O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless his name  
Whose favors are divine.

Children's Message

Hymn ..... St. Thomas SM

O bless the Lord, my soul,  
Nor let his mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
And without praises die!

His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world his truth and grace  
By his beloved Son.

Old Testament Lesson..... Deuteronomy 8:1-3

Epistle Lesson..... 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel Lesson ..... John 6:32-40

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Sermon

Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer  
Be thou still my strength and shield;  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

Offering

Prayers

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

**P** Jesus, Bread of heaven

**C** Nourish us in faith and bring us to eternal life.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (*John 6:32-35; Numbers 6:24-26*)

**P** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,

**C** But my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

**P** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**C** They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."



**P** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life;

**C** **Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn..... St. Flavian CM

Almighty God, your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

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Week 2:

I Am the Bread of Life

## Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/rustic-bread-wheat-on-old-vintage-181667069?src=mJt7pvA8qQtQBz6Pqx24BA-1-48>

- The **Theme Verse** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger,  
and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Werde Munter 87 87 77 88, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,  
 Let your Word to me come near;  
 Newborn life and spirit give me,  
 Let each promise still my fear.  
 Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
 Wars against your Word of life;  
 Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
 That I cling to you forever!

Lord, your words are waters living  
 When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
 Lord, your words are bread life-giving;  
 On your words my spirit feeds.  
 Lord, your words will be my light  
 Through death's cold and dreary night;  
 Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
 And my cup of joy unfailing.

- The **Invocation** (John 6:48-51) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.

**C** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

**P** This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

**C** I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

**P** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.

**C** And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C** **Almighty God, instead of nourishing our faith through listening to your Word, we often try to satisfy ourselves with the temptations offered by the world around us. We turn from your ways to follow our own sinful desires. We try to fill our lives with things that can never truly satisfy us. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. He is the Bread of life, and in him we have eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C** **We live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord!**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Almighty God, you ask in your Word, “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?” When we try to satisfy ourselves with the things of this world, with possessions or popularity or power, fill us instead with the wisdom of your Word. Lead us by your Spirit to find our satisfaction and nourishment in Jesus our Savior, who is our Bread of life, both now and for eternity. Hear our prayer in his name. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless his name  
Whose favors are divine.

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*Needed: a loaf of bread*

**P** How many of you have a loaf of bread like this at home? What kinds of things do you make with the slices of bread? (*Let children respond.*) We can make sandwiches or toast with a loaf of bread. Sometimes bread comes in other forms too, like hot dog or hamburger buns or dinner rolls. Many of us eat some form of bread nearly every day.

In Old Testament times, after God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, he fed them as they traveled to the Promised Land. He sent them a kind of bread from heaven, called manna. They ate this special bread every day. When Jesus lived on earth, he told the people of Israel, “I am the bread of life.” Just like God sent bread from heaven to feed his people and keep them alive as they traveled in the desert, he sent Jesus to us to give us life, now and forever. When you are older, you will receive his body and blood in Holy Communion, but right now you can “feed” on Jesus by believing in him and listening to his Word. Jesus died on the cross so your sins can be forgiven. He rose from the dead so that you will have eternal life. Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever” (John 6:50-51). Jesus is our Bread of life. Through faith in him, we have forgiveness and eternal life. Let’s pray.

Jesus, you are our Bread of life. Help us to trust in you and to listen to your Word so that we grow strong in faith. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O bless the Lord, my soul,  
Nor let his mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
And without praises die!

His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world his truth and grace  
By his beloved Son.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Deuteronomy 8:1-3, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 6:32-40, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- The **Apostles’ Creed** is professed by the congregation:

Ⓒ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- A **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune CWM Rhondda 87 87 877, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
 Pilgrim through this barren land.  
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
 Hold me with thy pow'rful hand.  
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
 Feed me till I want no more;  
 Feed me till I want no more.

- If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: [worshiphousemedia.com](http://www.worshiphousemedia.com)) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight the theme of the service:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/32562/bread-of-life>

- The **Sermon**, “Well-Fed,” is delivered by the pastor:

▣ Things may be going along pretty well in life—not perfect perhaps—but not too badly overall. We have what we need at least. Yet we are never quite satisfied. We so often want something more, just a little more. Maybe we want more income, a better job, nicer clothes, a more expensive car, a bigger home, something, anything, that seems to be as nice as the things our neighbors have. We are less than satisfied and we forget to give thanks for what we do have, for what God has given to us.

The people of Israel were no different. God had set them free from slavery in Egypt, from 400 years of slavery, from a lifetime of slavery, generation after generation, born into slavery. But as the newly freed people traveled through the desert on their way to the promised land, they were not satisfied. We might think freedom from slavery would be enough, but it was not. The cycle repeated itself. They complained, they suffered God’s anger and punishment, they repented and then they complained again. They grumbled against God and against Moses. They said, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Exodus 16:3). This was their complaint: We wish we were back in Egypt and that the God named I AM had killed us there! We would be slaves and we would be dead slaves, but at least we would be well-fed dead slaves!

God did not kill them as they wished and as they deserved. Instead, in mercy he fed them. He sent quail to cover the camp each evening so the people had meat to eat. Each day the morning

dew dried to reveal a white, flaky substance all over the ground, flakes that tasted like wafers made with honey. The people called it manna, which was the Hebrew word for their question when they first saw it: What is it? They could gather all the manna they needed to eat each day. Day after day, year after year, God sent them bread from heaven and kept them fed. Were they satisfied? They complained again, this time about the manna. The Egyptian menu had been much better: “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at” (Numbers 11:4-5). It was not just the manna that sustained them, it was the Word of the Lord, his mercy and care, that nourished them and kept them alive in the wilderness. Their complaint was not only about manna but against the God who had set them free. But still God was merciful. He fed the Israelites for 40 years and brought them to the land he had promised them.

Jesus, who called himself “I AM,” also fed people in the wilderness. With a few loaves of bread and some fish, he fed thousands. Those well-fed people followed him. This was a prophet, they thought, like Moses, and he had fed them. They wanted more. When they found Jesus again, he said to them, “You are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you” (John 6: 26-27). Believe in me, Jesus said. I am the food that endures. But the people wanted proof. After all, God had given their ancestors bread in the wilderness. If Jesus was truly the Son of God, could he do better?

Yes, he could. Jesus himself was the bread of God, the bread “who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33). The hungry people thought that sounded like a good idea. “Give us this bread always,” they said. Jesus could do better than that. He does not just give bread. He is Bread. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” The people had doubts. Isn’t this the son of Joseph? We know his parents! Yet he claims to come from heaven. So once again Jesus calls to them, inviting them to believe, inviting them to eat by faith: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Israelites who had manna in the desert eventually died. Whoever feeds by faith on Jesus, the Bread of life, will live forever.

Some of the people listening to Jesus believed, but for others it was too much. They did not want to live by this particular Word from the mouth of the Lord. They could not believe it. They could not feed by faith, and they went away. Sometimes we too are tempted to wander, as if what the Lord offers us is not enough. We try to satisfy ourselves with all that the world has to offer. We want a little of that meat in Egypt, even if it means slavery to the world and its temptations. It looks so much easier than living by faith, easier than following Jesus in lives of love and service.

Yet still in mercy, God calls us back to himself. He calls us to repent and he feeds us with



Tune..... St. Flavian CM

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (one flat) and common time (C). The music begins with a whole rest in both staves. The first measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The second measure contains a half note chord of E-flat and G. The third measure contains a half note chord of F and A-flat. The fourth measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The fifth measure contains a half note chord of E-flat and G. The sixth measure contains a half note chord of F and A-flat. The seventh measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The eighth measure contains a half note chord of E-flat and G. The ninth measure contains a half note chord of F and A-flat. The tenth measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

The second system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in the key of B-flat major (one flat) and common time (C). The music begins with a half note chord of B-flat and D. The second measure contains a half note chord of E-flat and G. The third measure contains a half note chord of F and A-flat. The fourth measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The fifth measure contains a half note chord of E-flat and G. The sixth measure contains a half note chord of F and A-flat. The seventh measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The eighth measure contains a half note chord of E-flat and G. The ninth measure contains a half note chord of F and A-flat. The tenth measure contains a half note chord of B-flat and D. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Flavian CM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Almighty God, your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

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# I AM

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✦ A Worship Series on ✦  
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Week 2:

I Am the Bread of Life

## Contemporary Music Song Suggestions

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“Bread of Life” by Anne Herring and Matthew Ward

“I am the Bread of Life” by John Michael Talbot

“Come to the Table” by Sidewalk Prophets

“Come to the Table” by Claire Cloninger and Martin J. Nystöm

“Hunger and Thirst” by David Moffit and Sue C. Smith

“We Hunger and Thirst” by Alex Couch, David Fournier and George Romance

“Feed Us Now” by Robin Mann