

## **BCC 50th Anniversary Worship Resources**

In 2024, Bear Creek Camp will mark its 50th anniversary. Bear Creek, building on the legacy of the predecessor camps of Ministerium, Miller, and Hagan, continues to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to learn and grow in faith through time in God's creation. We invite you to give thanks for this gift of camp, the joy of campers, the dedication of staff, and for all who have been blessed by Bear Creek. Please include the following prayers in your worship life throughout this year and join us in celebrating this milestone together.

For more information about Bear Creek, especially summer programs and anniversary celebrations, visit [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org).

### **PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP**

*The following prayers can be added to the prayers of intercession throughout the year to mark significant dates in the life of Bear Creek Camp during this 50th Anniversary Year!*

Prayer petitions may conclude with any response or use the following:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

#### **50th Anniversary Prayer - for worship any Sunday in 2024, especially appropriate on July 7, 2024**

Creator God, from generation to generation you have blessed us with your presence in the wilderness. We give you thanks now for 50 years of worshipping, praising, and learning about you at Bear Creek Camp. We give you thanks for the predecessor camps of Ministerium, Miller, and Hagen who provided camp experiences for generations before that blazed the trail for Bear Creek. We ask your blessings on Bear Creek: the land, the campers, and the staff. May it continue to be a place where faith grows, friendships form, and you, God, are present.

#### **Prayer for the first week of Staff Training - for worship on June 2, 2024**

Holy God, we give you thanks for raising up leaders in the church in all times and places. Send your blessing on those who are beginning their summer as staff at Bear Creek Camp. May they care for campers with compassion and kindness, offer hospitality, and share the gift of faith.

#### **Prayer for the first week of Summer Camp - for worship on June 16, 2024**

God of all creation, as the summer camping season starts at Bear Creek Camp this week, may we all be filled with joy and anticipation. Bless all who will sing and swim, run and pray, learn and grow in the midst of your creation. Be with all who will call camp home for these summer days.

**Prayer for the end of Summer Camp - for worship on August 11, 2024**

God of beginnings and endings, as this summer ends we give you thanks for this 50th summer at Bear Creek Camp. We thank you for the staff members, support staff, and all those who helped teach young people to see you in the world around them. Bless all the campers; may they continue to grow closer to you in their homes away from camp. Thank you for the friendships, the lessons learned, and the journeys our campers traveled together this summer.

**Prayer for Alumni Weekend - for worship on September 8, 2024**

God of all generations, we give you thanks for the staff of Bear Creek Camp throughout the past 50 years. As the alumni staff gather at camp to celebrate friendships and the goodness of creation, we praise you for the ways in which you have called them together and gifted them with the joy of working at camp.

**BLESSINGS**

*The following blessings can be used in worship when preparing to send campers, staff, or volunteers to camp.*

**Camper Blessing**

Holy God, you are with us wherever we go. Today we celebrate and ask your blessing on our campers who will take a journey filled with adventure, fun, and faith that will help them grow in their relationship with you. Bless them with your guidance in the midst of their explorations. Bless *(Name/s)* with the knowledge that our love and prayers go with *him/her/them* while *he/she/they* enjoy/s adventures with you at Bear Creek Camp this summer. Amen

**Summer Staff Blessing**

Loving God, we give thanks for the ways you raise up leaders in every time for the good of your people. We give you thanks and ask your blessing on *(names or this/these staff members/counselors/support team members)* as they lead adventures, inspire new experiences, and cultivate the joy of community. Bless them with the strength, patience, and joy for the work they are called to do in their weeks at Bear Creek Camp. Remind them always that they serve as a sign of your love for campers as they explore, learn, and grow this summer. Most of all God, remind the leaders that you are with them always, loving them beyond measure. Amen.

**Volunteer Blessing (For nurses and chaplains)**

Nourishing God, send your blessing on *(names or these volunteers)* as they prepare for a week of serving at Bear Creek Camp as *(name specific volunteer role(s))*. May they provide support to the staff and campers. In all that they do and say, may they be a sign of your love for all those at camp. Give them joy in their serving and fill them with encouragement and new experiences in their time at camp. Amen.

**MEAL PRAYER FROM CAMP**

*Share this favorite Bear Creek Camp meal prayer at congregational gatherings or with members to pray in their homes! This prayer can be set to multiple tunes.*

Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may strengthen for thy service be. Amen!

*BCC Anniversary Prayers and Worship Resources created and compiled by the Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund and the Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski.*