

CREATIVE WORSHIP PRACTICES

#503 – Online Workshop – Thursday Workshop A – 10:00-11:30 am

503 – In Person Workshop – Friday, Workshop C – 1:30-3:00 pm

Presenting a Creative Worship Experience:

So many worship participants are visual learners, when we are creative with how we present the Word along with themes in worship we engage many of the senses in the worship experience. The creative side of dressing the Lord's Table, creating banners, creating liturgy & pieces for the Bulletin, adding objects every Sunday to build upon the Bible story or theme is fun and energy giving. Providing visuals enhances the worship experience and brings God's Word alive.

What we hope you leave this Workshop with:

Simple tips to engage the senses with visuals for worship. What you can do with pieces of cloth, candles, or a few objects to engage a congregation in the worship experience.

What easy things can you use to enhance a Worship Bulletin as well as the worship experience. We will share ideas that stimulate participants to share what they have done as well as dream of doing, in adding creativity to their worship space and experience. Easy ways to present prayer stations and easy hands on practices for various themes and seasons that engage worship participants.

OUTLINE

- Working with fabric – dressing the Lord's table, banners, paraments

- Accessories – ribbon, symbols, candles, objects, lights

- Liturgy (see Resource sheet)

- Symbols – adding weekly throughout a series, presented by lay leader, take home

- Seasons & Special Sundays
 - Advent -

 - Lent -

 - Pentecost -

 - World Communion -

- Themes -

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THEME IDEAS

1. "Journey to Bethlehem" Advent Series:

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOURNEY WITH MARY

Prayer Practice – Through the Eyes of Mary

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOURNEY WITH JOSEPH

Prayer Practice – Joseph as Carpenter, Husband, Father

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOURNEY WITH THE INNKEEPER

Prayer Practice – Crowded & Los Pasados

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOURNEY WITH THE SHEPHERD

Prayer Practice – "Light of the World"

EPIPHANY - JOURNEY WITH THE MAGI

Prayer Practice – "Quest of the Magi" Meditation

2. "Come to the Table" Lenten Series

Table of Mercy - At Table with Sinners – Calling Levi

Party Table; Prayer Practice=Burning/washing away sins

Table of Forgiveness - Jesus Anointed at Simon's Table

Table in Bible time Home; Prayer Practice=Anointing

Table of Grace - At Mary & Martha's Table

Kitchen Table; Prayer Practice= Sitting with Jesus reflection

Table of Blessing - At the Banquet Table - "A Hungry Table"

Table set for a King; Prayer Practice=Plate of Excuses

Table of Hospitality - At Table with Pharisees

Pharisees' Table; Prayer Practice=Paper Prayers/Prayer Wall

Palm Sunday – Trouble at the Table – Turning Tables in Temple

Table on it's side with coins etc. spilled on the floor

Maundy Thursday – "The Last Supper" Table in the Upper Room

Table by the Sea - 1st Sunday after Easter - Eating with the Resurrected Jesus

Picnic Table – picnic spread out on the floor

3. "Living Water" Lenten Series:

Glass Jars and a blue bag with symbols and instructions handed out Ash Wednesday & First Sunday in Lent. New symbol each week. Reader brings in a large symbol and places it on the Lord's Table and lights the Christ Candle. Candle is in a bowl of water with glass symbols added each week.

Ash Wednesday - CLEANSING Waters – "Clean Hearts"

Experience - Stones out of the water in the font as enter, glass heart bead out of the water as leave; Symbol – glass jar taken home to fill with water & add Heart glass gem

1st Sunday in Lent - REFRESHING Waters - "Water in the Wilderness"

Jordan River & Wilderness Temptation

Table = Stones/Burlap/Sand; Exp. – Sprinkled Waters; Symbol = sand (scarcity of water in the wilderness)

2nd Sunday in Lent - MIRACULOUS Waters - "Water into Wine"

Wedding in Cana & Anointing

Table = Glass Pitcher & Cup (red tablet in glass cup); Exp.= Anointing with Oil;

Symbol = Red glass gem (Miracle)

3rd Sunday in Lent - HEALING Waters - "Washed By the Water"

Healing at the Pool, Man with Leprosy

Table = Blue fabric waters out of Pitcher; Exp.= Healing Waters; Symbol = Blue glass gem (water)

4th Sunday in Lent - CALMING Waters – "Waters of Galilee"

Jesus Calms the Storm, Walks on Water

Table = White/glittery waves added with ribbons; Exp. = Meditation – Imaginative Prayer of getting out of boat; Symbol= Wavy Glass bead (waves)

5th Sunday in Lent - RENEWING Waters – "Well of Living Water"

Woman at the Well

Table = Clay pitcher added with fabric water pouring out; Exp. = Cup of cold water;

Symbol = Square glass tile (Wet Stepping Stones)

Palm Sunday RESTORING Waters – "Washed Clean"

Final Week in Jerusalem, Washing the Disciples feet

Symbol = Blue Marble

Easter Symbol = Glass Butterfly

Notes: Congregational Response – "What Can Wash Away My Sin?" verse 1

Reader shares the "I Thirst Statements" followed by the congregation's response "I thirst". Adapted each week to fit the theme.

4. GOING PLACES WITH GOD Through the Feasts (Lent or anytime)

"Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts" by Michael Norten, Westbow Press

"Feasts of the Bible" by Sam Nadler, Hendrickson Publishers

Purple Banner with Panel of Feast Cutouts added each week

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths

Booth setup over the Lord's Table/ 3rd Fall Feast – Sukkot (Booths) / Prayer Practice = water

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT The Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur

2nd Fall Feast = Scapegoat, incense / Prayer Practice = sins given away

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT The Feast of Trumpets (Jewish New Year = Shofar)

First of the Fall Feasts/Rosh Hashanah / Prayer Practice = stones w/ sins written on in water

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT The Feast of Pentecost/Weeks (Shavuot=One Body)

4th Spring Feast Prayer Practice = signs and wonders

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT The Feast of Firstfruits

3rd Spring Feast = firstfruits/harvest/gleaning/marketing/gathering/presenting

Prayer Practice = Thanksgiving Prayer

PALM SUNDAY-

Entering the Week of Passover-Passover Feast

First of the Spring Feasts Waving of Palms & Palm Crosses

MAUNDY THURSDAY – The Feast of Unleavened Bread

5. CANOEING THE MOUNTAINS: Adapting in Uncharted Territory

Based on lessons from Tod Bolsinger's book "Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory"

Week 1 - "The Adventure with Lewis & Clark" - Intro. to "Canoeing the Mountains"

"Lewis & Clark were experienced river rafters who had to learn to be mountaineers"

Exodus 14:31, Psalm 31: 1-8, 14-16 - This is an opportunity for adventure, exploration and transformation. This is a moment when we as a congregation can take on new life, begin a new season of ministry and start imaging different possibilities.

Adventure, trust, courage/ "Monuments or Footprints?" = Exercise

Week 2 - "The Landscape, The Challenge, The Adventure"

"We are experienced river rafters who must learn to be mountaineers" 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Working together as the Body of Christ/Reorientation/Navigational Guide

What losses/adjustments do we anticipate? = Letting Go Exercise

Week 3 - "Uncharted Territory"

"We are not adapting to merely survive but to thrive!" Psalm 121

The World in Front is Nothing Like the World Behind/ Transforming

Brainstorming = Exercise

Week 4 - "Off the Map" Psalm 9:7-10, John 20:19-22

"It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be."

Trusting when we are off the map/ Preparing for the Unknown

If you are embarking on a potentially dangerous journey, what would you want in the trip leader and what do you take with you?

Week 5 - "Navigating New Geography" Proverbs 3:1-6, Joel 2:28

"We are not going to rely on our canoes when we are facing mountains"

Adapting in Uncharted Territory/ I have a Dream (pg 142)/ The Mission Always Wins

Visioning our Future Ministry (narrowing down the brainstorming = Exercise

Week 6 - "Stay the Course" Colossians 2:6-7, 3:12-17

"Moving forward requires a missional conviction that takes a stand." Everybody Will Be Changed -

"Find the inspiration to see beyond the old maps and assumptions of the past." Discovery and exploration do not so much answer all of our questions as they help us to raise and consider new questions." All the Maps Were Wrong (pg 217) Focus on the Mountains Ahead, Not the Rivers Behind

#503 CREATIVE WORSHIP PRACTICES RESOURCES

www.pinterest.com - Ideas searched by topic or theme from others creativity

HYMNS:

New words to familiar tunes

“Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Discipleship Resources

www.discipleshipresources.org

“Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today’s Worship”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Geneva Press

LITURGY:

“Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship”

Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi, Editors, The Pilgrim Press

“Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship”

Edited by Ruth C. Duck, United Church Press

“Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship”

Ruth C. Duck editor, The Pilgrim Press

“Liturgy for the Whole Church: Multigenerational Resources for Worship”,

Susan K. Bock, Church Publishing Incorporated

“The Book of Uncommon Prayer”: Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry

Steven L. Case, Youth Specialties

“The Book of Uncommon Prayer 2”: Prayers & Worship Services for Youth Ministry

Steven L. Case, Youth Specialties

“Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship”

Ruth C. Duck & Maren C. Tirabassi editors, United Church Press

Wild Goose Publications, www.ionabooks.com

“Dirt, Mess and Danger: Liturgies & Worship Resources” – Glendon Macaulay

“Wild Goose Big Book of Worship Resources” – Iona Community

“Iona Abbey Worship Book” – The Iona Community

LENT/ADVENT:

“I Was There” Dramatic Monologues for Christmas Transformation, David Inglis

“Advent, Christmas and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship”

Brian Wren, Westminster John Knox Press

"Destination Easter!" Lenten Programs & Practices for Youth
Kaylea Hutson and Kathy Hershman, Abingdon Press

"Worship Feast: Complete Worship Outlines for Advent & Christmas"
Jenny Youngman & Josh Tinley, Abingdon Press, 2008

"Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes"
Cynthia M. Campbell, Westminster John Knox Press

PRAYER PRACTICES/DEVOTIONS:

"Advent in Plain Sight" A Devotion Through Ten Objects
Jill J. Duffield, Westminster John Knox Press

"Lent in Plain Sight" A Devotion Through Ten Objects
Jill J. Duffield, Westminster John Knox Press

"Heart Ignite: 166 Engaging Prayer Experiences For All Ages"
Lyle Griner and Diane Monroe, The Youth & Family Institute (now Vibrant Faith)²

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