




March – April 2020

Engage**Together**

Intergenerational worship ideas for Lent

Lent 2020

– Compiled by Chris Barnett, Emma Parr and Melissa Neumann –



Originally written and produced by Emma Parr,
Chris Barnett and Melissa Neumann, 2017.

This publication can also be found at
www.ctmresourcing.org.au

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Introduction

WHY?

With more and more churches across the country embracing the value of **generational connections**, more and more people are on the lookout for suitable intergenerational resources. As leaders have become more aware of the importance of being **intentionally** intergenerational across the whole life of the church, they have also begun turning their attention to the curation of worship that is **genuinely** intergenerational. This resource has arisen from the recognition that the multitude of church leaders convinced by the “Why” of intergenerational Christian formation are now enthusiastically seeking resources that assist with the “How” of **intergenerational worship**.

HOW?

This resource seeks to address this need by taking a worship pattern typical of many mainline churches – and **sticking with it!** Rather than choosing themes that might be considered “intergenerational-friendly”, it is based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Rather than radically altering the order and content of worship, it keeps to a traditional pattern. Rather than stridently arguing for the inclusion of all-ages in the entirety of a worship service, it recognises the reality that in many contexts younger generations are only present for the first portion of a service. What this resource **does** do is provide a variety of ideas that **could** be taken up by churches willing to explore a more intergenerational dimension to **some** aspects of their gathered worship life.

WHAT?

In this resource you will find ideas to complement a series of six typical services originally created by Rev Brian Cole for Lent in Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary (if you would like to receive the original service outlines as provided by Brian, please e-mail bmcole1@bigpond.com). In most cases you will find that the words and songs suggested by Brian remain unchanged. What this resource includes is a range of additional suggestions that encourage greater participation by people of all ages **and** facilitate intentional intergenerational engagement. These ideas are highlighted with “Say”, “Prepare” or “Do”. The basic approach is to take as a foundation the general principles of multi-age worship – such as seeking to be multi-sensory, multi-intelligence and multi-ability aware – and add a layer of intergenerational awareness. Broadly speaking, this resource addresses the Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Music and Bible Reading elements often found in the first third of a mainline worship service.

WHO?

Whilst this resource takes as its source material the suggested readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, thus making it **especially** suitable for particular denominations (such as the Anglican, Lutheran and Uniting Churches), it can in fact be used by **any** church.

This resource has been compiled by Chris Barnett (Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania), Melissa Neumann (Uniting Church Synod of South Australia) and Emma Parr (Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT) – with production by Merryn Gray (Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania).

We trust that you find it helpful and that it inspires your ongoing adventures in intergenerational worship!

SOME THOUGHTS ON INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

Adapted from *Planning Intergenerational Worship* by Mary Jo Zwar – which can be found at www.sa.uca.org.au/documents/intergen-docs/resources/all-age-worship/Planning-Intergenerational-Worship.pdf

Intergenerational worship takes seriously the idea that people of all ages are part of the worshipping congregation. Every Christian worship service could be considered an intergenerational worship service in the sense that the worshippers represent (or actually include) the whole body of Christ with its youngest and oldest members. Perhaps the key word needs to be **intentional**.

Intentionally intergenerational worship is different from “children’s”, “family”, “contemporary” and even “traditional” worship in that it deliberately fosters engagement by people from at least two different generations (noting here that, by this definition, it is possible for worship to be genuinely intergenerational without children or young people being present). Intergenerational worship is worship that **intentionally** involves people of different generations in an encounter with God through a range of acts of worship, such as hearing and reflecting on God’s word, responding to God with praise and/or confession, receiving forgiveness, giving offerings **and** engagement with one another.

SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER AROUND INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

- ▶ Ensure explanations, invitations and directions are clear so that participants know expectations
- ▶ Use language that is hospitable, invitational, inclusive and understandable to those present
- ▶ Provide opportunities for interaction of small intergenerational groups within worship
- ▶ Include fun, excitement and surprise in the context of genuine worship

- ▶ Give a high priority to visuals and kinaesthetic engagement
- ▶ Provide multi-sensory experiences, including touch and taste as well as sight and hearing
- ▶ Involve a number of different people — representing a range of generations — in various aspects of the service
- ▶ Make sure invitations to programmed movement (eg actions, dancing, clapping during songs) are inclusive of all present and respectful of different abilities

OTHER RECOMMENDED RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

- ▶ Holly Allen
[Intergenerational Christian Formation](#)
- ▶ Beth Barnett
[Party on Together](#)
- ▶ Lucy Moore
[All-Age Worship](#)
- ▶ John Roberto
[Generations Together](#)
- ▶ Scripture Union
[All-Age Lectionary Services](#)

REFLECTION/EVALUATION TOOL

The below questions are to assist your worship team to reflect on their planning for and experiences of intergenerational worship during Lent and to encourage improvement for future intergenerational worship.

This tool can be used by individuals but would be best used with a gathering of those involved in leading and engaging in the worship service, such as the worship planning team, worship leaders, parents, young people and other ministry leaders (*such as children's ministry, youth and young adult ministry, family ministry*).









Prayerfully reflect on the following questions **before Lent**:

- ▶ What are your goals for intergenerational worship during Lent? What are you hoping to do/achieve/experience?
- ▶ Can you foresee any possible challenges and how might you overcome these?
- ▶ What and how will you communicate about the vision/goals and plans for intergenerational worship during Lent
 - To parents and young people?
 - To the wider congregation?
 - To worship leaders/team and others involved in the worship service?

Prayerfully reflect on the following questions **after Lent**:

- ▶ Were your goals for intergenerational worship met? How? What did you experience?
- ▶ What did you learn about intergenerational worship in your context?
- ▶ What would you do differently when planning for/engaging in intergenerational worship?
- ▶ How useful was the “Intergenerational Worship Ideas for Lent” resource? What feedback could you give to the writers?

LEGEND

Leader action		[Action]
Congregations action		[Action]
Specific group action	 or 	[Action] or [Action]
Congregations say		Phrase
Specific group say	 or 	Phrase or Phrase
Leader phrase / action that is followed by Congregations phrase / action		[Action] / Phrase

Lent 1A

1 March 2020

We acknowledge the _____
people, the first inhabitants and custodians of this place from time beyond
remembering.

SONG TiS 154 “Great is your faithfulness”

SAY

As we sing this great song together, I'd like to invite you to join in with your whole body when we sing the Refrain

great is your faithfulness*
[raise left arm with palm outstretched] †

great is your faithfulness,*
[raise right arm with palm outstretched] †

morning by morning new mercies we see;*
[slowly turn around with both arms raised, looking at the congregation as you do so] †

all we have needed your hand has provided:*
[lower left arm until it is parallel to the ground, elbow tucked in, palm facing upwards] †

your hand has provided:*
[lower right arm until it is parallel to the ground, elbow tucked in, palm facing upwards] †

great is your faithfulness, Lord God, to me*
[raise both arms with palms outstretched] †

DO

Let's sing together...

OR...

SAY

This song is about God's great faithfulness to us and all of God's Creation. To help us remember that, I'd like everyone on the **left side of the church** (or everyone who is under 50 or everyone who is wearing a dark coloured top or your choice of dividing the congregation into two parts) to especially join in on the word “Great”

Let's practice that...1,2 "Great". Well done!

To help us remember God's great faithfulness, I'd like everyone on the **right side of the church** (or everyone who is over 50 or everyone who is wearing a light-coloured top or your choice of dividing the congregation into two parts) to especially join in on the word "Faithfulness".

Let's practice that...1,2 "Faithfulness". Excellent!

Let's practice that together...1, 2 "Great" "Faithfulness". Fantastic!

DO

Now we're ready to sing...

WELCOME

Welcome everyone to our worship at _____ on this first Sunday in the Season of Lent. Welcome to any visitors worshipping with us.

SENTENCE

The Spirit led Jesus up into a remote wilderness area so that he could be challenged and prove himself. He went without food for forty days and nights out there, and after that he could have eaten a horse. Then, sensing his weakness, the devil tried every trick in the book to lure him away from the path of faithfulness to God. (Matt 4:1,2)

SAY

I wonder if anyone walked to church today (*put your hand up if you did*)? I wonder if anyone walked to school this week? (*If anyone puts up their hand, follow up with, and take responses to, the question*) Which school do you go to?

I wonder if there is anyone here who doesn't walk to school now, but did when they were younger? (*Ask a couple of people who have put up their hand to tell us about the school you went to*). How far did you have to walk?

Lent is a journey of discovery, a search for truth as we walk with Jesus on his journey towards the cross. And today we consider the cost of "walking the walk" with Jesus!

CALL TO WORSHIP (project wilderness slide)

PREPARE

Prepare a slide (or picture) of a wilderness

SAY

I wonder what it would be like to be in this picture [**point to the wilderness slide**]^{††}. I wonder what it would feel like? (take some responses from people of different ages).

This image is of a wilderness. As we say the following words together, I invite anyone who is **under 50** to join in with “**A wilderness**” and everyone who is **over 50** to join in with the words in **orange** (if you are 50, you can read what you like!). We all join together in the words that are **bold**.

DO

Welcome to Lent, a wilderness, a journey, a temptation.

A wilderness,

a turning, a calling.

A wilderness,

an encounter, a renewing.

A wilderness,

a taking up, a folding away.

A wilderness,

a movement, a season.

A wilderness,

a vision, a preparing.

Come and meet God*,

who calls us beyond where we are now, to where love will find itself to be

God of all our journeys, you call us out from where we are into a wilderness*

where everything longs to be restored and held afresh

Grant us the strength to journey this Lent*

Give us new hearts to discover the road less travelled, the walking the walk with Jesus

Amen

SONG TiS 738 “My Jesus, my Saviour”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PREPARE

Before the service prepare individual signs (or pictures) for “Hungry”, “Alone”, “Peace” and “Suffer”. Before the service begins identify a pair of people (whose ages differ by at least 20 years) for each sign (or picture).

Invite them to choose who will read the words and who will hold up the sign (or picture) at the relevant time. Have each pair sit next to each other (with the pairs distributed throughout the congregation).

At the appropriate point in the Prayer, each pair stands to read/display the sign (or picture).

SAY

Today our prayers will be led by four pairs of people from with-in the congregation. I encourage you to join in with the words in **bold**✠

DO

Let's pray...

(Pair 1: Hungry)

While we keep silence, those who need bread stay hungry.

We confess the times we have not spoken up for the hungry

and our silence has left hunger as our witness✠

(silence)

(Pair 2: Alone)

While we keep silence, those who need a sign stay alone.

God, we confess the times we have waited for you to act rather than reaching out in love to one another

and our silence has left loneliness as our witness✠

(silence)

(Pair 3: Peace)

While we keep silence, those who need peace cry out.

We confess the times we have silently gone along with things rather than pursuing your demands for justice

and our silence has left distrust as our witness✠

(silence)

(Pair 4: Suffer)

While we keep silence those who need comfort suffer.

God, we confess the times we have been tempted to stand back rather than enter relationship with another

and our silence has left despair as our witness✠

(silence)

God in your compassion forgive us and free us to chose the road less travelled, to walk the walk with Jesus to the cross and beyond✠

Amen✠

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Psalm 32:5 assures us that when we confess our sins to God, we are forgiven. The Apostle Paul confirms this by reminding us that just as Adam's sin led to condemnation for all, so one man's - Jesus' - act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. (*Romans 5:18*) So we can trust in Christ's word

Your sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

DOXOLOGY: TIS 768 "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" (with liturgical movement)

SAY

We can praise God with our mouths and we can praise God with our whole bodies. For those that are able and want to, you might like to join me in these liturgical movements as an embodiment of praise. Let's practise.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,*

[Wave outstretched arms from side to side above your head]'

praise God all creatures here below,*

[Make "koala ears" - or other animal - actions]'

praise God above ye heavenly host, (Stretch both arms up above your head)

praise Father, Son,*

[Lower arms to make a cross shape]'

and Holy Ghost.*

[Bring palms together, fingers pointing upwards, in a prayer pose]'

DO

We praise God together...

BIBLE READING Romans 5:12-19 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

PREPARE

Prepare slides (or a large copy or printed versions) of the Bible Reading as outlined below.

SAY

The reading we are about to share from the Bible focuses on two people – Adam [***show slide/picture to represent Adam***]^{††} and Jesus [***show slide/picture to represent Jesus***]^{††} – and a special gift from God [***show slide/picture to represent God's gift***]^{††}.

We're going to read the Bible together, with you joining in when we come to a picture. When we get to this picture **[show slide/picture to represent Adam]***, we say "Adam[✠]". When we get to this picture **[show slide/picture to represent Jesus]***, we say "Jesus[✠]". When we get to this picture **[show slide/picture to represent God's gift]*** we say "gift[✠]".

Let's practice **[show pictures randomly a few times]***

DO

Adam and Christ

[insert Adam picture]* sinned, and that sin brought death into the world. Now everyone has sinned, and so everyone must die. Sin was in the world before the Law came. But no record of sin was kept, because there was no Law. Yet death still had power over all who lived from the time of **[insert Adam picture]*** to the time of Moses. This happened, though not everyone disobeyed a direct command from God, as **[insert Adam picture]*** did.

In some ways **[insert Adam picture]*** is like Christ **[insert Jesus picture]*** who came later. But the **[insert Gift picture]*** that God was kind enough to give was very different from **[insert Adam picture]*** sin. That one sin brought death to many others. Yet in an even greater way, **[insert Jesus picture]*** Christ alone brought God's **[insert Gift picture]*** of kindness to many people.

There is a lot of difference between **[insert Adam picture]*** sin and God's **[insert Gift picture]***. That one sin led to punishment. But God's **[insert Gift picture]*** made it possible for us to be acceptable to him, even though we have sinned many times. Death ruled like a king because **[insert Adam picture]*** had sinned. But that cannot compare with what **[insert Jesus picture]*** Christ has done. God has been so kind to us, and he has accepted us because of **[insert Jesus picture]***. And so, we will live and rule like kings.

Everyone was going to be punished because **[insert Adam picture]*** sinned. But because of the good thing that Christ **[insert Jesus picture]*** has done, God accepts us and gives us the **[insert Gift picture]*** of life. **[insert Adam picture]*** disobeyed God and caused many others to be sinners. But **[insert Jesus picture]*** obeyed him and will make many people acceptable to God.

EARLY WORD

SONG TiS 412 "God sends us his Spirit"

GOSPEL Matthew 4-11

SERMON

SONG TiS 468 “We are your people”

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

NOTICES

SONG TiS 569 Guide me O thou great Jehovah”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

BLESSING SONG TiS 779 “May the feet of God”

Lent 2A

8 March 2020

We acknowledge the _____
people, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering

CHORUSES TiS 738 : My Jesus, my Saviour”

WELCOME

Welcome to our worship at _____ UC.
Welcome to any visitors. Today we focus on the risks we take to follow Jesus,
and the deep trust in God we need in order to do so.

PREPARE

Prepare a slide with the Call to Worship words and actions so that the congregation can join in.

SAY

Everyone is invited to say the responses together and join in the actions too.

DO

I raise my eyes up to the hills.

Where will my help come from? ☩
[shrug shoulders] †

My help will come from the LORD,

the one who made heaven and earth ☩
[draw a circle in the air in front of you] †

the one who will not let your foot be moved;

the one watching over you while you sleep ☩
[put your hand over your eyebrows – looking] †

Indeed, the one keeping watch over Israel

neither slumbers or sleeps ☩
[hold your eyes wide open] †

The LORD is the one keeping watch over you;

The LORD is your shade at your right hand ☩
[hold your right hand over your head] †

The sun will not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night[✠]
[hold your left hand over your head][†]

The LORD is the one watching over you against all evil;

watching over your life[✠]
[put your hand over your eyebrows – looking][†]

The LORD is the one watching over your coming and going

from now and for ever[✠]
[draw a circle in the air in front of you][†]

(c) Jeff Shrowder 2002.

SONG TIS 147 “To God be the glory”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PREPARE

Gather sufficient pebbles/rocks about 4-6cm diameter to hand out to each person in the congregation. Identify and brief two people to assist with the handing out of the pebbles/rocks.

SAY

[as one person speaks, have two volunteers hand out a pebble/rock about 4-6cm diameter to each person]^{††}

When we confess in prayer, we hand over to God those things we have done or left undone that weigh on our hearts. We often use words, but today we will use these stones to symbolise the things we want to leave before Jesus, and move forward in our lives as people who receive God's grace.

Hold your rock and let us pray,

Abraham trusted that God would help him and his family as they journeyed forth into the unknown. Jesus journeyed towards Jerusalem trusting that God would be his strong help and guide on the way.

Loving God, we confess those times we do not listen to you or to the wisdom of family/friends, thinking we know all the answers.

Abraham took the plunge and ventured forward into a future not of his own making. Jesus took the plunge and ventured forward on his journey to the cross, trusting in God's Spirit to help him give shape to a future where justice and righteousness reign.

Loving God, we confess those times we are afraid to follow your leading, when life feels so hard we turn away from doing good and stay where we are.

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you; help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us when we are weak.

We know in you, we are being formed for so much more than we can imagine.

[Play song or clip for “Beautiful things” www.youtube.com/watch?v=1spkhp41ig4 and invite people to come and leave their stones at the cross and walk away from those things they want to leave to God][†]

(When song concludes...)

God who renews us, Blow your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds so that we have courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads us.

Amen[✠]

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

DOXOLOGY TiS 220 “This, this is the God we adore”

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

SAY

Sometimes it can be hard to focus on the good things that are happening in our lives and in our world. Today’s Old Testament reading has much Good News for Abraham and the people of God. So, every time you hear the word ‘**ble**s’ or ‘**ble**ssing’ I want you to shout out “**hooray!**[✠]” so we can really hear that good news together.

The Lord said to Abram:

Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will **ble**ss* you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a **ble**ssing* to others. I will **ble**ss* anyone who **ble**sses* you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be **ble**ssed* because of you.

Abram was seventy-five years old when the Lord told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and slaves they had gotten while in Haran.

EARLY WORD

SONG TiS 242 “I danced in the morning”

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

SERMON

SONG “The Summons” – Iona Community

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PREPARE

Arrange sufficient resources for around six people to be able to blow bubbles. Either identify bubble blowers from a variety of generations before the service or call for volunteers during the service.

SAY

Together we pray for things we want to see changed in this world. We pray in faith, even if we cannot explain it, and we ask for God to intercede, to break into situations in this world that need healing and restoration. We also pray that we find ways we can help in God’s work of healing and restoration.

As we pray today, I invite you to listen and also to pray in your own hearts for those you are thinking of at this time. Four times we will pause and respond to prayers offered up – I will say ‘**God in your Grace**’, and you can all respond “**hear our prayer**” and at that moment we pause in silence and blow bubbles, or watch the bubbles, spreading out carrying our breath and our prayers for one another and this world.

DO

Let us pray.

Creator God,

We pray for a healthy earth,

That leaders will make good choices for our environment,

That people will all do their bit to conserve water and electricity,

That the three R’s Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, will be practiced in homes, schools and workplaces.

And for other environmental concerns on our hearts today.

(short silence)

God in your grace,*

Hear our prayers✠

[Blow bubbles, and allow a little time to watch]’

Loving God,

We pray for our communities and families.

For those who don't feel like they belong, to feel accepted.

For those who are fighting, to hear one another and find peace.

For those who are sick or injured, that they find strength and comfort.

And for other people we know who are on our hearts today.

(short silence)

God in your grace,*

Hear our prayers✠

[Blow bubbles, and allow a little time to watch]’

God our holy parent,

surround us in loving embrace,

fill us and bless each breath,

hear these prayers of our hearts,

joined in community here today.

God in your grace,*

Hear our prayers✠

[Blow bubbles, and allow a little time to watch]’

NOTICES

SONG TiS 658 “I the Lord of sea and sky”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

BLESSING SONG TiS 755 “You shall go out with joy”

Lent 3A

15 March 2020

We acknowledge the _____
people, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

We gather as God's people

CANDLE LIGHTING SILENCE – The Lord be with you!

WELCOME

Welcome to our worship at _____ UC.
Welcome to worship on this 3rd Sunday in the Season of Lent. Welcome to our visitors. Today as we offer God our worship, we recognise that we are on the journey of costly love with Jesus that leads to the cross at Easter!

CALL TO WORSHIP

SAY

I'd like to invite you to join in with your whole body by copying my actions in our Call to Worship.

We are here together in the name of Christ Jesus,*

[hold hands]'

in the Presence of an awesome, Holy Love.*

[raise arms high]'

A person without God is like a feather in a perpetual wind, blown all over without any control or choice in where to rest.*

[Wave arms like rushing wind]'

O come, let us return to the living God,*

[turn in a circle or take a step forward]'

Let us bow before the One who is our Maker.*

[kneel down or bow head]'

Amen![✠]

[high 5 neighbour]'

OR...

PREPARE

Identify 4 people of different ages, explain to them that during the Call to Worship they will each bring forward an item and place it on a table at the front of the church...

- ▶ a cross
- ▶ a candle (*have matches ready*)
- ▶ a bag of feathers (*have fan ready*)
- ▶ a Bible

SAY

In our Call to Worship, I invite you to listen, watch and think about being ready to worship God together.

DO

We are here together in the name of Christ Jesus,*

[cross is brought forward][Ⓜ]

in the Presence of an awesome, Holy Love.*

[candle is brought forward and lit][Ⓜ]

A person without God is like a feather in a perpetual wind, blown all over without any control or choice in where to rest.*

[bag of feathers is brought forward and tipped out in front of a fan - not near the candle][Ⓜ]

O come, let us return to the living God,*

[Bible brought forward][Ⓜ]

Let us bow before the One who is our Maker. Amen!*

[all four people kneel down facing the cross][Ⓜ]

SONG TiS 52 “Let us sing to the God of salvation”

SONG TiS 53 “Come sing praises to the Lord above”

SAY

I invite you to join in with your whole body as we sing the refrain for TiS 53 “Come sing praises to the Lord above”. Here are the ways you can join in...

God is king above the mountains high,*

[Make a mountain with your arms][Ⓜ]

the ocean deep, the land and sky,*

[Hand on nose and arm above head like you're swimming under water][Ⓜ]

mighty continents and islands lie*

[Sweep arms from side to side][Ⓜ]

within the hollow of God's hand.*

[Hold hands together with palms up to make a hollow.][Ⓜ]

DO

Sing together...

OR...

PREPARE

Replace one of the songs with a more recent child friendly song about God, King of Creation, such as “*The one and only God*” by Colin Buchanan (*using inclusive language for God as appropriate to your context*).

SAY

With the first verse displayed, say something like “*I wonder if you have been to any of the places mentioned in this song?*” **[take responses]**^{4†}. Depending on the abilities/agility of your congregation, invite people, during the singing of the song to wave both hands in the air or stand up (*or do both*) whenever somewhere they have been is mentioned

OR...

“I invite you to talk to someone near you about places you have visited. Let’s work together to rewrite a verse with the places we’ve been too”.

AND/OR...

DO

I invite you to join in with your whole body as we sing the refrain for “*The one and only God*”. Here are the ways you can join in...

Every mountain*

[Make a mountain with your arms][‡]

Every river*

[Move hands, wiggling fingers, from left to right in a flowing motion][‡]

Every waterfall*

[Raise hands high and them down, wiggling fingers, in a waterfall motion][‡]

The One and Only God*

[Raise left arm and point upwards (and hold position)][‡]

The One and Only God*

[Raise right arm and point upwards][‡]

The One and Only God made it all!*

[Keeping arms straight, lower them in an arc][‡]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SAY

In our prayers of confession, we are saying sorry to God for the things we do against God's love and also for not showing God's love when we should. We deserve to be punished by God for not living God's way BUT the great news is that instead God offers us forgiveness, God shows us mercy by forgiving us and loving us. Let us confess and say sorry and ask for God's mercy to forgive us.

DO

Let's pray together...

We are sorry we haven't loved you with all our heart

And cared for your creation:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy**✠

We are sorry we haven't been obedient and lived in the way of Jesus and shared your good news of love for everyone

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy**✠

We are sorry we haven't loved one another here in your church and served one another with the gifts you have given us:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy**✠

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

DOXOLOGY TiS 655 "O let the Son of God enfold you"

PREPARE

Identify 4 people of different ages and explain to them that during the singing of the Doxology they are to slowly move around the worship space with incense or lit scented candles. **Make sure you are aware of anyone with breathing difficulties/allergies.**

SAY

This song is about God enfolding us and filling our lives. As we sing it, breathe in the scented candles/incense as a reminder of God all around us, enfolding us, filling us.

DO

Let's sing the Doxology

BIBLE READING Romans 5:1-11 (CEV)

PREPARE

Prepare the Bible Reading slides (or write it out in large enough print) as outlined below.

SAY

Today's New Testament reading is about what it means to be acceptable to God. We are no longer God's enemies. Remember in our prayer of confession earlier we asked for God's mercy. This Bible passage is about God's mercy towards us. The reading will be on the screen. When the words in **BLUE** are being read, hold hands with the people next to you. When you see a word in **ORANGE** cross your arms in front of you.

Let's practice that now...Words in **BLUE**, hold hands – well done!

Words in **ORANGE**[†], cross your arms in front – excellent!

DO

Let's listen for God's Word...

By faith we have been made **acceptable to God**. And now, because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we **live at peace with God**. Christ has also introduced us to **God's undeserved kindness** on which we take our stand. So **we are happy**, as we look forward to **sharing in the glory of God**. But that's not all! We **gladly suffer**[†], because we know that **suffering**[†] helps us to **endure**. And endurance builds character, which gives us a **hope that will never disappoint us**. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who **fills our hearts with his love**.

Christ died[†] for us at a time when we were **helpless and sinful**[†]. No one is **really willing to die**[†] for an **honest person**, though someone might be **willing to die**[†] for a **truly good person**. But God showed how much **he loved us** by **having Christ die for us**[†], even though **we were sinful**[†].

But there is more! Now that **God has accepted us** because Christ sacrificed **his life's blood**[†], we will also be **kept safe** from **God's anger**[†]. Even when we were **God's enemies**[†], he **made peace with us**, because his **Son died for us**[†]. Yet something **even greater than friendship** is ours. Now that we are at **peace with God**, we will be saved **by his Son's life**. And in addition to everything else, **we are happy** because God sent our Lord Jesus Christ to **make peace with us**.

EARLY WORD

SONG TiS 146 "God who made the earth"

GOSPEL READING John 4:5-42

SERMON

HYMN TiS 687 “God gives us a future”

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SONG TiS 609 “May the mind of Christ my saviour”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

BLESSING SONG TiS 755 “You shall go out with joy”

Lent 4A

22 March 2020

We acknowledge the _____
people, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

We gather as God's people

CANDLE LIGHTING SILENCE – The Lord be with you!

WELCOME

Welcome to our worship at _____ UC.
Welcome to worship on this 4th Sunday in the Season of Lent. Welcome to our visitors. Today as we offer God our worship, we celebrate that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners like us.

SONG TiS 778 “Shalom to you now”

SAY

Our first song this morning is a song of blessing, a song that invites “*Shalom*”. I wonder what “*Shalom*” means?

(pause)

“*Shalom*” may be a word of welcome – like “*G'day*” or “*How's it going?*” It can also mean peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity and welfare. Take a moment to say “**G'day ☺**” or “**Shalom ☺**” to the people nearest to you.

As we sing this song together, I invite you to join in with these simple gestures...

Shalom to you now,*

[Put your left arm out, elbow tucked in, palm upwards]'

Shalom, my friends.*

[Put your right arm out, elbow tucked in, palm upwards]'

May God's full mercies bless you my friends.*

[Stretch out both arms and slowly form a cross-shape, keeping arms horizontal]'

In all your living and through your loving,*

[Leave arms outstretched]'

Christ be your shalom,

[Bring palms together, fingers pointing upwards, in a prayer pose]'

Christ be your shalom.

[Initially keeping hands together, stretch arms forward. Separate hands and finish with arms outstretched, parallel to the ground with palms upwards]'

DO

Let's sing together... Shalom to you now

CALL TO WORSHIP

PREPARE

Prepare a medium-to-large clear glass bowl filled to the brim with water and placed in the middle of a large tray. Place next to the bowl three "empty", reasonably sized glass (*or plastic*) jugs – each with a small amount of differently coloured food dye in them. Fill a larger jug (*sufficient to fill the three reasonably sized jugs*) with water. Pre-select three people (*maximising the age difference as much as possible*) and explain to them what they will need to do at the appointed time in the service.

SAY

Water can be a sign of God's blessing or God's Shalom. Lots of water can be a symbol for lots of blessing! I've invited three people to help me lead our Call to Worship this morning and I'd like them to come forward now **[as they come forward, give them an "empty" jug 'n]**.

Everybody's job this morning is to join in with the words in **bold**. **[Name]**, **[Name]** and **[Name]** are going to help by pouring water into our bowl. I wonder what will happen? **[At this point fill each of the empty jugs 'n]**

DO

As the Call to Worship is read, one person each time (*in turn*) pours out about half of their jug's contents into the bowl already brimming with water. Pause each time to allow a focus on the pouring before proceeding with the text.

The Lord is my Shepherd:*

I shall not want ✠
[pour water] Ⓢ

I seek the grace of God:*

and my cup runneth over ✠
[pour water] Ⓢ

I seek the will of God:*

and my cup runneth over ✠
[pour water] Ⓢ

I seek the strength of God:*

and my cup runneth over ✠
[pour water] ⑥

How generous is God's love:*

so much the world cannot contain it ✠
[pour water] ⑥

The Lord is my Shepherd:*

and I lack nothing ✠
[pour water] ⑥

SONG TiS 10 "The Lord's my shepherd"

PREPARE

Pre-select two people (*making sure there is a significant age difference between them, if possible*) to share briefly (*ideally around a minute*) as to why Psalm 23 is important to them. You might also want to pre-select one or two people to initiate the sharing to take place after the third verse (*as described below*).

SAY

This song is based on a Psalm from the Bible – Psalm 23. For many people, this is one of their favourite Psalms. I wonder if you are one of those people [**invite people to put up their hand** ✠]. I know that [**Name**] and [**Name**] like this Psalm – and I've asked them to briefly tell us a little bit about why it is special to them...

...Thank you [**Name**] and [**Name**]. As we sing this song, we're going to pause at the end of the third verse. The music will keep playing quietly and during this time you might like to share briefly with the whole congregation why this Psalm is special for you. Alternatively, you might want to sit quietly and reflect on God's presence, God's blessing, God's shalom.

DO

Encourage people to remain seated for the first three verses. After an appropriate time has elapsed for sharing, encourage people to stand for the final two verses

SONG TiS 10 "The Lord's my shepherd"

and staff me comfort still...

As the music plays, feel free to share briefly with the whole congregation why this Psalm is special for you. Alternatively, you might want to sit quietly and reflect on God's presence, God's blessing, God's shalom.

My table thou hast furnished....

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PREPARE

Set up five candles. Pre-select two people to light the candles.

SAY

As we pray together, I invite you to join in with the phrase **“Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩”**. Let's practice that now...1,2 **“Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩”**. Great!

Also, after each time we say **“Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩”**, a candle will be lit and a short time of silence will be kept.

DO

Jesus, servant King and Light of the world you penetrate the darkness of the world with your love and your life, graciously enlightening us in ways which enable us to see the world and our neighbours as you see them.

We confess, however, that there are times when we choose to reject the gift of your insight, preferring to 'close our eyes' to the pain and suffering which are daily experiences for so many people.

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩

When our prejudices blind us to the equal dignity and worth of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩

When our pride blinds us to our own faults;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩

When the lure of wealth blinds us to the poverty of others;

Jesus, Light of the world, forgive us ☩

Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light so that goodness, righteousness, and truth are made visible as we reflect your love and your mercy in and through all we say and do.

Amen ☩

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

DOXOLOGY TiS 655 **“O let the Son of God enfold you”**

FIRST READING Ephesians 5:8-14

PREPARE

In the week before the service, encourage as many people as possible to bring a torch to church (*and have a limited supply handy for those that are unable to do so*). Communicate with the relevant Bible Reader and Steward (*or tech person*) around what will happen. The Steward (*or tech person*) needs to dim the lights at the appropriate point. The Bible Reader needs to pause very slightly just prior to each time “**Light**” or “**Dark**” appears (*to allow people time to join in with the word*) and also allow sufficient time after the word for the relevant action to take place (*see below for further explanation*).

If the experience of reading the Bible proves to be positive for the congregation (*it will depend on your judgement*), you might want to say something like “*That was a great practice, let’s read it together again...*”

SAY

Our first reading today uses the imagery of “**light**” and “**dark**” to help us think about how those who belong to Jesus can live. As we read this passage together today, I’d like everyone on this side of the church [**point to the Left side**]^{††} to join in with the word “**Dark**”.

Let’s practice that...1,2,3 “**Dark**”. Good!

I’d like everyone on this side of the church [**point to the Right side**]^{††} to join in with the word “**Light**”.

Let’s practice that...1,2,3 “**Light**”.

Well done! How about when I point? [**point randomly to each side a few times**]^{††} – excellent!

Now, also, who remembered to bring a torch today? Who didn’t but would like one? [**distribute as many extras as you have available**]^{††}. Here’s what you need to do...When you hear the word “**Light**”, everyone needs to turn your torch on and shine it around. If you hear the word “**Light**”, and your torch is already on, you need to stand up with your torch and shine it around. If you hear the word “**Light**” and you are already standing up and shining it around, you need to shine it around more enthusiastically!

If you hear the word “**Dark**”, you need to make sure you are sitting down and your torch is turned off.

Let’s practice that “**Dark**”.

[affirm that people are sitting with their torches off]... †

“**Light**”

[torches should come on] ... †

“**Light**”

[with torches should stand up and shine them around] ... †

“**Light**”

[torches should be shone more enthusiastically] ... †

“Dark”

[people should be sitting with torches off].

Fantastic!

How are we going with saying the words **“Light”** [point to Right of church] and **“Dark”** [point to Left of church]. Great!

DO

Let's begin... *(at this point the church should be made as dark as possible)*

FIRST READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Ephesians 5:8-14 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

You used to be like people living in the **dark**, but now you are people of the **light** because you belong to the Lord. So, act like people of the **light** and make your **light** shine. Be good and honest and truthful, as you try to please the Lord. Don't take part in doing those worthless things that are done in the **dark**. Instead, show how wrong they are. It is disgusting even to talk about what is done in the **dark**. But the **light** will show what these things are really like. **Light** shows up everything, just as the Scriptures say,

“Wake up from your sleep and rise from death.

Then Christ will shine on you.”

EARLY WORD

SONG TiS 164 “The great love of God”

GOSPEL READING John 9:1-41

SERMON

SONG TiS 129 Amazing grace how sweet the sound

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NOTICES

SONG TiS 572 “O thou who camest from above”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

BLESSING SONG TiS 780 “May light come into your eyes”

Lent 5A

29 March 2020

We acknowledge the _____
people, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship on this 5th Sunday in the Season of Lent. Welcome to our visitors. Today as we offer God our worship, we focus on the way God's Spirit can breathe new life into our tired dry bones!

SONG TiS 685 "Lord I come to you"

PREPARE

Instead of TiS 685 "*Lord I come to you*" you might like to introduce the song "*Come all you people*". As it may be new to your community, you might want to encourage a few people to become familiar with it in the week prior. Familiarise people via www.youtu.be/ehQiVm8bThg and, if you'd like to learn the different parts to add to the musicality, www.youtu.be/ihpVW0zzSus.

On the day, 3-5 minutes before the service begins hand around some simple percussion instruments to anyone who seems keen to play, including any children.

SAY

This new song is an invitation to worship. We're going to sing it through a number of times together, using only our voices and our percussion instruments. (If you are going to add to the experience as per www.youtu.be/ihpVW0zzSus, explain how this will happen).

DO

Sing through the song 3-5 times.

CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 130

PREPARE

Prepare a slide with the Call to Worship words as written below. Change the age split as needed to suit your congregation.

SAY

Everyone is invited to join in today's Call to Worship.

DO

Leader:

Psalm 130 tells us if we wait, God will whisper hope to us.

Over 60:

Do you believe this? ☪

Under 60:

We believe God's Word is not a pipe dream, but the river of love which flows forever! ☪

Leader:

Paul tells us it is foolishness to think only of ourselves.

Under 60:

Do you believe this? ☪

Over 60:

We believe that when we pay attention to God, we will find joy, peace, love! ☪

Leader:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, so as not to stumble over our sin.

Over 60:

Do you believe this? ☪

Under 60:

We believe God is the One who leads us out of the Hopeless Valley into the kingdom of grace and life! ☪

SONG TiS 48 "You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 130)

PREPARE

Provide sufficient pens/coloured pencils/textas/crayons and paper (*either to be handed out or available in each set of chairs/pews*). Decide how much of the Sons of Korah clip at www.youtu.be/1kNDODcTCOE you wish to use (*Time 6'20" or start from 1'42" to skip the long intro, if preferred.*)

SAY

We all have different ways of finding peace and stillness to pray and reflect on our lives. Today's time of confession is based on Psalm 130, specifically a sung version from the band Sons of Korah. Someone else has created some peaceful visuals. I invite you to take time to breathe deeply during this song. You might choose to listen, watch or draw – you will find things to draw with nearby – or just close your eyes. Whatever you would like to do during this time of peace and stillness.

Let us listen for God's word in this time of confession, as we take time for peace and stillness.

DO

Play www.youtu.be/1kND0DcTCOE.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

PREPARE

You will need green or only partially dry gum leaves, old saucepans with lids, oven mitts, volunteers to carry pans with smoking gum leaves through church (*if you don't have sensitive fire alarms*). Or half burn the gum leaves earlier. Once they have cooled, put them into several plastic boxes with lids that can be passed around. Some of the smoky smell should remain even when cooled.

SAY

In a lot of parts of Australia we know what very dry weather is like, particularly when there's been a long summer. We sometimes have bushfires when it gets so dry our trees burn very easily. As we hear this reading about Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones, the containers will be passed around (or, alternatively, these saucepans with smoking leaves will be carried around) so your sense of smell can be reminded of what really dry weather is like.

DO

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14.

EARLY WORD

SONG TiS 242 "I danced in the morning"

GOSPEL READING John 11:1-45

SERMON

HYMN 90 "I'll praise my maker"

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NOTICES

SONG TiS 409 “O breath of life come sweeping through us”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

BLESSING SONG TiS 779 “May the feet of God”

Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

We acknowledge the _____
people, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

We gather as God's people.

GREETING

PREPARE

Have tables set up to make a 'hand flag'. Provide green paper, textas, scissors, tape and popsticks.

DO

As people arrive, invite them to trace around their hand, cut out the shape and sticky tape it to a popstick. Encourage people to help one another with this activity. Let them know that what they make will be used during the service – whenever the word “**Hosanna**” is said they are invited to wave their hand flag.

SAY

(when it is time for the service to begin)

“**Hosanna!*** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna* in the highest!”.

[Compliment people on their “hands” and their hand waving][†].

Say something like “**Hosanna*** is an expression of adoration, praise or joy that recognises Jesus the Messiah/Saviour. When we say '**Hosanna***' to Jesus we are saying “*You are our Saviour, the Messiah. We praise you!*” Let's shout our greeting again.

Hosanna!* Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna* in the highest!

[wave your hand flag][†]

SONG TiS 244”Trotting, trotting...”

PREPARE

Provide multiple musical instruments and an abundance of ferns, palm branches or similar (*depending on what you have access to*). Identify a few people to lead processions around the church.

SAY

For this next song, I invite everyone, of all ages, to join in as you are able. Young and old can wave ferns/ your 'hand flag' or play an instrument. I'd like to encourage everyone who is able to join in our procession around the church as we sing together and celebrate Jesus!

DO

Sing, process and celebrate!

WELCOME

Welcome everyone to worship on this Palm Sunday. Welcome to any visitors worshipping with us. Today we focus on what it means for us to be faithful followers of Jesus as we prepare the way for Jesus to enter our lives!

CALL TO WORSHIP

SAY

I invite you to raise your hand flags when you say the response **"You are our God, and we will praise You!"** Let's practice that together... 1, 2 **"You are our God, and we will praise You!"** – That's great!

DO

This is the day the LORD has made*

You are our God, and we will praise You![☩]
[hold up and wave your hand flag][☩]

The LORD is God, and has given us light;*

You are our God, and we will praise You![☩]
[hold up and wave your hand flag][☩]

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.*

You are our God, and we will praise You![☩]
[hold up and wave your hand flag][☩]

SONG (based on Psalm 118) Tune TiS 442 (ii)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PREPARE

Have the prayer shown on a screen with sound effect prompts and actions as shown below.

SAY

During our prayer, I invite you to add the sound effects, responses and actions as prompted on the screen. For example, “Lord Jesus Christ, you were welcomed as King (**Hosanna, Hosanna** [✠])”, “God hear us: God forgive us” and actions like **[place hands over mouth]** [✠] or **[cross arms]** [✠].

DO

Let’s pray...

Lord Jesus Christ, you were welcomed as a king (**Hosanna! Hosanna!** [✠]), yet riding on a donkey (**clip clop, clip clop** [✠]). You were greeted with cheers and acclamations (**Hooray! Woo hoo!** [✠]) which soon turned to jeers and condemnation (**Boo! Hiss!** [✠]). We can’t imagine being part of the jeering crowd – but would we, if we had been there?

(silent reflection)

[place hands over mouth] [✠]

Lord Jesus Christ, when our words and actions reflect a reluctance to confess you publicly as Lord of our lives:

God hear us: **God forgive us.**

[cross arms] [✠]

When we fear that humbling ourselves, would be seen by others as weakness, some kind of defect in our character:

God hear us: **God forgive us.**

[place hands over heart] [✠]

When we have betrayed your love for us through our lack of love for you, for others, and for ourselves:

God hear us: **God forgive us.**

[place hands over eyes] [✠]

When we find ourselves glossing over the events of your passion and death because we look forward to Easter as a time to enjoy holidays and have fun.

God hear us: **God forgive us.**

[hold our your hands palm up and raise your arms up] [✠]

God, empower us by your Spirit so that our lives glorify you and our tongues confess Jesus as Lord, in his name.

Amen [✠]

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Phil 2:6,7a,8b)

DO

[wave your hand flag in response][†]

DOXOLOGY TiS 775 “Glory, glory, glory...”

SAY

I invite you to use your ‘hand flag’ for actions in this song.

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

[wave your hand flag up high][†]

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

[wave your hand flag up high][†]

And on earth, peace to the people in whom God is well pleased!

[wave your hand flag from left to right, pointing to people][†]

And on earth, peace to the people in whom God is well pleased!

[wave your hand flag from left to right, pointing to people][†]

Words and music by permission Wild Goose Publications.

FIRST READING Philippians 2:5-11 (CEV)

SAY

I invite you to stand as we read verses 6 & 7, sit down for verses 8 & 9 and if you are able, to kneel down for verses 10 & 11.

I also invite those **over 60 years old** (or choose the oldest third age group as appropriate for your congregation) to read aloud verses 6 & 7. I invite everyone **over 30 years old** (or choose the middle and oldest age groups) to read aloud verses 8 & 9. I invite **everyone** here who is able to read, to read aloud verses 10 & 11.

We will all shout together the final line.

DO

Everyone standing and just those **over 60 years old** read aloud:

think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

6 **Christ was truly God** ☩
But he did not try to remain equal with God ☩

7 **Instead he gave up everything and became a slave,**
when he became like one of us ☩

Everyone seated and **over 30 years old** read aloud:

8 **Christ was humble** ☩
He obeyed God and even died on a cross ☩

9 **Then God gave Christ the highest place** ☩
and honored his name above all others ☩

Everyone seated or kneeling and **everyone** read aloud:

10 **So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down,
those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth** ☩

11 **And to the glory of God the Father** ☩

everyone will openly agree,

Everyone shout together:

“Jesus Christ is Lord!” ☩

OR...

PREPARE

Have the Bible reading read as per usual, then, with the words up on a screen (or written out) ...

SAY

I invite you to find someone who is at least 20 years different in age to you and share together a phrase or verse you like from this passage and why you like it.

(Allow a few minutes for sharing)

We're going to read the passage again. This time, though, I'd like you to join in with the verse that you identified.

For example, did anyone choose verse 7 – “*Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.*”? If you did, join in when we get to Verse 7. Take a moment to look through and remind yourself which verse you will read. Finally, I invite us to all join in on the last phrase – “**Jesus Christ is Lord!**” ☩

Let's practice that... 1, 2 “**Jesus Christ is Lord!**” ☩ – wonderful!

DO

think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

6 **Christ was truly God** ☩
But he did not try to remain equal with God ☩

7 **Instead he gave up everything and became a slave,** ☩
when he became like one of us ☩

8 **Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross** ☩

9 **Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored** ☩

10 **So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down,** ☩
those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth ☩

11 **And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree,** ☩
“Jesus Christ is Lord!” ☩

EARLY WORD Along the road – Jesus enters Jerusalem

SONG Tune TiS 52 “Let us sing...”

GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON

SONG TiS 256 “From heaven you came...”

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SONG TiS 348 “Ride on, ride on in majesty”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

BLESSING SONG TiS 749 “ Send me Jesus”

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