**Leaders in Worship – Session 1**

**The practicalities of leading worship**

**Introduction**

**Why are we meeting every week?**

* Scripture commands it (Hebrews 10.24-25)
* The early church modelled it (Acts 20.7, Justyn Martyr in C2)
* God deserves it (Luke 19.40)
* We need it (Confession of St Augustine)

*Great are you, O Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise; your power is immense, and your wisdom beyond reckoning. And so we men, who are a due part of your creation, long to praise you – we also carry our mortality about with us, carry the evidence of our sin and with it the proof that you thwart the proud. You arouse us so that praising you may bring us joy, because you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is unquiet until it rests in you.*

* Our communities need it (1 Peter 2.9)
* The Church of England needs it (1% annual decline in church attendance for many years)

**What are we meeting for?**

***42****They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.****43****Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.****44****All the believers were together and had everything in common.****45****They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.****46****Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,****47****praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2.42-47*

* Worship - It’s what God deserves

It’s what we were made for

As we worship everything else falls into place

* Prayer - Align ourselves with God’s purposes

Stuff happens

* Growing as followers of Jesus - 24/7 Christians
* Outreach - Outpost of the kingdom of God

Salt and Light

Evangelism

**The role of the leader in worship**

* To lead - hold vision, provide the means of getting where going, raise up more leaders
* To serve – God, the people

**Two Basic Services**

**Morning or Evening prayer**

Its in the book! Use it!!

**A Service of the Word**

**Content**

*Preparation*

The minister welcomes the people with the Greeting.

Authorized Prayers of Penitence may be used here or in the Prayers.

The Venite, Kyries, Gloria, a hymn, song, or a set of responses may be used.

The Collect is said either here or in the Prayers.

*The Liturgy of the Word*

This includes

¶    readings (or a reading) from Holy Scripture

¶    a psalm, or, if occasion demands, a scriptural song

¶    a sermon

¶    an authorized Creed, or, if occasion demands, an authorized Affirmation of Faith.

*Prayers*

These include

¶    intercessions and thanksgivings

¶    the Lord’s Prayer

*Conclusion*

**How to plan a service of the Word**

1. Pray! – and listen
2. Using the readings from the lectionary and the day of the Church year, decide on a theme
3. Plan the Ministry of the Word
4. Plan the Prayers
5. Plan the gathering and the conclusion
6. Choose the music
7. Involve other people

**Service sheets**

We can print you service sheets for regular use – just ask.

Or you can create your own based on the basic service. Download from the Mission Community Website: <http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org/our-vision/resources/>

Or use Powerpoint.

But before you print or project songs lease make sure your church has the correct CCLI licence

**Music**

**What music to choose**

* Opening hymn – focus on God, drawing people into worship
* Hymn of praise to follow the gathering
* Hymn to respond to the Ministry of the Word (based on the theme)
* Closing hymn – to send people out into the world to live for Christ

Or

* A time of sung worship to begin
* A time of singing to respond to the word
* A closing hymn to send people out.

**Issues to consider when choosing music**

* What do the congregation know and will be able to sing well (especially without an instrument)?
* If learning something new, how will you learn it?
* How can you include children/young people?
* How can you include new-comers?
* Are we reflecting the breadth of church tradition?
* Are there creative ways of using music – CDs,/DVDs, Taize chants, etc

**How to lead the Prayers**

**Ways of praying in a Service of the Word**

* Set forms of prayer - with a response

Bidding prayers – with silence or open prayer

* Sharing in prayer – what’s in the newspaper/BBC website/in your pockets?

Walk around your community

Creative ideas - prayer stations

 Actions

 Craft (eg pipe cleaners, paper)

Doing ministry - listening to Holy Spirit, sharing words and pictures

* Include: Church, world, local community, suffering, departed
* Respond to the Ministry of the Word
* Must involve the congregation – not just passive recipients

**The church year**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Season** | **Day** | **Theme** | **Colour** |
| **Advent** |  | **Preparing for Christ – birth and second coming** | **Purple** |
| **Christmas** |  | **Jesus’ birth** | **White/gold** |
| **Epiphany** |  | **Wise men** | **White/gold** |
| **Ordinary time** |  |  | **Green** |
| **Lent** |  |  | **Purple** |
|  | **Ash Wednesday** | **Temptation of Jesus** | **Purple** |
|  | **4th Sunday: Mothering Sunday** | **Mother church** | **Purple** |
|  | **5th Sunday: Passion Sunday** | **Jesus’ suffering** | **Purple** |
| **Holy week** | **Palm Sunday** | **Triumphal entry** | **Red** |
|  | **Maundy Thursday** | **Last supper** |  |
|  | **Good Friday** | **Jesus’ death** |  |
|  | **Easter Saturday** | **Jesus in hell** |  |
| **Easter** | **Easter day** | **Jesus’ resurrection** | **White/gold** |
|  | **Easter 2-6** | **Jesus’ resurrection** |  |
|  | **Ascension** | **Jesus ascends to heaven** |  |
|  | **Sunday after ascension** | **Praying for the Holy Spirit** |  |
| **Pentecost (whit)** |  | **The Holy Spirit comes** | **Red** |
| **Trinity Sunday** |  | **God is 3 in 1** | **Green** |
| **Ordinary time/Sundays after Trinity** |  | **Living out the Christian faith** | **Green** |
|  | **Last Sunday: Bible Sunday** | **The bible** | **Green** |
| **Kingdom season** |  | **Jesus’ kingdom rule** | **Red** |
|  | **1st November: All Saints** | **Those who have gone before us** | **White** |
|  | **11th November: Remembrance** | **Sacrifice for others** | **Red** |
|  | **Christ the King** | **Jesus rules from heaven** | **Red** |

**Invitational opportunities**

* The agricultural year; Plough Sunday, Rogation, Lammas and Harvest
* Church festivals: Advent (Christingle), Christmas, Epiphany, Easter,
* National days: Valentines, Mothering Sunday, All Saints, Remembrance
* Others: Pet services, thanksgiving for Friends groups, civic services, Shoebox

**Some more adventurous options…**

**Family/All-age services**

These should follow the structure of ‘a service of the Word’.

Do: Keep it simple

 Involve everyone

 Use repetition (for those who can’t yet read)

 Be visual – pictures to accompany the bible reading; visual address

 Use all the senses – not just words, but actions

Don’t: Dumb down

Ask children to “perform”

**Messy Church**

Buy the books and go for it!

**“One offs”**

* Songs of Praise – include testimonies and/or history of hymn
* Services which move around – stations of the cross
* Services outdoors

**Resources**

**Common Worship** <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship>

Common Worship – services for the church

Times and Seasons

Festivals

New Patterns for Worship

The lectionary <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/lectionary>

**Simple service outlines & liturgy**

Germinate - <https://germinate.net/church-life/worshipresources/>

**All-age worship ideas linked to the lectionary– readings, reflections, prayers, activities**

Engage [https://engageworship.org/ideas`](https://engageworship.org/ideas%60)

All Age everything, Nick Harding

Prayers for the church year, David Adams

Browse Kevin Mayhew resources <https://www.kevinmayhew.com/>

**Grove books** <https://grovebooks.co.uk/>

W169 How to lead the Prayers W177 How to read the bible in church

W195 Mapping Common Worship W199 How to share the leadership of worship

W201 How to choose songs and hymns for worship L7 Leading a whole-life discipleship making church

**Prayer of intercession**

Prayers of Intercession, David Adam

Prayers of intercession for Common Worship, Susan Sayers