

Worship Services

Introduction:

These worship resources have been collected from a variety of places over time. It is important that we lead the way in trying to dispense with the idea that there is a “Stewardship Sunday” once a year, a focus on money. We aim rather to have people understand that stewardship is what we are called by Jesus to do and live ALL the time. Stewardship is a way of life, not a commodity. Jesus calls us to steward the environment we live in, the talents we have, the time we have, the expertise we have developed, AND the money that comes to us. The more we can include in our worship that understanding, that call, the better people in our parishes will grasp the commitment they can make to living the life of God’s steward.

There are many times such worship resources can be used...at parish conferences, to begin the annual meeting, at a weekend retreat, in Bible Study groups, at vestry meetings,...

So, take these worship offerings, edit them to suit the situation you are planning worship for, and make them relevant to those who will be present. They are yours.

And, if you come up with other worship ideas or resources, send them to slawson@national.anglican.ca for sharing with others across the country.

One

Gathering the Community

All (singing together):

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Leader Joy shall come even to the wilderness, and the parched land shall then know great gladness.

People As the rose shall deserts blossom, deserts like a garden blossom.

Leader For living springs shall give cool water.

People In the desert streams shall flow, for living springs shall give cool water.

(From Isaiah 35)

Prayer of Praise

All (in unison)

O Lord, Giver of Bread, many times we have tasted your kindness and found you to be good to all your children. When, like Israel's children, we walked the ungenerous desert, your provisions sustained us daily. When, like the prodigal, we were brought to our senses by hunger and need, you awaited our return with feasting and joy. You, O God, are the nourishing presence giving refuge to all who seek your love. For mercy poured out like manna, we praise and thank you, O Lord, Giver of Bread.

(From *All the Seasons of Mercy*, © 1987 Diane Karay)

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (#425, *Common Praise*)

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1–11

Homily/Bible Study

Prayer of Dedication

Leader O God, we desire to be your faithful stewards, but often we serve our own interest rather than yours.

People Help us seek to conform reality to your visions, not to our own vision.

Leader O God, help us to discern how your Spirit is at work in the conflicting claims and tasks of our lives and work.

People Help us to break out of our routines so that we may be more fully your faithful stewards.

All O God, free us to love and trust you no matter where you lead or how rough the path may be.

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be (#435, *Common Praise*)

1. Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and purposeful for thee.
3. Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from thee;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.

4. Take my will, and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.
5. Take my love: my Lord I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

Two

Gathering the Community

All (singing together):
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Leader Come, let us turn to our God.

People We are torn; God will heal us.

Leader We are stricken; God will bind us up.

People God will revive us and raise us up that we may live before God.

Leader Let us press on to know God whose going forth is as sure as the dawn.

People God will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.

All Amen.

(Adapted from Hosea 6: 1-3)

Prayer of Praise

All (in unison)

O God, you are the only source of life. In the beginning, your breath and Spirit drew forth the world until the earth was filled with your creatures. At the last, your breath will gather us in, each in our time, to the shelter and mystery of your love. We praise you, O God, for the certainty that in death, as in life, we are sustained by your love. Amen. (Adapted from *All the Seasons of Mercy*, © 1987 Diane Karey)

Hymn: When Morning Gilds the Skies (#2, *Common Praise*, excerpts)

1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
2. To God, the Word, on high, the hosts of angels cry: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let mortals, too, upraise their voice in hymns of praise: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

3. Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Be this the eternal song through all the ages on: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1: 27–2:2

Homily/Bible Study

Prayer of Dedication

Leader O God, you have called us to be of one heart with you as stewards of your creation.

People Help us to love you with all our heart.

Leader O God, you have enlivened us with your Spirit.

People Help us to respond faithfully to our task as your stewards.

All O God, grant us courage, strength, and wisdom to be stewards of your whole creation, your household. May we receive this stewardship as your blessing that completes creation and crowns our lives.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (#429, *Common Praise*)

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart's and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces, human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

Three

Gathering the Community

- All* (singing together):
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.
- Leader* Sing to the Lord a new song. Praise God from the ends of the earth.
People God who created us now says, “fear not, for I have redeemed you;”
- Leader* “I have called you by name, you are mine.”
People “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;”
- Leader* “And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.”
People “For I am the Lord your God, your Saviour. You are precious in my eyes.”
- Leader* Sing to the Lord a new song and declare God’s praise!
All Amen. (From *All the Seasons of Mercy*, © 1987 Diane Karey)

Prayer of Praise

- All* O God, we gather this morning to give you all praise and glory. In our worship, may we be filled with your Spirit and express thanksgiving to Jesus who shows us the way. You call us stewards, but often we squander your gifts. Enable us to minister in your name to the world that you love. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations (#576 *Common Praise*)

1. For the healing of the nations, God we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us, Father, into freedom; from despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
Pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice, may we hallow life’s brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on human kind;
For our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

Scripture Reading: John 21: 15–17

Homily/Bible Study

Prayer of Dedication

Leader O God, you have shared the loaves and fishes, bread and wine with all people. We confess it is hard to follow your good example.

People Help us to love others as you do.

Leader O God, we know that ultimately it is you to whom we are accountable as stewards.

People Help us to manage well all that you have entrusted to us as your stewards.

All O God, help us to live that others will know whose we are. May the words we speak and the deeds we do bear Jesus' message of love and hope. Amen.

Hymn: (To the tune of The Church's One Foundation, Aurelia, #525, *Common Praise*)

1. The earth, the sky, the oceans
And all that they contain;
The world with all its secrets,
They are the Lord's domain.
To rule his great creation,
God gives to humankind
The gifts of strength and courage
And an inventive mind.
2. To us from birth is given
Our stewardship and brief,
To search for truth and purpose,
To find the heart of life.
God calls us to adventure
With work of hand and brain,
To share with all his people
The profits we may gain.
3. We pledge ourselves to service
That with the help of Christ
We may be able stewards
Of all that does exist.
Whate'er we may discover
On earth, in outer space,
God grant that we may use it
To bless the human race.