HOLY COMMUNION

WORSHIP & MUSIC RESOURCES

Sunday, February 1, 2009

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Worship Planning Notes
This is not only communion Sunday in many churches, but it is also the beginning of Black History month-long activities. Plan your worship accordingly. This Sunday, instead of the usual white cloths that typically adorn communion tables and the typical falls that adorn lecterns, adorn the tables and pulpit lecterns with Kente cloth and other African traditional patterns and colors. Today’s liturgy can be seen as a framework rather than as an unyielding structure.

Just as white represents purity for many, and is the preferred color altar coverings on communion Sundays, Kente cloth represents our unwillingness to ever forget our homeland, just as Jews will never forget Israel. So, if during no other month, in February, congregations may want to
consider engaging in acts of worship, using instruments, and using colors, banners, songs, and drama activities that bespeak our heritage as both Africans and Americans.

Help your congregation prepare for this change. Place announcements in your bulletin and on bulletin boards in January announcing that February will be a great month of celebration. Indicate any planned activities—such as whether persons can expect new instruments to be played during the service, new colors on communion tables or altars, or special dramas. Put history blurbs in the bulletin throughout the month and advertise special services that will be held at other times than Sunday mornings, etc. Be sure to include activities for children, youth, and young adults that involve them in more than a cursory fashion.

Communion Ideas for Small Churches:

- Invite worshipers to come forward—all together or in groups, depending on the number of worshipers—to stand in a circle around the communion table. Each worshiper passes the bread and the wine with appropriate words: “The body of Christ, given for you,” or “The blood of Christ, shed for you,” with the receiver responding, “Thanks be to God,” or “Amen.” Passing the bread and wine from one to another emphasizes community as people share the communion meal.

- Read Scripture during communion. If you usually sing hymns while people are coming forward for communion, ask someone to read Scripture in place of one of the hymns. This is particularly appropriate if you do not have enough people in the congregation to sing while another group is up front.

- Bring children into the communion circle. If children are elsewhere during the service, bring them in to join the communion circle with their families to reinforce the sense of community. If they are too young to receive communion, children should at least receive a blessing from the pastor as professing members receive the bread and wine around the circle. Bringing children back into the service also allows nursery volunteers or teachers to join the circle to receive communion. (This information was taken from Reformed Worship at www.reformedworship.org/magazine, accessed 7 October, 2008.)

- Before or after communion, those who work with children may want to create communion stickers—pictures of bread and wine will do—to help children learn what communion is all about in your church.

1. Litany

   Holy Communion (The Lord’s Supper)

As we prepare throughout this service to partake of the Lord’s table, let us come with a spirit of humility, repentance, and thanksgiving.

Compassionate God, have mercy on us we pray.

Let us examine our thoughts, our actions, our motives, and our attitudes toward others.
O Holy God, have mercy and forgive us for our shortcomings.

Help us to remember our responsibility to our families and our neighbors, our stewardship to you, and the work you have given to our hands. Guide us. Awaken us. Energize us for the massive tasks that lay ahead.

O Living God, we stand in need of your grace, strength, and mercy.

As we eat of the bread, which represents your body, which is the True and Living Bread, open our eyes to recognize the intimacy that you yearn to share with us.

O Loving God, teach us to love you above all else, even above our ambitions.

As we drink the cup, which represents Christ’s blood shed for us, we thank you for the new covenant, “Love ye one another,” which is written on our hearts. Help us to live it out. Let us rejoice because our names are written in the book only you can open and close.

Tender Father and Mother, may your great sacrifice of redeeming love renew us for loving service and for sacrifice for others. Let us worship here and leave refreshed to serve. Let us not take of this bread and wine if we do not intend to serve others.

May this Lord’s Supper energize every area of our lives and enable us to transcend our circumstances, our inadequacies, and our enemies.

God who sees us fully, touch and empower us so that our lives will be remarkable testimonies of your presence.

We praise you, O God, who made us your people through the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord.

Abide in us, and throughout this service, our Savior and Redeemer. Fill us with the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, so that when we leave this place, we will be forever changed. Amen.

2. Hymns or Anthems
   (a) Nothing but the Blood of Jesus. By Robert Lowry. Tune, (Plainfield) Arr. by Nolan Williams

   (b) He Will Remember Me. By Eugene Bartlett

   (c) I Am Thine Oh Lord. By Fannie J. Crosby. Tune by William H. Doane

3. Traditional Songs
   (a) I Know It Was the Blood. Traditional

   (b) Down at the Cross. By Elisha A. Hoffman
(c) Come and Dine. By Charles Widmeyer

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams
(a) All the Way to Calvary. By Alfred H. Ackley

(b) For Every Mountain. By Kurt Carr

(c) Awesome God. By Dennis Reid

(d) Forever You’re My King. By James Mitchell

5. Liturgical Dance Music
(a) Praise Jehovah. By Vernon Chappell

(b) Lord Prepare Me. By Randy Scrugg and John W. Thompson

(c) Sound of Praise. By Rick Robinson

6. Modern Songs
(a) Calvary Came Through. By Barbi Franklin and Terry Franklin

(b) Just for Who You Are. By Victor Johnson

(c) Thank God for the Blood. By V. Michael McKaye

7. Offertory Songs
(a) Cry Holy. By Brent Jones

(b) High in All the Earth. By Andrea Clayton

(c) Highest Praise. By Joseph Pace, II

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer
(a) Jesus Medley: Always Remember/There Is Something about That Name. By Andraé Crouch, Gloria Gaither, William Gaither, and Frederick Whitfield

(b) Praise the Name of Jesus. Traditional

(c) How Great Is Our God. By Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves, and Chris Tomlin

9. Communion Songs
(a) A Communion Hymn. By Nolan Williams, Jr.

(b) In Remembrance. By Ragan Courtney. Tune, (Red) by Buryl Red
(c) Let Us Break Bread Together. Traditional. Tune, (Break Bread Together) Arr. by Jimmie Abbington

(d) More about Jesus (Would I Know). By Eliza E. Hewitt

10. Sermonic Selection
(a) Great Is the Lord Medley: Great Is the Lord/How Great Thou Art. By Stewart K. Hine and Joseph Pace II

(b) We Offer Praise. By Rodney Bryant

(c) Holy Lord. By David Caton

11. Invitational Song or Instrumental
(a) Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. By Betty J. Wright and Timothy Wright

(b) He’s Working It Out for You. By Michael E. Matthis

(c) Just as I Am. By Charlotte Elliot. Tune, (Woodworth LM) by William B. Bradbury

12. Benediction Song or Music
(a) God Be with You. By Thomas Dorsey

(b) As You Go, Tell the World. Anonymous

(c) Till We Gather Again. By Stephen F. Key

(d) Amen. Traditional

13. Audio Visual Suggestions
Since this is the beginning of Black History Month, place banners and other items that represent black history throughout the church. This could include pictures of black leaders, poets, athletes, and artists. Be sure to include pictures of current and deceased persons.

For a website with images for Black History Month go to www.Google.com and type in the search phrase, “Black History Month images.”

Also visit www.biography.com/blackhistory/.

Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Litany
Location:
2. Hymns or Anthems
Location:
African American Heritage Hymnal. #262

(b) He Will Remember Me. By Eugene Bartlett
Location:
African American Heritage Hymnal. #240
African Methodist Episcopal Hymnal. #475
Jackson, Irene V. Lift Every Voice and Sing: A Collection of Afro-American Spirituals and Other Songs. New York, NY: Church Hymnal Corp., 1981. #34
The New National Baptist Hymnal. #93
The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #149

(c) I Am Thine Oh Lord. By Fannie J. Crosby. Tune by William H. Doane
Location:
African American Heritage Hymnal. #387
African Methodist Episcopal Hymnal. #283
The New National Baptist Hymnal. #329

3. Traditional Songs
(a) I Know It Was The Blood. Traditional
Location: 

(b) Down at the Cross. By Elisha A. Hoffman
Location:
African American Heritage Hymnal. #248
African Methodist Episcopal Hymnal. #243
Lift Every Voice and Sing II. #28
The New National Baptist Hymnal. #191
The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #136

(c) Come and Dine. By Charles Widmeyer
Location:

4. **Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams**
(a) All the Way to Calvary. By Alfred H. Ackley
Location:

(b) For Every Mountain. By Kurt Carr
Location:

(c) Awesome God. By Dennis Reid
Location:

(d) Forever You’re My King. By James Mitchell
Location:

5. **Liturgical Dance Music**
(a) Praise Jehovah. By Vernon Chappell
Location:

(b) Lord Prepare Me. By Randy Scrugg and John W. Thompson
Location:

(c) Sound of Praise. By Rick Robinson  
Location:  

6. Modern Songs  
(a) Calvary Came Through. By Barbi Franklin and Terry Franklin  
Location:  

(b) Just for Who You Are. By Victor Johnson  
Location:  

(c) Thank God for the Blood. By V. Michael McKaye  
Location:  

7. Offertory Songs  
(a) Cry Holy. By Brent Jones  
Location:  

(b) High in All the Earth. By Andrea Clayton  
Location:  

(c) Highest Praise. By Joseph Pace II  
Location:  

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer  
(a) Jesus Medley: Always Remember/There Is Something about That Name. By Andraé Crouch, Gloria Gaither, William Gaither, and Frederick Whitfield  
Location:  

(b) Praise the Name of Jesus. Traditional  
Location:  
(c) How Great Is Our God. By Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves, and Chris Tomlin
Location:

9. Communion Songs
(a) A Communion Hymn. By Nolan Williams, Jr.
Location:
    African American Heritage Hymnal. #682

(b) In Remembrance. By Ragan Courtney. Tune, (Red) by Buryl Red
Location:
    African American Heritage Hymnal. #685

(c) Let Us Break Bread Together. Traditional. Tune, (Break Bread Together) Arr. by Jimmie Abbington
Location:
    African American Heritage Hymnal. #686
    African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #530

(d) More about Jesus (Would I Know). By Eliza E. Hewitt
Location:
    African American Heritage Hymnal. #565
    African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #210
    Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #361

10. Sermonic Selection
(a) Great Is the Lord Medley: Great Is the Lord/How Great Thou Art. By Stewart K. Hine and Joseph Pace II
Location:

(b) We Offer Praise. By Rodney Bryant
Location:

(c) Holy Lord. By David Caton
Location:

11. **Invitational Song or Instrumental**
   (a) Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. By Betty J. Wright and Timothy Wright
   Location:

   (b) He’s Working It Out for You. By Michael E. Matthis
   Location:

   (c) Just as I Am. By Charlotte Elliot. Tune, (Woodworth LM) by William B. Bradbury
   Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #345
   African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #258
   The Baptist Standard Hymnal with Responsive Reading. #265
   Lift Every Voice and Sing II. #137
   The New National Baptist Hymnal. #145
   The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #167

12. **Benediction Song or Music**
   (a) God Be with You. By Thomas Dorsey
   Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #639
   Lift Every Voice and Sing II. #234

   (b) As You Go, Tell the World. Anonymous
   Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #633

   (c) Till We Gather Again. By Stephen F. Key
   Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #638

   (d) Amen. Traditional
   Location: