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MY TOOLBOX // FOR WORSHIP PLANNING

BASIC INFORMATION // date, time, and place

When and where will worship take place?

MAIN IDEA // of worship

What is the main idea of worship?

SCRIPTURE // the guide

What scripture passage(s) will be guiding worship?

SERMON // the theme

Is there a sermon and what themes will it have?

OTHER INFORMATION // about worship

Will something special be happening (communion, etc.)? Are there certain elements you know in advance have to be present?

REFLECT // on scripture

Read the scripture passages listed above. What do they say? What themes do you see? What words and phrases stick out?

OBSERVE // the world

Spend time thinking about the world outside of worship. What is happening in the lives of worshippers? The church? The local community? The county? The state? The country? The world?

PRAY // for wisdom

Ask God to help you make good choices as you plan this worship service. You may want to write a prayer below.

BRAINSTORM // all the possibilities

Now, you are ready to begin brainstorming. Use scripture, the sermon, and other components of worship as a guide. With the categories on the next page, brainstorm all the possibilities that could happen in this worship service. The sky is the limit! Later, you can choose what to keep and what to save for another time.

MAKING SPACE // for worshiping

How might you prepare the space for worship?

FINDING ART // for seeing

What paintings, photos, or other visual images might you use for worship?

CREATING DRAMA // for hearing

How might you present scripture in an inviting and engaging way?

CHOOSING MUSIC // for singing

What songs match the themes of worship?

WRITING POETRY // for praying

What might worshipers need to say to God? What might God want to say to worshipers?

LIVING WORSHIP // for doing

How might worshipers live their lives differently after this time of worship?

MAKING DECISIONS // for implementing

Look at your brainstorming work above. Circle ideas you think align with scripture and the theme of worship.

Cross out ideas that may distract from scripture, detract from worship, or be impossible to implement.

On a blank sheet of paper, determine a structure and order for worship. You might use the structures below as a guide.

STRUCTURE 1

A four part structure used in many traditions.

Gathering
Word
Response or Table
Sending

STRUCTURE 2

A four part structure based on Isaiah 6.

Praise
Confession
Word
Sending

STRUCTURE 3

A two-part pattern used in many traditions.

Word
Table

STRUCTURE 4

Have we missed something?
Create your own structure!