

REPENTANCE

Luke 3:7-8; Isaiah 12:2-6// A Worship Service for Advent

This worship gathering calls us to open ourselves to the work of Christ in the world. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *How do we humbly open ourselves to the work of Christ in the world?*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- 🎵 **King of Glory** [Key of E]
Text and Music: Leslie Jordan and David Leonard
© 2014 Integrity's Praise! Music, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, Sony/ATV Timber Publishing/Stugio Publishing
- 🎵 **Hark, the Glad Sound!** [Key of F]
Text: Philip Doddridge
Music: RICHMOND by Thomas Haweis
- 🎵 **In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful** [Key of F]
Text: Taizé Community © 1986, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Music: Jacques Berthier © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé (France), (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
- 🎵 **From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable** [Key of D]
Text and Music: Stuart Townend
© 1999 Thankyou Music
- 🎵 **Beautiful Things** [Key of D]
Text and Music: Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor
© worshiptogether.com songs

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Consider using a different translation of scripture to present the scripture readings. We like Eugene Peterson's translation from *The Message* for this week's readings: Luke 3:7-18 and Isaiah 12:2-6.

"Sing praise-songs to God. He's done it all! Let the whole earth know what he's done! Raise the roof! Sing your hearts out, O Zion! The Greatest lives among you: The Holy of Israel."

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Preparing our hearts, a theme of this service, requires a change or a transformation. This is not something we do, but something Christ does in us as we open ourselves. Let art help you depict transformation. As you progress through worship, use art pieces to depict transformation.

We like this series by James Fissel: Home, Horizon, and Morning has Broken.



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Highlight another tool for completing the Advent journey beyond public worship. You might remind worshippers about d365 or show them Advent Conspiracy [www.adventconspiracy.org]. Their four Advent tenets are good things to remember this season as well as the entire year: worship fully, spend less, give more, love all.

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPING

This week, change the light in your worship space. Do this by adjusting the natural light, windows, or skylights. Or, use candles in an intentional way through a specific design or by lighting candles as your worship service progresses.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Use a prayer of confession in worship this week as a way to say, “I’m sorry.” You might have worshippers write their own prayer of confession, or you could use an ancient prayer such as this one from St. Augustine, an early Christian theologian and philosopher.

“When we confess our wretchedness to you and acknowledge your mercy to us, we are revealing your love for us, so that, as you have begun, so you may complete the task of setting us free: that we may cease to be unhappy in ourselves and become happy in you; for you have called us to become poor in spirit, to be meek and to mourn, to hunger and thirst for justice, to be merciful, pure in heart and authors of peace.” — St. Augustine, Confessions XI, 1

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Repentance // Luke 3:7-18; Isaiah 12:2-6 // A Worship Service for Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Use the song below to gather. Between the song and the Call to Worship, remind worshipers the significance of the Advent wreath and its role in worship this month. Then, light the third candle of the wreath.

GATHERING SONG

Wait for the Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Surely God is my salvation.

All: **I will trust and not be afraid.** (Isaiah 12:2)

Wait for the Lord (reprise)

SONGS OF PREPARATION

Beautiful Things

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Use a prayer of confession as a way to say, “I’m sorry.” You might have worshippers write their own prayer of confession, or you could use an ancient prayer such as this one from St. Augustine, an early Christian theologian and philosopher.

“When we confess our wretchedness to you and acknowledge your mercy to us, we are revealing your love for us, so that, as you have begun, so you may complete the task of setting us free: that we may cease to be unhappy in ourselves and become happy in you; for you have called us to become poor in spirit, to be meek and to mourn, to hunger and thirst for justice, to be merciful, pure in heart and authors of peace.”

St. Augustine, *Confessions* XI, 1

SONG OF HOPE

From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-18 (The Message)

MESSAGE

LIVING WORSHIP

Highlight a tool for following the Advent journey beyond worship. Talk to worshipers about the four tenets of the Advent Conspiracy: worship fully, spend less, give more, love all. Invite worshipers to think together in small groups how they can do these four things in the final two weeks of Advent. Share ideas with the larger group, and consider completing some of them together.

SONG OF FAITH

This I Believe (The Creed) (chorus only)

BENEDICTION

One: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

All: **Amen.**