



EARTH DAY

MUSIC & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Sunday, April 22, 2012

(See section VII of the Cultural Resources unit for ways that your church can MOBILIZE its surrounding communities for Earth Day 2012.)

The African American Lectionary Liturgists

Worship Planning Notes

EARTH DAY: MOBILIZE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES

The 2012 theme for Earth Day is MOBILIZE THE EARTH. Although Earth Day as a holiday turns 42 in 2012, the African American Church has yet to embrace it as a moment on its liturgical and ministry calendar. This year, those in charge of music and arts at your church can change that. You can help mobilize your church and other churches in your city. Whether we know it or not, all of us have a stake in caring for the earth, particularly those of us who claim to

love the God of creation. Those who claim to love God who do not love his creation, all of it, are not pleasing God. You can help your congregation no longer be divided on the issue. Also, those actions that harm the earth find their way into the communities of poor black and brown people first. So, we really have a reason to be more attentive to celebrating Earth Day and participating in Earth Day advocacy initiatives. We cannot expect that others will save our communities from dumping of toxic waste, lead in homes, and food over-sprayed with pesticides. This year go above and beyond to make your Earth Day service exciting, informative, and inspirational. Here are some ideas:

- Place images of nature throughout your church, especially in areas near the main entrance.
- Encourage your pastor to preach a sermon that compliments the celebration of Earth Day and/or its theme, which is “MOBILIZE THE EARTH.”
- Have your choir do ONLY songs and music related to Earth Day; be sure that praise teams, children’s choir, and even praise dancers use ONLY music that concerns themes related to Earth Day.
- Announce a recycling or other environmental initiative that the Music and Arts Department will enact in 2012. Place information about the initiative in the bulletin, on the church’s website, on its Facebook page, and on the Facebook pages of all members of the Music and Arts Department. Be prepared to give a report of the department’s stewardship in April 2013.
- Encourage children’s and youth leaders to have the ministries with which they work take children to the zoo and/or do a project such as tree planting, cleaning up a playground, etc. Be sure to have them video their activities.

1. Responsive Reading or Invocation

Post the responsive reading on screens with scenic backgrounds.

Spoiling Creation Breaks All 10 Commandments

Reader: *God has called us to be stewards and caretakers of God’s creation. And the Creator spoke all these words: I am God, your God:

Congregation: YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

Reader: When we despoil the creation, we are not honoring God; we are putting our own selfishness and comfort before God and his stewardship mandate to us.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL

Reader: Failing to care for God’s creatures, we make an idol (in a shortsighted way) of ourselves. We put ourselves ahead of God and his glory and mission.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD

Reader: When people profess to be Christians but don’t take care of the earth, or claim ownership of the land, they misuse the Lord who says, “The earth is mine, and the fullness thereof.”

Congregation: REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY

Reader: The Sabbath principle is rest and acknowledgment of God as sovereign provider. God says the land shall be allowed to rest, to rejuvenate itself, to be properly cared for.

Congregation: HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER, SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND

Reader: Honoring God-established family relationships and peaceful living in the land are tied together in God’s revelation. Since our parents (and all future generations) depend on the land, we dishonor our father and mother if we exploit the land.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

Reader: We are to nurture the life of others, not destroy. We now know that polluting the climate is increasing untimely deaths, especially among the poor. There is a connection between environmental exploitation and death at multiple levels. Creation care is pro-life.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Reader: Adultery comes from lust toward someone or something that does not properly belong to us; taking the person or the thing for our own gratification, disregarding their rights—and thus dishonoring God. So the Bible speaks much of spiritual adultery and prostitution. Jesus made plain that the issue is not the mere act, but the self-centered intention. Failure to practice creation care is an ecological adultery.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

Reader: Despoiling the land is stealing from God, who owns the land, and from the

poor, to whom God gives special rights with regard to the land and its produce.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR

Reader: When we blame others, not ourselves, for the spoiling of creation (when we blame politicians, or environmentalists, or environmental pollution from countries with larger populations, and especially when we blame God's will or providence), we are bearing false witness, failing to recognize our environmental interdependence and co-responsibility. When we say we have no clear God-given responsibility for local and global creation care, we are bearing false witness against God's Word.

Congregation: YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE . . . OR ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

ALL: God says to practice mutual respect, especially with regard to those things that properly "belong" to us as God's creatures. The earth does not belong to us, but the right to the proper enjoyment of the land and its beauty and bounty does belong to the whole human family (certainly not just to ourselves or our family or nation or religion). Creation care means not coveting the land or economic advantages or profits of others.

2. Hymns and Congregational Songs

(a) For the Beauty of the Earth. By Folliott S. Pierpoint

(b) This Is My Father's World. By Maltbie D. Babcock

(c) For the Fruits of His Creation. By Fred Prat Green. Tune, (EAST ACKLAM), by Francis Jackson

(d) Hymn to the Creator of Light. By John Rutter. For SATB a cappella choir

3. Spirituals

(a) Wade in the Water.

(b) Deep River.

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams

(a) The Heavens Are Telling. By Donald Lawrence

(b) Trees. By Margaret Pleasant Douroux

(c) Majesty. By Carnell Murrell

(d) Heal the Land. By Darwin Hobbs and Aaron Pearce

5. Liturgical Dance Music

Colorful World. By Al Love, III, K. O. Thomas, and CeCe Winans

6. Anthems

(a) The Heavens Are Telling (from The Creation). By Franz Joseph Haydn

(b) Look at the World. By John Rutter. *This is a wonderful anthem for a children's or youth choir (unison or SATB voice).*

(c) All Things Bright and Beautiful. By C.F. Alexander. Tune and Arr. by John Rutter. For SATB choir

7. Modern Songs

(a) Touching Heaven, Changing Earth. By Hillsong

(b) Cover the Earth. By Israel Houghton

(c) God of Wonders. By Caedmon's Call

(d) Blue Skies. By Grant Cunningham and Matt Huesmann

8. Song or Instrumental for the Offertory Period

(a) You Can't Beat God Giving. By Doris Akers

(b) Showers of Blessing. By Daniel W. Whittle. Tune by James McGranahan

9. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) We Are an Offering. By Radical for Christ

(b) As the Deer. By Salvador

10. Sermonic Selection

(a) He's Got the Whole World in His Hand. Traditional

(b) This Is My Father's World. By Malthie D. Babcock. Tune, (TERRA BEATA), by Franklin L. Sheppard

11. Invitational Song or Instrumental

Song

(a) In the Garden. By Kirk Whalum

Instrumental (Piano)

(b) When Morning Gilds the Skies. German Traditional

(c) Creation Sings. By Fernando Ortega. Piano solo

12. Benediction Song or Instrumental

Songs

(a) All Things Come of Thee. Text: 1 Chronicles 29:14. Tune Attr. to Ludwig van Beethoven

(b) Earth. By Hans Zimmer

Instrumental

(c) Mayenziwe (Your Will Be Done). South African traditional

13. Other Recommended Activities

- Have your youth and seniors plant a garden or at least flowers on the church's property.
- Have your church draw up and get members to sign a petition to end one instance of environmental injustice in your community. MOBILIZE to save the earth and lessen environmental injustice. Work on this effort until the church can give a praise report concerning their efforts. Video your efforts along the way. The pastor will need to take the lead in this effort.
- Work with city and local groups in your community to plant trees in your community on Earth Day weekend. The pastor will need to take the lead in this effort.

Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Responsive Reading - Spoiling Creation Breaks All Ten Commandments by Howard Snyder, Distinguished Professor, Chair of Wesley Studies, Tyndale Seminary. Used with permission.

**First line added by Nolan Williams, Jr. and contains text taken from Exodus 20:1 (The Message Bible).*

2. Hymns and Congregational Songs

(a) For the Beauty of the Earth. By Folliott S. Pierpoint

Location:

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The A.M.E. Zion Hymnal: Official Hymnal of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Charlotte, NC: A.M.E. Zion Pub. House, 1996. #6

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. Nashville, TN: Triad Publications, 2001. #8

Church of God in Christ. Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. Memphis, TN: Church of God in Christ Pub. Board in association with the Benson Co., 1982. #68

(b) This Is My Father's World. By Maltbie D. Babcock

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #149

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Hymnal. #14

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #41

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #49

(c) For the Fruits of His Creation. By Fred Prat Green. Tune, (EAST ACKLAM), by Francis Jackson

Location:

The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1985. #558

(d) Hymn to the Creator of Light. By John Rutter. For SATB a cappella choir

Location:

Oxford University Press

Phone: 212-726-6000

Online location: www.oup.com/us

3. Spirituals

(a) Wade in the Water.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #676

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #602

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1987. #107

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #494

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #114

(b) Deep River.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #605

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #577

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #150

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #491

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams

(a) The Heavens Are Telling. By Donald Lawrence

Location:

Clark-Sheard, Karen, Kierra Sheard, and Missy Elliott. The Heavens Are Telling. New York, NY: Elektra, 2003.

(b) Trees. By Margaret Pleasant Douroux

Location:

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #318

(c) Majesty. By Carnell Murrell

Location:

Cage, Byron. An Invitation to Worship. New York, NY: Zomba Gospel, 2005.

(d) Heal the Land. By Darwin Hobbs and Aaron Pearce

Location:

Hobbs, Darwin. Free. Indianapolis, IN: Tyscot Records, 2008.

5. Liturgical Dance Music

Colorful World. By Al Love, III, K. O. Thomas, and CeCe Winans

Location:

Winans, CeCe. Purified. New York, NY: Sony, 2005.

6. Anthems

(a) The Heavens Are Telling (from The Creation). By Franz Joseph Haydn

Location:

The Pine Forge Academy Choir. Rock in a Weary Land. Pine Forge, PA: Pine Forge Academy Choir, 2007.

Online location: www.digstation.com

(b) Look at the World. By John Rutter. *This is a wonderful anthem for a children's or youth choir (unison or SATB voice).*

Location:

Hinshaw Music, Inc.
P. O. Box 470
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0470
Phone: 1-800-568-7805

Online location: www.hinshawmusic.com

Sample Sheet Music: www.sheetmusicplus.com

(c) All Things Bright and Beautiful. By C.F. Alexander. Tune and Arr. by John Rutter. For SATB choir

Location:

Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Phone: 1- 800-568-7805

Online location: www.hinshawmusic.com

Sheet Music Sample: <http://www.sheetmusicplus.com>

7. Modern Songs

(a) Touching Heaven, Changing Earth. By Hillsong

Location:

Touching Heaven, Changing Earth. Sydney, AU: Hillsong Music Australia, 1998.

(b) Cover the Earth. By Israel Houghton

Location:

Cruse Ratcliff, Cindy and Israel Houghton. Cover the Earth: Lakewood Live. Mobile, AL: Integrity Media, 2003.

(c) God of Wonders. By Caedmon's Call

Location:

In the Company of Angels. Brentwood, TN: Essential, 2001.

(d) Blue Skies. By Grant Cunningham and Matt Huesmann

Location:

Point of Grace. Free to Fly. Nashville, TN: Word Music Group, 2001.

8. Song or Instrumental for the Offertory Period

(a) You Can't Beat God Giving. By Doris Akers

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #671

(b) Showers of Blessing. By Daniel W. Whittle. Tune by James McGranahan

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #571

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #350

The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal. #195

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #413

9. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) We Are an Offering. By Radical for Christ

Location:

Radical for Christ and Fred Hammond. Praise in the House. Mobile, AL: Integrity Music, 1995.

(b) As the Deer. By Salvador

Location:

Worship Live. Nashville, TN: Curb/Word Entertainment, 2003.

10. Sermonic Selection

(a) He's Got the Whole World in His Hand. Traditional

Location:

Toil and Triumph: African American Spirituals. Kansas City, KS: (INDIE) Anthony Brown, 2002.

(b) This Is My Father's World. By Maltbie D. Babcock. Tune, (TERRA BEATA), by Franklin L. Sheppard

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #149

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Hymnal. #14

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #41

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #49

11. Invitational Song or Instrumental

Song

(a) In the Garden. By Kirk Whalum

Location:

Whalum, Kirk, Doc Powell, John Stoddart, Sean McCurley, Lalo Davila, and Marc Harris. Hymns in the Garden. Burbank, CA: Warner Bros. Records, 2005.

Instrumental (Piano)

(b) When Morning Gilds the Skies. German Traditional

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #186

(c) Creation Sings. By Fernando Ortega. Piano solo

Location:

BEGINNINGS. Irvine, CA: Randolf Productions, Inc., 2005.

12. Benediction Song or Instrumental

Songs

(a) All Things Come of Thee. Text: 1 Chronicles 29:14. Tune Attr. to Ludwig van Beethoven
Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #668

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #356

(b) Earth. By Hans Zimmer

Location

Motion Picture Soundtrack. Gladiator. Santa Monica, CA: Universal Music Group, 2000.

Songbook for solo piano available

Sheet Music Plus

Phone: 510-420-7121

Online location: www.sheetmusicplus.com

Instrumental

(c) Mayenziwe (Your Will Be Done). South African traditional

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #666