African Heritage Sunday (1932) by Lois Mailou Jones

African Heritage Sunday
Music & Worship Resources

Sunday, February 8, 2009

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Worship Planning Notes
This Sunday marks the second Sunday of Black History Month. The entire month is a major opportunity to teach your congregation more about our history. On this Sunday, our African heritage is spotlighted. Unfortunately, many opportunities to learn as we worship are missed. Do not allow African Heritage Sunday to be one of those occasions. Help your congregation do more than just gather wearing African-styled garments and head-dress. Following is a list of some of the things that you can do to make this Sunday holy, memorable, enjoyable, and a significant time of learning. If you cannot carry out all of these suggestions on this Sunday, include those you are unable to do this Sunday in future worship services during the year.
• **Include Your Children, Youth, and Young Adults**—This Sunday, like so many others that churches fail to utilize, provides a great opportunity for the church to involve young people, teach about the Christian faith, and teach about our heritage as African Americans. Involve young people in all aspects of the worship planning for this occasion. Ensure that their role is more than perfunctory. Let them participate in designing artwork and preparing history blurbs for the church bulletin/order of worship. Let them dance, let them pray, and let them sing.

• **Include African Musicians and Singers**—In almost every area in America, there are enclaves of African musicians and singers. At least on this Sunday, invite them to participate in your worship service. Work with them to ensure that they are able to provide an African offering of music using instruments of their choice.

• **Invite African Dancers**—Just as there are singers, there are probably also dancers in your community who can provide a traditional African dance performance during your worship service or during other events you may hold this month. Their presence will be even more memorable if you are able to not only have them do a routine but also have your liturgical dancers practice and do a routine with them.

• **Invite Speakers Who Are from Africa**—There is so much that we still need to learn about Africa. Take advantage of this time to invite professors and others who are knowledgeable about historic and or current events in Africa to share with your congregation.

• **Invite African Storytellers/Griots**—Griots or storytellers are a wonderful way to introduce congregations to an aspect of our history that is important, spiritual, and highly enjoyable. If you are not familiar with griots in your area, ask around and check with local colleges and universities; they can likely assist you. Then, go and see griots or African storytellers to determine who would best fit the type of worship service that your church provides. Griots who tell stories for children may be particularly wonderful to invite for a morning worship service or afternoon event. They may be perfect for giving your Children’s Sermon for the day.

• **Make Use of Bulletin Boards, Glass Cases, and Display Areas**—There are always artists, schools, and museums who are willing to work with churches and organizations to allow the larger public to see more African Art. Contact them so that you can obtain art from them to display throughout your church on at least this Sunday. You can also copy pictures of art from the web and from books to display on bulletin boards. If possible, place at least one large piece of African Art in the sanctuary during your main worship service(s).

• **Observe Sanctuary and Liturgical Colors for This Season**—The primary colors for African Heritage Sunday are red, black, and green. Please be liturgically appropriate on this occasion. Choirs and praise teams can wear black suits or dresses adorned with a sash of cloth that is red, black, and green or a sash of kente cloth.
• **Make Use of Screens**—This Sunday, be sure that an African border is placed around all wording that will be shown on screens. Also, it would be great to use your screens to present vital facts about Africa. These one-or two-line blurbs can be run periodically throughout the service. For instance: your congregation may not know that one of the most famous bishops of the Catholic Church is Augustine of Hippo, who was a bishop from North Africa. This is great information to share with your congregation.

• **Mark all CD or DVD Covers with an African Symbol**—To make the day even more memorable, all CDs or DVDs that are sold on this Sunday—or perhaps this month—should contain an African Symbol. Suggested symbols include the symbol of SanKofa or the African Flag. Symbols can be found on the web.

• **Use African Instruments**—If you cannot invite guests who can play African instruments, there may be someone in your music department who can play an African instrument. If at all possible, make this a part of your worship service. African drumming is particularly powerful and may work with a dance routine or as stand-alone music.

• **Dress in African Attire**—Congregations often dress in African attire at least one Sunday of the year. Be purposeful in asking your entire congregation, including choirs, ushers, deacons, elders, trustees, and all others to wear African attire on the Sunday that you celebrate African Heritage Sunday.

1. **Call to Worship, Invocation, or Litany**

   **Call to Worship**

   **African Diaspora**

   In the diaspora he sat down;
   And there he wept;
   Remembering Africa;
   Mouth open, unable to sing a song.

   Eyes full of the ocean;
   Mouth imploded with praises;
   Thought stacked full of memories,
   Memories of Motherland Africa.

   In bits he uttered;
   Africa, my cherished home;
   In the diaspora unable to sing a song;
   I want to come to thee. Amen.

   **Invocation**

   **Africa**

   Africa, Beautiful yet unappreciated
Africa, from the Sahara to the Atlantic
Africa, from Zulu Land to Yoruba Land
Africa, from the Nile River to River Niger
Africa, rain and sunshine round the year
Africa, with her green lustre
Africa, with coolness, calmness, a serenity unequaled
Africa, your hospitality and warmth taken for granted
Africa, raped and left desolate, yet richly blessed
Africa, your Children scattered all over the World crying for you
Africa, You are simply mine Africa.

Litany

Africa

Leader: Africa my Africa
Congregation: Africa my motherland
Leader: Africa land where I live
Congregation: Africa my Africa
Leader: A land of great rulers
Congregation: Africa my Africa
Leader: Land of nature, a land where nature lives
Congregation: Africa my Africa
Leader: A land blessed by God himself
Congregation: On the day of Creation, God threw diamonds like stone, gold like rain, he dropped crude oil like rain
Leader: Africa my Africa, land of milk and honey
Congregation: Africa my Africa

2. Hymns or Anthems
(a) Leaning on the Everlasting Arms. By Elisha A. Hoffman. Tune, (Showalter) by Anthony Showalter

(b) Blessed Monica. By Harold T. Lewis. Tune, (Lancashire) by Henry Thomas Smart
(c) Psalm 150. Arr. by Nathan Carter

(d) Lift Every Voice and Sing. Arr. by Roland Carter

3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs
(a) Halleluya! Pelo Tsa Rona. South African Spiritual (Sotho)

(b) Ezekiel Saw de Wheel. Arr. by William Dawson

(c) Go Down, Moses. Arr. by J. Jefferson Cleveland

(d) Over My Head. Traditional

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams
(a) In the Sanctuary. By Kurt Carr

(b) Caribbean Medley. By Donnie McClurkin

(c) A Testimony. By Rodney Bryant

5. Liturgical Dance Music
(a) African Medley (Royal Kingdoms, Rise, My Native Land). By Gary Hines and Terry Lewis

(b) Procession of the Levites/Anthem of Praise. By Richard Smallwood

(c) Oh Happy Day. By Edwin Hawkins. *The version of this song provided by the African Children’s Choir is a great song for children or youth. See the cite section for more information on this song.*

6. Modern Songs
(a) To Our God. By Judith Christie McAllister

(b) This Day. By Fred Hammond

(c) Beautiful Savior. By Judith Christie McAllister

7. Offertory Songs
(a) Bayete Inkosi. By Fini de Gersigny

(b) Jabulani Africa. By Fini de Gersigny
(This is a great song for children or youth.)

       Jesus, life and hope to heal our land
       Saviour, reaching out with your mighty hand

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Bridge:
Sing for joy O Africa
The Lord your God is risen upon you
Sing for joy O Africa
The Lord your God is risen upon you now

Chorus
Jabulani, Jabulani Africa
Jabulani, Jabulani Africa
(Repeat)

Jesus, river of life to our thirsty land
Saviour, meeting our needs with your mighty hand

Bridge/Chorus

(c) Siyahamba. South African Folk Song

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer
(a) Mayenziwe/Your Will Be Done. Text 1 Chronicles 29:14. Music attrib. to Ludwig van Beethoven

(b) Prayer for Africa. By Enoch Sontonga. Arr. by Audrey Snyder

(c) Fill My Cup, Lord. By Richard Blanchard

9. Sermonic Selection
(a) Oh, Africa! Arr. by Francis Key

(b) I’ll Stand. By Raymond Wise

(c) Bless Me. By Donald Lawrence

10. Invitational Song or Instrumental
(a) Thuma Mina. South African Spiritual (Zulu)

(b) Augustine of Hippo. By Harold T. Lewis. Tune by Marvin Curtis

(c) Something Within. By Lucie E. Campbell

11. Benediction Song or Music
(a) May the Grace of Our Savior. By John Newton. Tune by Ludwig van Beethoven

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

(c) Till We Meet Again. By Kirk Franklin
Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Call to Worship, Invocation, or Litany
Call to Worship—“African Diaspora.” By Chief Charles O. Okereke. Used with permission.
Invocation—“Africa.” By Segun Rasaki. Used with permission.
Litany—“Africa.” By Abisoye Sejoro. Used with permission.

2. Hymns or Anthems
(a) Leaning on the Everlasting Arms. By Elisha A. Hoffman. Tune, (Showalter) by Anthony Showalter
Location:


(b) Blessed Monica. By Harold T. Lewis. Tune, (Lancashire) by Henry Thomas Smart
Location:

(c) Psalm 150. Arr. by Nathan Carter
Location:
   GIA Publications, Inc.
   7404 S. Mason Ave.
   Chicago, IL 60638
   Phone: 1-800-442-1358

   Online location: www.giamusic.com

(d) Lift Every Voice and Sing. Arr. by Roland Carter
Location:
   MAR-VEL Publications
   P.O. Box 6082
   Chattanooga, TN 37401

   Online location: marvelmusic@aol.com
3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs
(a) Halleluya! Pelo Tsa Rona. South African Spiritual (Sotho)
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #180

(b) Ezekiel Saw de Wheel. Arr. by William Dawson
Location:
   Neil Kjos Music Company
   Tuskegee Series
   4382 Jutland Dr.
   San Diego, CA 92117
   Phone: 858-270-9800
   Songs of Zion. # 84

(c) Go Down, Moses. Arr. by J. Jefferson Cleveland
Location:
   Songs of Zion. #112

(b) Over My Head. Traditional
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #169
   Songs of Zion. #167

4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams
(a) In the Sanctuary. By Kurt Carr
Location:

(b) Caribbean Medley. By Donnie McClurkin
Location:

(c) A Testimony. By Rodney Bryant
Location:

5. Liturgical Dance Music
(a) African Medley (Royal Kingdoms, Rise, My Native Land). By Gary Hines and Terry Lewis
Location:
   Sounds of Blackness. Africa to America; The Journey of the Drum. Hollywood, CA:

(b) Procession of the Levites/Anthem of Praise. By Richard Smallwood
Location:

(c) Oh Happy Day. By Edwin Hawkins. The version of this song provided by the African Children’s Choir is a great song for children or youth. See the cite section for more information on this song.
Location:

6. Modern Songs
(a) To Our God. By Judith Christie McAllister
Location:

   The songbook is available from Norwood Publishing
   4913 Albemarle Road
   Charlotte, NC 28205
   Phone: 704-531-8961

   Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(b) This Day. By Fred Hammond
Location:

(c) Beautiful Savior. By Judith Christie McAllister
Location:

7. Offertory Songs
(a) Bayete Inkosi. By Fini de Gersigny
Location:
   The Praise Worship Songbook Eight
   Integrity Media, Inc.
   1000 Cody Rd.
   Mobile, AL 36695
   Phone: 1-800-533-6912

   Online location: http://www.integritymusic.com

(b) Jabulani Africa. By Fini de Gersigny
(This is a great song for children or youth.)
Location:
The Praise Worship Songbook Eight
Integrity Media, Inc.
Phone: 1-800-533-6912
Online location http://www.integritymusic.com

(c) Siyahamba. South African Folk Song
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #164

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer
(a) Mayenziwe/Your Will Be Done. Text 1 Chronicles 29:14. Music attrib. to Ludwig van Beethoven
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #666

(b) Prayer for Africa. By Enoch Sontonga. Arr. by Audrey Snyder
Location:
   Lift Every Voice and Sing II. #281
   Songs of Zion. #12
   Sheet music available:
   “N’kosi Sikelel’ I Afrika” (Prayer for Africa)
   Hal Leonard Publishing Corp.
   7777 W Bluemound Rd.
   Milwaukee, WI 53213
   Phone: 414-774-3630
   Online location: http://www.halleonard.com

(c) Fill My Cup, Lord. By Richard Blanchard
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #447
   The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #347
   Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #359

9. Sermonic Selection
(a) Oh, Africa! Arr. by Francis Key
Location:
   Online location: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQATLGQ_1gw

(b) I’ll Stand. By Raymond Wise
Location:
   Raise Publishing Co.
(c) Bless Me. By Donald Lawrence
Location:

10. Invitational Song or Instrumental
(a) Thuma Mina. South African Spiritual (Zulu)
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #564

(b) Augustine of Hippo. By Harold T. Lewis. Tune by Marvin Curtis
Location:
   Lift Every Voice and Sing II. #45

(c) Something Within. By Lucie E. Campbell
Location:
   African American Heritage Hymnal. #493
   The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #275
   Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #454

11. Benediction Song or Music
(a) May the Grace of Christ Our Savior. By John Newton. Tune by Ludwig van Beethoven
Location:
   The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #545

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

(c) Till We Meet Again. By Kirk Franklin
Location: