



ASH WEDNESDAY

MUSIC & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Nolan Williams, Jr., Lectionary Team Liturgist

Lectionary Scripture - Romans 7:14-25 (New Revised Standard Version)

Worship Planning Notes

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent—a forty-day season of prayer, fasting, reflection, and repentance that prepares us for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to cause us to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin. Ash Wednesday worship is filled with Gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ, and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.

Preparation for Ash Wednesday

In this worship service, our responsibility is to help the congregation closely connect the sacrifice of Christ with those things that they will also sacrifice for him. The week before Ash Wednesday, distribute small white slips of paper (2.25 x 4.25) to the congregants as they enter the service, and invite them to write down on the slips the areas in their lives in which they seek God's deliverance. The slips could be collected in baskets.

- In a more “spirited” collection approach, during the sharing of the tithes and offerings (the sacrifice of our financial blessings), have the congregation place the slips (the sacrifice of our overt and covert sins) in baskets at the altar, as the choir or praise team leads the congregation in a rousing song (see the "Offertory Song" section) that acknowledges our need for God and offers our thanks to God.
- If a more “reflective” collection approach is preferred, the congregants could be invited to bring the slips to the altar during the period of prayer, with the choir or praise team leading the congregation in a song of humble submission (see the “Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer” section).

The ashes used in Ash Wednesday worship services are usually the ashes from the palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. In preparation for the Ash Wednesday service, a fresh approach would be to burn the congregational "sacrifices" (the slips of paper) with or instead of the previous year's palm leaves.

Ash Anointing

If desired, the service of ash anointing should take place towards the end of worship, perhaps as an extension of the Invitational Period. In this regard, it becomes a significant part of the message that the people carry with them as they go. The ashes should be placed on foreheads in the shape of the cross signifying our new life in Christ whose work on the cross has conquered death. In preparing the ashes, mix them with a little water or oil in a small metal dish.

Depending upon the size of your congregation, the ash anointing can take place one of two ways:

1. For smaller-sized gatherings, the minister can move freely from person to person, or the people can proceed in line to the minister.
2. For medium to larger-sized gatherings, it is important to get the ministerial team involved so that there are multiple stations. The worship planner should assign ministers, giving clear instructions prior to the service. The people should proceed in line toward the station closest to them.

In all settings, the minister dips a finger in the ashes, and forms the sign of a cross on the forehead of each person. Reflective music should be played or sung (see the "Invitational Song or Instrumental" section).

Following the anointing, the congregation may sing a song of redemption (see the "Benediction Song or Music" section).

The aim of this service is for congregants to leave in confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered sin and death!

1. Hymn or Anthem

Hymns

(a) Without Him. By Mylon R. LeFevre

(b) Renew Thy Church, Her Ministries Restore. By Kenneth L. Cober

Anthems

(c) When I Survey the Wondrous Cross. By Lowell Mason. Arr. by Gilbert M. Martin

(d) More Love to Thee Medley. Arr. by Joseph Joubert

2. Traditional Song

Just a Closer Walk with Thee.

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

(a) Even Me. By Patrick Lundy and The Ministers of Music

(b) Create in Me a Clean Heart. By Donnie McClurkin

(c) Jesus, Lover of My Soul. By The Richard Smallwood Singers

4. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) One Word. By Kurt Carr & The Kurt Carr Singers

(b) No Way (the G.A. Chant). By Tye Tribbett

5. Congregational Songs

(a) He Looked Beyond My Fault (and Saw My Needs). By Dottie Rambo

(b) He Brought Me Out. By Henry J. Zelle, refrain by Henry L. Gilmour

(c) Jesus Paid It All. By Elvina M. Hall. Tune by John T. Grape

(d) Jesus, Lover of My Soul. By Charles Wesley. Arr. by Simeon Marsh


6. Modern Songs

(a) Take My Life. By Micah Stampley

(b) Make Me Over. By Tone'x

7. Offertory Songs

(a) Medley: Lord, I Thank You /I'm So Glad That the Lord Saved Me. By the West Angeles Church of God in Christ Mass Choir

(b) We Are an Offering. By Dwight Liles 

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Even Me. Traditional (chorus)

(b) We Need You Lord. By Jonathan Butler and Juanita Bynum

(c) Standing in the Need of Prayer. Traditional

(d) O Lord Have Mercy. Traditional

9. Sermonic Selection

God Made an Exception. By Nolan Williams, Jr.

10. Invitational Song or Instrumental (either of these songs can be used during the ash anointing)

(a) Just as I Am. By Charlotte Elliott. Tune by William B. Bradbury

(b) Just as I Am. By Charlotte Elliott. Refrain by Evelyn Simpson-Currenton, adap. from Gaul's The Holy City

(c) Give Me a Clean Heart. By Margaret Douroux

11. Benediction Song or Instrumental

I Am Redeemed. By Jesse Dixon 

12. Audio Visual Suggestions

For screens - Use images of persons praying; a bowl of ashes; 3 crosses

(a) Video Clip: Redemption. By Salt and Light Ministries

(b) PowerPoint Background: Burn Us Up. Find at www.PowerpointSermons.com

(c) Audio: I AM: 365 Names of God. By John Paul Jackson

13. Other Recommendations

During the ash anointing, have the audio team play the recording of “I AM: 365 Names of God,” specifically the readings on “mercy,” “sacrifice,” “shepherd,” “promise,” “reward,” and “eternity.” These readings have a rich musical accompaniment and could help set the tone and remind persons who God is and of the help that God has provided us in ages past and in the present.

Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Hymn or Anthem

Hymns

(a) Without Him. By Mylon R. LeFevre

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #515

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1987. #168

(b) Renew Thy Church, Her Ministries Restore. By Kenneth L. Cober

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #343

Anthems

(c) When I Survey the Wondrous Cross. By Lowell Mason. Arr. by Gilbert M. Martin

Location:

Print song lyrics: www.hymnsrpt.com/free-art/wis01.pdf

(d) More Love to Thee Medley. Arr. by Joseph Joubert

Location:

GIA Publications, Inc.
7404 South Mason Avenue

Chicago, IL 60638
Phone: 1-800-GIA-1358

Online location: www.giamusic.com

2. Traditional Song

Just a Closer Walk with Thee.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #455

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #156

Boyer, Horace Clarence. Lift Every Voice and Sing II: An African American Hymnal.
New York, NY: Church Pub., 1992. #72

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. Nashville, TN: Triad
Publications, 2001. #298

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

(a) Even Me. By Patrick Lundy and The Ministers of Music

Location:

Lundy, Patrick. Standin'. Jacksonville, FL: Allen & Allen Music Group, 2003.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY
4913 Albemarle Road #103
Charlotte, NC 28205
Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: www.ntimemusic.com

(b) Create in Me a Clean Heart. By Donnie McClurkin

Location:

Again. New York, NY: Zomba Recording Corp., 2003.

(c) Jesus, Lover of My Soul. By The Richard Smallwood Singers

Location:

Testimony. Nashville, TN: Sparrow, 1992.

4. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) One Word. By Kurt Carr & The Kurt Carr Singers

Location:

Kurt Carr Project. One Church. New York, NY: Gospocentric, 2005.

(b) No Way (the G.A. chant). By Tye Tribbett

Location:

Life. New York, NY: Sony, 2004.

5. Congregational Songs

(a) He Looked Beyond My Fault (and Saw My Needs). By Dottie Rambo

Location:

Dottie Rambo. Gaither Gospel Series. Alexandria, IN: Gaither Music Group, 2004.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #249

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #195

(b) He Brought Me Out. By Henry J. Zelle, refrain by Henry L. Gilmour

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #509

(c) Jesus Paid It All. By Elvina M. Hall. Tune, by John T. Grape

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #357

African Methodist Episcopal Church. African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. Nashville, TN: The African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2006. #271

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #89

National Baptist Convention of the United States of America. Gospel Pearls. Nashville, TN: Sunday School Pub. Board, National Baptist Convention, USA, 1921. #96

(d) Jesus, Lover of My Soul. By Charles Wesley. Arr. by Simeon Marsh

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #453

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #254

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #169

6. Modern Songs

(a) Take My Life. By Micah Stampley

Location:

The Songbook of Micah. Brentwood, TN: EMI Gospel, 2005.

(b) Make Me Over. By Tone´x

Location:

Out the Box. New York, NY: Zomba Recording, 2004.

7. Offertory Songs

(a) Medley: Lord, I Thank You /I'm So Glad That the Lord Saved Me. By the West Angeles

Church of God in Christ Mass Choir

Location:

West Angeles Church of God in Christ, and Charles E. Blake. No Limit. Brentwood, TN: EMI Gospel Music, 2007.

(b) We Are an Offering. By Dwight Liles

Location:

Online location: www.pwarchive.com

Also sung by Radical for Christ (Musical group), and Fred Hammond. Praise in the House. Mobile, AL: Integrity Music, 1996.

8. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Even Me. Traditional (chorus)

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #457

(b) We Need You Lord. By Jonathan Butler and Juanita Bynum

Location:

Bynum, Juanita, Jonathan Butler, and Henry Panion. Gospel Goes Classical. Portugal: Flow Records and California: Maranatha Records, 2006.

(c) Standing in the Need of Prayer. Traditional

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #441

Lift Every Voice and Sing II. #177

The National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #501

(d) O Lord Have Mercy. Traditional

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #448

9. Sermonic Selection

God Made an Exception. By Nolan Williams, Jr.

Location:

Nolan Williams, Jr. inspirations, Washington, D.C.: NEWorks, 2006.

NEWorks

P.O. Box 4599

Washington, DC 20017

Online location: www.newinspiration.us

10. Invitational Song or Instrumental (either of these songs can be used during the ash anointing)

(a) Just as I Am. By Charlotte Elliott. Tune by William B. Bradbury

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #345

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #122

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #145

The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. Louisville, KY:
Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. #370

(b) Just as I Am. By Charlotte Elliott. Refrain by Evelyn Simpson-Currenton, adap. from Gaul's
The Holy City

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #344

(c) Give Me a Clean Heart. By Margaret Douroux

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #461

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #279

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #349

11. Benediction Song or Instrumental

I Am Redeemed. By Jesse Dixon

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #512

12. Audio Visual Suggestions

(a) Video Clip: Redemption. By Salt and Light Ministries

Location

Online location: www.sermonspice.com (keyword: "Repentance")

(b) PowerPoint Background: Burn Us Up. Find at www.PowerpointSermons.com

(c) I AM: 365 Names of God. By John Paul Jackson

Location:

Stream Ministries

P.O. Box 550

North Sutton, NH 03260

Online location: www.streamministries.com