



EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION DAY AND JUNETEENTH

MUSIC & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Or Friday, June 19, 2009: Juneteenth

Editorial Note: Since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth share important historical and cultural connections, we explore them under the same lectionary moment. Some congregations will choose to celebrate each of these moments separately on different days. Others will elect to celebrate only one of these moments. Still other churches will combine the celebrations as we have done and celebrate them on January 1 or June 19th.

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Worship Planning Notes

Worship planning should focus on recognizing and promoting black artists, black composers, spirituals, and folk songs and on introducing art forms that support and reflect black heritage. Juneteenth is a time to celebrate our uniqueness as blacks instead of perpetuating the idea of “the melting pot” society.

Celebrate and Teach our History

Familiarize yourself and your congregation with the history of the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth via your Worship Arts ministry. Be creative. Help your church understand the historical significance of the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth. See #14 for additional worship recommendations.

1. Litany

A Christian Affirmation of Juneteenth

Leader: As we commemorate freedom as African Americans, let us not forget the trials and tribulations faced by our ancestors forced into slavery for hundreds of years.

People: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Leader: Let us continue to emphasize the importance of education and the advancement of the African American race.

People: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Leader: God has granted us freedom, let use it wisely, guard it carefully, and embrace it totally.

People: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Leader: Allow this Juneteenth celebration to serve as a reminder of our tenacity, our ability to hold on to hope and to our God.

People: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Leader: Let all people of all religions come together and acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to negatively influence American society.

People: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord! We are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us so.**

Leader: Allow other ethnic groups to be sensitized to the conditions our ancestors endured and help them to understand why racism and bigotry cannot have the last word.

People: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord! We are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us so.**

Leader: Let all African Americans continue to hope for a better tomorrow while remembering and rejoicing over our triumphant heritage.

People: **We will not forget the “Middle Passage.” We will continue to tell our ancestral story of bondage that gave way to freedom, both physically and spiritually. We shall forever strive to advance the Kingdom of God through liberation and excellence.**

All: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and giving us victory through Jesus Christ our Lord! We are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us!**

2. Hymns and Congregational Songs

(a) A Better Day Is Coming. By Charles Albert Tindley

(b) Farther Along. By W. B. Stephens

(c) God Will Provide for Me (Here, I May Be Weak and Poor). By Charles Albert Tindley

(d) Just Today (I Have Found the Peace of Heaven). By Charles Albert Tindley

(e) Lift Every Voice and Sing. By James Weldon Johnson. Tune, (Anthem) by J. Rosamund Johnson

(f) Oh, Freedom. Traditional

3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs

- (a) Free at Last. Traditional
- (b) God Has Smiled on Me. By Isaiah Jones. Tune by Isaiah Jones, Jr.
- (c) Go Down, Moses. Spiritual
- (d) How Did You Feel. By Edward Boatner
- (e) Oh, Freedom. Spiritual
- (f) We've Come a Long Way, Lord. Traditional
- (g) We've Come This Far by Faith. By Albert A. Goodson

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

- (a) Celebrator. By Toby Hill
- (b) I Really Love the Lord. By Jimmy Dowell
- (c) Oh, To Be Kept by Jesus. By Thurston Frazier. Tune by Kenneth Morris
- (d) Through It All. By Andraé Crouch
- (e) We'll Understand It Better By and By. By Charles Albert Tindley

5. Liturgical Dance Music

- (a) In the Midst of It All. By Kevin Bond
- (b) I'm Free. By Percy Bady
- (c) Stand Tall and Be Happy. By Emma Jean Fiege
- (d) Tree of Life. Traditional. Arr. by Emma Jean Fiege
- (e) You Are an Heir. By Donald Lawrence

6. Anthems

- (a) Freedom Is Coming. By Anders Nyberg. Arr. by Henry Leck
- (b) Lift Every Voice and Sing. By James Weldon Johnson. Tune, (Anthem) J. Rosamund Johnson. *A capella* arrangement by Jody Gray. *This arrangement can be done with combined adult and youth/children's choirs.*
- (c) We'll Never Turn Back. By Bertha Gober

7. Modern Songs

- (a) I Don't Feel No Ways Tired. By Curtis Burnnell
- (b) Jesus I Won't Forget. By Percy Gray, Jr.

(c) To Every Generation. By Bill Batstone and Cynthia Wilson

8. Song or Instrumental for Children and Youth

We've Come This Far by Faith. By Brian Kelly and Kendall Wyatt

9. Offertory Song or Instrumental

(a) Offering. By Toby Hill

(b) What Shall I Render. By Margaret Douroux

10. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Come By Here. African American Spiritual

(b) There's a Bright Side Somewhere. Anonymous

11. Sermonic Selection

(a) Faith. By Andra Woods. Arr. by Thomas Whitfield

(b) My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me. Text and Tune, (Heavenly Father) by W. C. Martin

12. Invitational Song or Instrumental

(a) Have You Crossed the Line? (You Have Waited Too Long). By Charles A. Tindley

(b) I'm Determined. Traditional

(c) Try God. By Tony S. Griffin

(d) When Comes the Day. By Chester D. T. Baldwin

13. Benediction Song or Instrumental

(a) Always Remember. By Andraé Crouch

(b) I Need You to Survive. By David Frazier

14. Audio Visual Suggestions

(a) For at least this week create a newsletter entitled "The History of Juneteenth." Explain the history of this important celebration. Include geographic information about the Gulf Coast Region of the State of Texas. It is important that readers understand the history of this port. Remember to cite each source used and by all means, provide pictures.

(b) Perform a skit based on the words of General Gordon Granger's "General Order #3: . . . The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

Characters:

General Gordon Granger
Federal troops
Slave owners
Slaves
Bystanders
Hotel clerk
Bellhop

Props:

Backdrop of a slave's living quarters
Backdrop depicting the historic Reedy A.M.E. Church
A backdrop depicting water

Have a brainstorming session with your fine arts team and develop the play. The concept is simple. Allow the viewers and participants to engage in the history of the freeing of slaves in the state of Texas. This may prove to be a highly emotional experience. The book, Island of Color: Where Juneteenth Started by Izola Ethel Fedford Collins, will provide vivid details of the account.

This skit may be given before a live audience, filmed and forwarded as an eCommercial to the congregation, or it can be used as an evangelism tool.

(c) Perform a skit based on the Negro Spiritual "Go Down, Moses." Bring this song to life in a 21st century fashion by presenting it as a play.

Characters:

Moses
Pharaoh
A Crowd of Egyptians
A Crowd of Hebrew slaves

Props:

An oversized map showing the ancient world of Egypt
A chair in which a Pharaoh can sit

This skit may be given before a live audience, filmed and sent as an eCommercial to the congregation, or it can be used as an evangelism tool.

(d) Educate in a creative way by holding a "Secrets about African American History You Did Not Learn in History Class Essay Contest" for youth (ages 12-17).

If it is feasible, provide a trip to the city of Galveston or Houston for the winning writer and his or her family to attend an authentic Juneteenth festival. Essays can be posted for congregational viewing. This will take several months of planning, clear contest rules, and activities to raise money for a trip.

(e) Bring the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" to life by allowing mime performers to present this moving song, which is considered the Black National Anthem. Use the *A capella* arrangement of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by Jody Gray on this occasion.

Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Litany

“A Christian Affirmation of Juneteenth.” By Sharon Laverne Fuller

2. Hymns and Congregational Songs

(a) A Better Day Is Coming. By Charles Albert Tindley

Location:

Beams of Heaven: Hymns of Charles Albert Tindley. General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church. New York, NY: GBGMusik, 2006. #40

(b) Farther Along. By W. B. Stephens

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #376

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The A.M.E. Zion Bicentennial Hymnal Official Hymnal of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Charlotte, NC: A.M.E. Zion Pub. House, 1996. #522

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. Nashville, TN: Triad Publications, 2005. #289

Cleveland, J. Jefferson, and Verolga Nix. Songs of Zion. Supplemental worship resources, 12. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1981. #28

(c) God Will Provide for Me (Here, I May Be Weak and Poor). By Charles Albert Tindley

Location:

Beams of Heaven: Hymns of Charles Albert Tindley. #34

(d) Just Today (I Have Found the Peace of Heaven). By Charles Albert Tindley

Location:

Beams of Heaven: Hymns of Charles Albert Tindley. #29

(e) Lift Every Voice and Sing. By James Weldon Johnson. Tune, (Anthem) J. Rosamund Johnson

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #540

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #653

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1987. #291

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #457

Songs of Zion. #32

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. #506

(f) Oh, Freedom. Traditional

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #545

3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs

(a) Free at Last. Traditional

Location:

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #293

Songs of Zion. #80

(b) God Has Smiled on Me. By Isaiah Jones. Tune by Isaiah Jones, Jr.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #152

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #185

Songs of Zion. #196

(c) Go Down, Moses. Spiritual

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #543

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #623

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #292

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #490

Songs of Zion. #212

(d) How Did You Feel. By Edward Boatner

Location:

Spirituals Triumphant Old and New. Sunday School Publishing Board. Nashville, TN: 1927, 1981. #13

(e) Oh, Freedom. Spiritual

Location:

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #621

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #298

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #486

Songs of Zion. #102

Spirituals Triumphant Old and New. #31

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #501

(f) We've Come a Long Way, Lord. Traditional

Location:

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #294

(g) We've Come This Far by Faith. By Albert A. Goodson

Location:

Pearson, Carlton. Live At Azusa, Vol. 4. New York, NY: Tommy Boy, 2001.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #412

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #259

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #225

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #529

Songs of Zion. #192

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

(a) Celebrator. By Toby Hill

Location:

Zion Still Sings for Every Generation. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2007. #38

(b) I Really Love the Lord. Text and Tune by Jimmy Dowell

Location:

Zion Still Sings. #41

(c) Oh, To Be Kept by Jesus. By Thurston Frazier. Tune by Kenneth Morris

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #423

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #212

(d) Through It All. By Andraé Crouch

Location:

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #402

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #71

(e) We'll Understand It Better By and By. By Charles Albert Tindley

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #418

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #636

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #490

Songs of Zion. #55

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #135

5. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) In the Midst of It All. By Kevin Bond

Location:

Adams, Yolanda. Mountain High...Valley Low. New York, NY: Electra, 1999.

(b) I'm Free. By Percy Bady

Location:

Brunson, Milton & The Thompson Community Singers. Great Gospel Moments. Nashville, TN: Word Records, 2000.

(c) Stand Tall and Be Happy. By Emma Jean Fiege

Location:

Tillery, Linda & the Cultural Heritage Choir. Say Yo Business. Claremont, CA: Rhino, 2001.

(d) Tree of Life. Traditional. Arr. by Emma Jean Fiege

Location:

Tillery, Linda & the Cultural Heritage Choir. Say Yo Business. Claremont, CA: Rhino, 2001.

(e) You Are an Heir. By Donald Lawrence

Location:

Lawrence, Donald and the Tri City Singers. Finale. Brentwood, TN: EGD, 2006.

6. Anthems

(a) Freedom Is Coming. By Anders Nyberg. Arr. by Henry Leck

Location:

Vocal score for anthem available

Emerson Music

4650 Arrow Hwy, Unit D-1

Montclair, CA 91763

Phone: 1-800 518-7214

Online location: <http://www.emersonmusiconline.com>

(b) Lift Every Voice and Sing. By James Weldon Johnson. Tune, (Anthem) J. Rosamund Johnson. *A capella* arrangement by Jody Gray. *This arrangement can be done with combined adult and youth/children's choirs.*

Location:

Women of the Calabash (Performed with the Free Voices of Praise Choir). The Kwanzaa Album. New York, NY: Orchard, 2000.

CD Baby

5925 NE 80th Avenue

Portland, OR 97218-2891

Phone: 503-595-3000

Online location: <http://cdbaby.com/cd/kwanzaa>

(c) We'll Never Turn Back. By Bertha Gober

Location:

Sweet Honey in the Rock. Freedom Song Soundtrack (from made for TV film Freedom Song). New York, NY: Sony, 2000.

7. Modern Songs

(a) I Don't Feel No Ways Tired. By Curtis Burnnell

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #414

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #159

Songs of Zion. #175

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #364

(b) Jesus I Won't Forget. By Percy Gray, Jr.

Location:

Brunson, Milton and the Thompson Community Singers. 50 Blessed Years. New York, NY: Sony, 1998.

(c) To Every Generation. By Bill Batstone and Cynthia Wilson

Location.

Zion Still Sings. #88

8. Children and Youth

We've Come This Far by Faith. By Brian Kelly and Kendall Wyatt

Location:

Bryant Rodnie. Change of Seasons. Indianapolis, IN: Tyscot, 2005.

9. Offertory Song or Instrumental

(a) Offering. By Toby Hill

Location.

Zion Still Sings. #212

(b) What Shall I Render. By Margaret Douroux

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #389

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #346

10. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Come By Here. African American Spiritual

Location:

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #218

(b) There's a Bright Side Somewhere. Anonymous

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #411

11. Sermonic Selection

(a) Faith. By Andra Woods. Arr. by Thomas Whitfield

Location:

Armstrong, Vanessa Bell. Chosen. Franklin, TN: Onyx Records, 1986.

(b) My Heavenly Father Watches Over Me. Text and Tune, (Heavenly Father) by W. C. Martin

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #144

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #53

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #139

12. Invitational Song or Instrumental

(a) Have You Crossed the Line? (You Have Waited Too Long). By Charles A. Tindley

Location:

Beams of Heaven: Hymns of Charles Albert Tindley. #46

(b) I'm Determined. Traditional

Location:

Zion Still Sings. #175

(c) Try God. By Tony S. Griffin

Location:

Tony S. Griffin and the Bethlehem Young Adult Choir. WayMaker, Get Ready! He's Coming Back! Greenville, SC: PIP Music, 2003.

(d) When Comes the Day. By Chester D. T. Baldwin

Location:

Chester D. T. Baldwin and the Mass Choir. Sing It On Sunday Morning. Los Angeles, CA: JDI Records, 2000.

13. Benediction Song or Music

(a) Always Remember. By Andraé Crouch

Location

Atlanta Chorale. Always Remember. Atlanta, GA: Life Size Music, 2005.

African American Heritage Hymnal. #640

(b) I Need You to Survive. By David Frazier

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #219

14. Audio Visual Suggestions

(a) Website to assist with the creation of a Juneteenth News Letter

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/juneteenth.html>

(b) Text of General Gordon Granger's "General Order #3" and information about Gordon Granger.

Online locations: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/juneteenth.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Granger

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/GG/fgr10.html>

(c) Go Down, Moses. Spiritual

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #543

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Bicentennial Hymnal. #623

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #292

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #490

Songs of Zion. #212

(d) Website to assist with the “Secrets about African American History You Did Not Learn in History Class Essay Contest” - “A Slave’s View.” accessed 15 September 2008 at

http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/history/hs_lp_rtfemancipation.htm

(e) See the CD by Women of the Calabash (Performed with the Free Voices of Praise Choir). The Kwanzaa Album. New York, NY: Orchard, 2000.