



WOMEN'S DAY

MUSIC & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Sunday, September 14, 2008

Avis D. Graves, Guest Lectionary Liturgist

Minister of Worship, University Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Worship Planning Notes

- Try Something New – Women's Day has long been a hallowed day in the African American faith community. If it is not already the practice at your church, why not consider renewing your church's commitment to foreign missions as well as the uplift of women, both of which were the original intentions of the founder of Women's Day, Nannie Helen Burroughs. Your denomination or church likely already has a foreign missions department. Contact them prior to planning your services and events; make this an integral part of this year's Women's Day. You may want to contribute funds to missionaries, to a school in another country, to disaster relief, or to so many other mission causes. Also, select a community project or organization that uplifts women and contribute funds or the time of the women of your church to this organization. This is even more crucial during difficult economic moments for the country. Such activities also provide another opportunity for youth, young adult, middle aged, and senior women to work collaboratively.

- Revive Something Old – Once upon a time, Women’s Day was a moment in the liturgical life of the African American Church where elder women were honored and young women (those under age 35) worked with them to design services and events for Women’s Day. These generational mergings helped train new leaders and provided older women a glimpse of the future direction of the church. Some traditions are worth holding on to.
- Never Forget the Youth – Youth should be a key part of important days in the life of a church and their involvement should be more than perfunctory. In planning your worship services, and all activities for Women’s Day, be sure that youth are involved in a key way instead of just as members of singing, ushering, and liturgical dancing aggregations. Remember, whenever we involve youth in this manner, we are performing Christian education.
- Women’s Day Music – There is so much amazing music that has been written and performed by women. This day on the calendar is a perfect opportunity to highlight some of this music. This music and worship unit provides a variety of suggestions for use.
- Post Pictures and Names of Great Women – For the entire month during which your church celebrates Women’s Day, have posters that feature the names and photos of outstanding women designed and placed in various areas of the church. This should include women from your church, our African ancestors, famous historical women from the United States, and current prominent national and local women. Again, this is a great moment of education.

1. Invocation

Merciful God, we lift our hands and hearts in celebration of your awesome work in the lives of your gathered people. We celebrate the special blessing of womanhood today, and we gratefully acknowledge your mercy reflected in the life of Esther and so many other phenomenal women, which has given the women of today a definitive word to speak, an empowering word to uplift, a divine calling to fulfill, and a Holy God to glorify. Where women have grown weary, sad, or uninvolved, we ask that you would rekindle the fire once again, that we may walk and work in a way that blesses humanity and pleases you. Amen.

2. Litany

This litany may be used during congregational worship and numerous women's organization events. It would be fitting to share the "Leader" role among several women. Musicians may softly play background music as the leaders speak each bidding, and then accompany the congregational response with a brighter harmony. Women and girls speaking the responses may answer in any or all of the roles that apply. For example, one may respond as a married woman, mother, and grandmother; another as a young woman, sister, and single woman. Members of the assembly may also call the names of other bold women in prayer near the end of this litany. Bold women in your community, in national leadership positions, and those in your congregation may also be named here.

A Litany of Thanks for Bold Women

Leader: Lord our God, we give thanks today for the witness of bold women. From the earliest times until today and on into the future, bold women show all of us how to live as God's beloved children in God's beloved creation, carrying out our baptismal call to work for justice and peace for all God's creatures.

Leader: For Eve, mother of us all, sinful and beloved, we say:

All: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Miriam, who danced beside the Red Sea, we say:

Young women: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Mary, mother of Jesus, who pondered the angel's words in her heart, we say:

Mothers: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Mary Magdalene, first to hear the voice of the Risen Christ, we say:

Single women: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Naomi, who rejoiced in her grandson Obed, we say:

Grandmothers: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For the Syro-Phoenician woman, bold enough to challenge Jesus himself for her child's sake:

Daughters: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For Mary and Martha of Bethany, who served the Lord together in their different ways, we say:

Sisters: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: For the persistent widow, who would not rest until she won justice, we say:

Widows: Thank you, Lord!

*Leader: For Esther, who refused to be silent because she knew that the God would go before her as she prepared to go before the king of the land on behalf of her people, we say:

Women in Church Leadership: Thank you, Lord!

Leader: There have been bold women all around us on our way, if only we
 look for them. For whom do we thank the Lord today? Name her aloud
 and let us thank God for her witness.

(Members of the assembly may speak the names of other bold women aloud, briefly describing her witness. After each one, all assembled respond:)

Thank you, Lord!

(When the group has finished naming bold women, the leader and congregation conclude:)

Leader: For the witness of all bold women, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, Lord our
 God, we thank you and we praise you. Lord our God, let their boldness flourish in
 our own hearts as we live out our baptismal call to serve you and our neighbor,
 with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

All: Thank you, Lord! Alleluia, Amen!

3. Hymn or Anthem

- (a) I Am Thine. By Fanny Crosby. Tune, (I AM THINE), by William H. Doane
- (b) Faith of Our Mothers. By A. B. Patten. Tune, (ST. CATHERINE), by Henri F. Henry
- (c) Nearer My God to Thee. By Sarah F. Adams. Tune, (BETHANY), by Lowell Mason
- (d) God Leads Us Along (In Shady Green Pastures). By George A. Young

4. Spirituals or Traditional Songs

- (a) Guide My Feet.
- (b) The Angels Keep A-Watchin.
- (c) I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.
- (d) Lord, Make Me More Holy.
- (e) Every Time I Feel the Spirit.

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

- (a) The Lord Is My Light. By Lillian Bouknight
- (b) It Shall Be. By John P. Kee
- (c) Lion of Judah. By Eddie James

(d) Your Grace and Mercy. By Franklin D. Williams

6. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) Magnify. By Teresa Hairston

(b) When the Saints Go to Worship. By Donald Lawrence

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAOYNimzU2Y>

7. Anthems

(a) God Reigneth Forever. Text and Tune by Oscar Williams, Jr.

(b) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah. By William Williams and Peter Williams. Tune, (CWM RHONDDA), by John Hughes

8. Modern Songs

(a) Pray. By CeCe Winans

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKFYmAYHpnU>

(b) In the Will of God. By Karen Clark-Sheard

(c) I Won't Complain. By William C. Abney

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIRrdQiD2nU>

9. Offertory Song or Instrumental

(a) What Shall I Render. By Margaret Douroux

(b) The Highest Praise. By Richard Smallwood

10. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Prayer Changes Things. By Dorothy Lovecoates. Traditional

YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiRBVfC8I_U

(b) Prayer Changes Things. By Dietrick Haddon.

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9uW6G8XAQw>

(c) Humble Heart's Cry (All I Want to Do). By Corey F. Pelley

11. Sermonic Selection

(a) This Too Shall Pass. By Yolanda Adams

(b) Broken but I'm Healed. By V. Michael McKay

12. Invitational Song

(a) I Have Decided to Follow Jesus. Text ascribed to an Indian Prince. Tune, (ASSAM), by Paul B. Smith. Harmony by Norman Johnson

(b) We Offer Christ to You. By Phillip Britain

13. Benediction Song or Instrumental

(a) Take the Name of Jesus with You. By Lydia Baxter. Tune, (PRECIOUS NAME), by William H. Doane

(b) To the Work. Fannie J. Crosby. Tune, (TOILING ON), by William H. Doane

14. Additional Resources

The website for Women of the ELCA has ideas for what they call “Bold Women’s Day,” which encourages women to act boldly in advancing the Kingdom of God.

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/whatWeDo/index.html?section=whatWeDo>

Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed

1. Invocation

Written by Avis Graves.

2. Litany, “A Litany of Thanks for Bold Women.” By Women of the ELCA. Used with permission.

Online location: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/boldwomen/litany.html>

3. Hymn or Anthem

(a) I Am Thine. By Fanny Crosby. Tune, (I AM THINE), by William H. Doane

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #387

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. #443

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. Nashville, TN: Triad Publications, 2005. #202

Church of God in Christ Pub. Board in association with the Benson Co., 1982. #380

(b) Faith of Our Mothers. By A. B. Patten. Tune, (ST. CATHERINE), by Henri F. Henry

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #410

African Methodist Episcopal Church. African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. Nashville, TN: African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2006. #430

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #275

(c) Nearer My God to Thee. By Sarah F. Adams. Tune, (BETHANY), by Lowell Mason

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #163

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #311

National Baptist Convention of the United States of America. Gospel Pearls. 1921. #18

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #368

(d) God Leads Us Along (In Shady Green Pastures). By George A. Young

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #136

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #391

Gospel Pearls. #53

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #386

4. Spirituals or Traditional Songs

(a) Guide My Feet.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #131

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #386

(b) The Angels Keep A-Watchin.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #130

(c) I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #358

(d) Lord, Make Me More Holy.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #632

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1987. #222

(e) Every Time I Feel the Spirit.

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #325

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Hymnal. #220

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #202

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #380

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

(a) The Lord Is My Light. By Lillian Bouknight

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #160

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #66

(b) It Shall Be. By John P. Kee

Location:

Nothing But Worship. New York, NY: Zomba Label Group, 2007.

(c) Lion of Judah. By Eddie James

Location:

Crawford, Beverly. Beverly Crawford: Live from Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA: JDI Records, 2007.

(d) Your Grace and Mercy. By Franklin D. Williams

Location:

Mississippi Mass Choir. It Remains to Be Seen. Jackson, MS: Malaco Records, 1993.

6. Liturgical Dance Music

(a) Magnify. By Teresa Hairston

Location:

Gospel Today Magazine Presents: Praise & Worship: 2002. New York, NY: Verity, 2002.

(b) When the Saints Go to Worship. By Donald Lawrence

Location:

Donald Lawrence and The Tri-City Singers featuring Erica McCullough. Finalé Act II. London, England: EMI Records, 2006.

7. Anthems

(a) God Reigneth Forever. Text and Tune by Oscar Williams, Jr.

Location:

Sheet Music Plus
1300 64th Street
Emeryville, CA 94608

Online location: www.sheetmusicplus.com

(b) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah. By William Williams and Peter Williams. Tune, (CWM RHONDDA), by John Hughes

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #138

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Hymnal. #82

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #232

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #31

8. Modern Songs

(a) Pray. By CeCe Winans

Location:

Purified. Santa Monica, CA: INO/Epic, 2005.

(b) In the Will of God. By Karen Clark-Sheard

Location:

Finally, Karen. New York, NY: Island Records, 1997.

(c) I Won't Complain. By William C. Abney

Location:

Jones, Paul. I Won't Complain. Houston, TX: Pure Records, 1996.

9. Offertory Song or Instrumental

(a) What Shall I Render. By Margaret Douroux

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #389

(b) The Highest Praise. By Richard Smallwood

Location:

Adoration: Live in Atlanta. New York, NY: Jive Records, 1996.

10. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer

(a) Prayer Changes Things. By Dorothy Lovecoates. Traditional

Location:

Coates, Love, Dorothy. I Owe You the Praise: Savoy Gospel. Newark, NJ: Savoy Records, 1955.

(b) Prayer Changes Things. By Dietrick Haddon.

Location:

Crossroads. New York, NY: Tyscot/Verity/Zomba, 2004.

(c) Humble Heart's Cry (All I Want to Do). By Corey F. Pelley

Location:

Faith Davis, the Minstrels and Levites. Worship...It's A Lifestyle. Inman, SC: Rafa Music, 2003.

11. Sermonic Selection

(a) This Too Shall Pass. By Yolanda Adams

Location:

Day by Day. New York, NY: Atlantic, 2005.

(b) Broken but I'm Healed. By V. Michael McKay

Location:

Cage, Byron. An Invitation to Worship. Inglewood, CA: Gospocentric, 2005.

12. Invitational Song

(a) I Have Decided to Follow Jesus. Text ascribed to an Indian Prince. Tune (ASSAM), by Paul B. Smith. Harmony by Norman Johnson

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #400

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #118

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #484

(b) We Offer Christ to You. By Phillip Britain

Location:

Morton, Paul S., Sr. & Greater St. Stephen's Full Gospel Mass Choir. We Offer Christ. Jackson, MS: Blackberry Records, 1993.

13. Benediction Song or Instrumental

(a) Take the Name of Jesus with You. By Lydia Baxter. Tune, (PRECIOUS NAME), by William H. Doane

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #297

Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. #261

Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal. #233

(b) To the Work. By Fannie J. Crosby. Tune, (TOILING ON), by William H. Doane

Location:

African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal. #392