

Creative Liturgy Pack

(aka 'Ways to Help Young People Understand and Engage with Liturgy')

Lindisfarne – Scriptorium Liturgy Pictures

Aim: to help young people (and others) access and understand the communion Liturgy, this helps people not to just say familiar words but really think about what they mean.

During a communion service move around the church, so for example you could have the welcome and the sending out by the door, the confession at the font, the Gloria by a particular stained glass window, the Eucharistic prayer gathered around the communion table. At each place you could display the appropriate Lindisfarne card for people to look at, too.

Set up stations around the church or in a small group setting spend some time looking at the different pictures closely – discuss what is in them, and why, link them to the service liturgy and the meaning of the different prayers in the communion service (this may work very well as part of confirmation preparation). As a group or individually create your own picture in this style using a prayer from the communion service as your inspiration. If possible provide some good quality art materials (not just felt pens that have nearly run out!) so the young people can produce something that looks 'proper'.

Having done this the young people may wish to keep their own pictures or they could be shared in various ways. Here are a few suggestions:

- Put the individual pictures up as a display around church with the words of the appropriate prayers
- As a group choose different aspects of people's pictures and create one big picture either as a large poster on paper, or if there is some plain glass in your church or hall you could use glass paint and paint the design into a stained glass window. If you have some particularly artistic leaders and young people you could paint a mural on a plain wall.
- You could scan the pictures and produce an order of service booklet for the whole church to use which has the pictures by the relevant prayers. This could then be used at all communion services. This could be a project undertaken in a local school then produced to use in the church.
- You could also use passages from the Bible to inspire your artwork instead of the liturgical prayers but still use these Lindisfarne-Scriptorium pictures to inform the style of the responses and to inspire your own ideas.

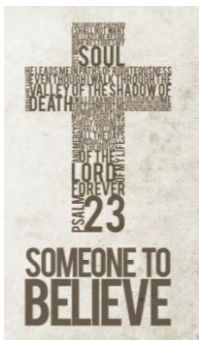


Confession Prayer

Aim: Help the congregation really think about the confession and absolution not just say the words. Invite the congregation to move around the church either to the font or a cross, for those that don't want to or are unable to move easily then suggest that they turn in their seat. Have a pile of stones at the place you will gather.

Talk about how we do things wrong and don't live up to what God wants us to be like. Ask people if they can think of something that they have done this week that was not the right thing to do, when they have pick up one of the stones and hold it. Say the words of the confession prayer together.

Look at the cross or the font. Talk briefly about why we have these images and symbols. Talk about forgiveness and God helping us. Place the stones at the foot of the cross or into the water in the font and say the absolution.



The Psalm

Aim: To help young people understand the meaning of the Psalms and consider the prayers and worship they contain.

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

The Psalms are prayers and songs in the Bible, together read through the words of psalm 23, ask what does it tell you about how David felt about God? How is his view of God similar or different from your view?

Take either part or all of the Psalm and think about how you would phrase it, write it as your own prayer.

Take it further: Think of your favourite genre of music; re-write the psalm in this style, if you can make the music to go with it do that, or perhaps find a backing track for it. Create a PowerPoint using images behind the traditional words that could be used in a service, create artwork that is inspired by the words of the psalm and display in church, make a short film inspired by the psalm (look at you tube for examples). Use these in the service rather than saying or singing the psalm as normal.

The Intercessions

Aim: Help children and young people (and the whole congregation) to engage more in the intercessory prayers.

Collect some newspapers in the week up to the service. Either as part of the prayer time, if you want to include everyone or perhaps to do during the sermon if just the young people, use pictures from the newspaper and other words or drawings to create Taizé crosses. See separate sheet, taken from *A-cross the World* by Martyn Payne and Betty Pedley.

As part of the prayers bring up the Taizé crosses and place them around the altar, to offer these people and situations to God.



Symbols

Aim: to help young people discover and understand the many symbols that there are in church

Work with a group of older children to think about symbols. Perhaps start with a picture quiz of lots of symbols and identify what company they are from. Go round the church building with the children and make a list of all the symbols that you have in your church. You could run this like a scavenger hunt or let the children take photos, maybe draw them or use clay etc to make them, discuss what they mean elsewhere.

Some ideas to explore symbols further:

- Statues and why they are there. Draw comparisons between the symbols in church and symbols that they see or stained glass windows of the saints, why do we remember these people. Think about the pictures of celebrities that they see elsewhere, how many do they think will be remembered in hundreds or thousands of years time? Why/Why not? What is different? Who do they think might be remembered long into the future?
- Find all the crosses that there are in the church – perhaps run this like a treasure hunt, with something to collect by each cross, or a prize for the person that finds the most. Talk about if all the crosses look the same or some are different. Look at some different types of crosses from around the world *A-cross the World* by Martyn Payne and Betty Pedley (BRF) has lots of ideas. Make one of these, work with the children to create a cross symbol that has a particular meaning for them. Display this in church and use it in services, maybe gather by them for the confession.
- Allow the group to really explore the church and choose a symbol that they really like. Use the symbol to focus prayers or display more prominently if appropriate.

Questions to Consider:

- How you could use any of the above ideas in your church? How would you need to adapt and change them? Who could lead them?
- What could you do in other parts of the service to make them more engaging but keep the traditional words?
- Are there particular services in the year that might be a good place to start?
- How could you work with the whole congregation to engage them in the process of including creative approaches to liturgy in the service?
- How could you help older children and younger teenagers to lead or develop these ideas further?