

Ideas for Intergenerational Worship Practices
Will Vary by Context

Sarah Bentley Allred & Elizabeth Henry-McKeever
Rooted in Jesus | January 2020

Sight & Visualization

Candles

Icons

Preaching that contains images, stories, language relevant to people of different ages

Sign language (for example teaching congregation to sign the Sanctus)

Sound & Music

Drone

Sanctus Bells

Telling scripture by heart

Moment of silence marked by bell

Oral tradition music (Music that Makes Community, Taize, etc.)

Hymns with refrains

Service music

Sung refrain for Psalm

Smell

Incense (in thurible or bowl)

Repetition & Ritual

Repeating a song/hymn for multiple weeks in a row

Slow pace of congregational pieces (The Lord's Prayer, the Nicene Creed, etc)

Consistent response for Prayer of the People rather than different response per petition

Consistent length of service, preferable 45-60 minutes

Movement

Gospel Procession

Gathering around altar for Liturgy of the Table

Leadership

Mixed age leadership

Greeter, Oblation Bearer, Usher, Torch bearer, Crucifer, Server,

Sanctus Bell Ringer, Lector/ Intercessor, Chalice Bearer

Reflection Exercises

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Consistent Worship Reflection Questions

- What did you notice?
- Where are you experiencing God in worship?
- What is distracting you from experiencing God in worship?
- What are your dreams for worship in our community?

Additional Leadership Team or Church Visitation Reflection Questions

- Whose voice is being heard? Who has a leadership role?
- Who is the assumed audience?
- Think about the liturgy from 3 different points of view (age, race, ability, etc)
 - How is ____ experiencing God?
 - How is ____ distracted from the ability to worship?
- In what parts of the liturgy are people most active?
- In what part of the liturgy are people most passive?
- What felt holy? How do we move towards that?

Pulse Check Exercise

Using a large sheet of paper or a white board, create a table with three columns. In the far left column, write a series of yes/no questions. Label the right columns with answer options such as “yes”, “no”, “not sure.” If using paper, give people colored dot stickers to answer questions. If using white board, have people put tally marks with dry erase markers. For example,

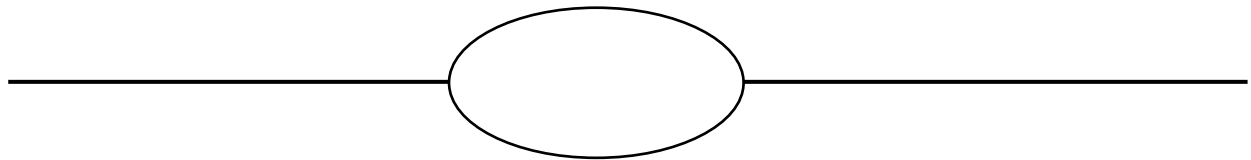
	<u>TOO MUCH</u>	<u>NOT ENOUGH</u>	<u>JUST RIGHT</u>
The amount of silence in our liturgy is...			
The amount of new music we learned in Lent was...			
The length of our service is usually...			

Intergenerational Spectrum & Bubble Exercise
Inspired by The Rev. Miranda Hassett

Using two large sheet of paper or a white board, label one page or side “Adult Centered” and one “Child Centered.” Give each person a pad of sticky notes and a pen. Give folks a few minutes to put up as many elements of worship they think are “Adult Centered” and “Child Centered” as they can think of. Go through the sticky notes one at a time asking, “What about this is adult centered?” or “What about this is child centered?” Stack duplicates together. If it seems that a sticky might actually be good for people of all ages, move it to the center of the board or a third sheet of paper in the middle. When you have gone through all the sticky note, ask, “What do you notice?” “Did anything surprise you?” Draw the figure below, describing the bubble as the many ways we can worship in ways that seek to value people of diverse ages in worship.

Adult-Centered
Worship

Child-Centered
Worship



Worship for All Ages/
Intergenerational Worship

*Worship that seeks to
value people of all ages