

***In Mission with Jesus**—A Missional Practice**

Missional practices cultivate new understandings, ways of being, and living Christ's mission.

Purpose: To intentionally and creatively relate congregational worship experiences to living Christ's mission throughout the week.

Process:

- The *In Mission with Jesus* practices are derived from the weekly worship themes and focus scriptures. While planning the worship service, consider how people might explore the worship focus more deeply in the coming week. How will the *In Mission with Jesus* practice complement and further develop the worship focus?
- Be creative and use variety as you consider what practices you will use to further explore the worship focus. The practices can include:
 - Further exploration of the focus scripture or study of related materials
 - Spiritual disciplines
 - Prayer for insight, a sense of personal calling, or support for a mission activity
 - Tangible actions to live out a particular worship focus during the week.
 - Other creative ideas that help live out the worship focus
- Select one focus or at most two for the *In Mission with Jesus* practice.
- Use the *Mission Prayer* as a complementary daily discipline to the *In Mission with Jesus* practice.
- Plan two *In Mission with Jesus* moments within worship services:
 - In the early part, the first *In Mission with Jesus* moment invites people to share what they did the previous week, what they experienced and learned, and how they felt.
 - Toward the end of the service, the second *In Mission with Jesus* moment offers suggestions for what people can do during the coming week.

Tips

- In Mission with Jesus practices are not about giving people something to do during the week. They are connected directly to congregational worship experiences. They build on these experiences and apply them to daily living.
- Following up from the previous week is important.
 - The congregation will take the weekly practices more seriously when members revisit together what they did or experienced the previous week.
 - As the congregation becomes used to sharing, members will offer present-tense stories of what they did or experienced. Sharing stories about mission will become increasingly natural.
- The In Mission with Jesus missional practice was developed specifically to connect worship to daily life. This missional practice potentially could be used to support other aspects of congregational life. The purpose remains the same—to intentionally and creatively relate that aspect of congregational life to daily living.

Examples: Sometimes it helps to see something and not just read about it. The following are actual program practices developed to relate and apply the worship and scripture themes during the following week.

- **Mission Prayer** (included every week in the In Mission with Jesus moment): “God, where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Grant me the courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen”
- **[Welcomed News, John 14:23–29]** Meditate on this scripture. What is Jesus’ invitation of peace to you? How do you carry this message to others?
- **[Reign of Christ, Colossians 1:9–20]** Read Colossians 1:9–20. Think about your personal spiritual journey. How do you keep Jesus before you in all that you do? What spiritual practices might help you (such as dwelling in the word, mission prayer, sharing your sacred story)?
- **[Learning Peace, Isaiah 2:1–5]** Justice and peace issue: Think about a justice and peace issue of concern to you.
 - Learn more about the issue this week.
 - Pray for those affected and for insight about how you can make a difference
 - Share what you have discovered about the issue and your insights next week
- **[Gracious Ministries, John 12:1–8]** This week give gracious ministry to a senior citizen. Talk to someone; help with a burden; send a card; make a friend.
- **[Holy Week, Scriptures from All Gospels]** Sharing our witness: Think about what Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection mean to you. Write your witness or testimony about Jesus. Pray for opportunities to share your witness.
- **[Speak Out, Acts 5:27–32]** Sharing our witness: Read Acts 5:27–32. Consider the bold statements Peter and the apostles were making to authorities, the bold statements they made against authorities—telling them they “must obey God rather than any human authority.” Choose one or more of the following ideas and write a response to share:
 - Write a statement of faith.
 - Proclaim the Easter message of new life in the face of injustice.
 - Write what you would say to today’s authorities or people who try to silence messages of love and justice.
 - Make known how you intend to spread the Easter message of new life in the face of injustice.
- **[Emmanuel: God With Us, Matthew 1:18–25; 11:2–11]** Reflection: During this week of Christmas celebration, consider our theme, “Emmanuel—God with Us.”
 - How do you sense God is with us?
 - How do you perceive our roles—as individuals and the church—in the story of God’s saving love? When is it easy to be faithful to this calling? When is it challenging?

*Submitted by the Anaheim Congregation