Sample Missional Worship Outlines

Remember, missional worship is centered in Christ, grounded in Scripture, and leads us into deeper and new relationships with God, one another, and our neighbor. There are many ways we can incorporate these principles into worship. The following sample outlines are just a few examples to stimulate your thinking.

Missional Worship Outline #1: Dwelling in the Word Practice

- Open with Sharing of Joys, Concern, and Prayer
- Gathering Song: HS 58 Now in this Moment (consider having someone read the words prior to the congregation singing the words. Or ask someone to share a testimony or thoughts on how this hymn calls them into mission)
- Disciples Generous Response
- Dwelling in the Word Scripture and Group Sharing (see Twelve Months of Dwelling in the Word in the “Practices” section of your LCM Binder. Read the scripture aloud and then ask the congregation to get into groups of 3 or 4 persons to share.)
- Brief Challenge or Reflection (based on Dwelling in the Word. This can be as simple as a statement that is prepared in advance, a poem, or the words of a hymn or song that leads us into mission.)
- Prayer of Sending Forth (Consider reciting the Lord’s Prayer together)

Missional Worship Outline #2: Dwelling in Song Texts Practice

- Open with Sharing of Joys and Concerns
- Prayer of Thankfulness and Petition
- Dwelling in Song Texts (pick one hymn and apply the Dwelling in the Word practice to the hymn text. A suggested hymn would be HS 157 My Life Flows on in Endless Song)
- Disciples Generous Response
- Singing of the Song Text
- Prayer of Sending Forth

Note: To enhance preparation for the service consider the following: Consider providing words to a hymn you want the congregation to pray and focus on for the coming week. You may want to sing the hymn together and then read it as a congregation much like a Dwelling in the Word format. Then invite folks to take the words of the song with them and recite them, or sing them, or pray them several times a day. Ask them to make note of different insights they receive through the week and ways they experience the hymn as worship in their daily life. Consider having one person designated to provide a closing challenge as part of the worship.
Missional Worship Outline #3: Walking the Neighborhood Practice

- Open with Sharing of Joys, Sorrows, Concerns
- Share in Song “Come Holy Spirit Come”
- Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition
- Walking the Neighborhood Practice (Provide basic instructions to ground everyone in the practice. See Walking the Neighborhood Practice behind the Practices Tab in your LCM Binder. Some from the congregation will remain in the congregation and share in prayer and 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 from The Message Bible while others will go out in pairs in the surrounding neighborhoods.)
- Disciples Generous Response
- Gathering and Sharing in Prayer (everyone will gather back 10 minutes before the service closes – a prayer will be offered for the continued movement of the Spirit in the neighborhoods and the openness of the congregation to new opportunities for relationships and ministry)

Note: Next week include some time for a few people to share their experience walking the neighborhood and remaining in the congregation in prayer and scripture conversation.

Additional Missional Worship Ideas include:

- Share a selection of pictures on slides that depict nature, people expressing the first three mission initiatives, or other pictures that lead the congregation into reflection about Christ’s message and mission. The pictures will be in place of the sermon and based on their careful selection will tell a story. Then provide an opportunity for a few to share their reflections on the pictures and how they led them into a deeper understanding of Christ’s message and mission.

- Ask two individuals to share their testimonies or reflections based on a Dwelling in the Word or a hymn text. This could take the place of a sermon/message or be in addition to a short challenge provided on a particular text.

- Consider developing a Sharing in the Round experience for Sunday morning using breads, crackers etc. that could take place in the fellowship hall or sanctuary depending on the ability to arrange tables etc. Begin by some questions that encourage meaningful conversation about what is occurring in the lives of individuals and families. Then provide a Dwelling in the Word scripture with focus questions for table conversation. End with some large group sharing on the scripture, a closing song, and a prayer.

- Make sure each person in the congregation has a journal. Provide a passage of scripture for everyone to use as a focus scripture for the coming week. It might be a passage you use for Dwelling in the Word. Ask people to write some entries in their journal of how they experienced the passage as they went about their daily life during the week. When you come together for worship, consider using a song or two that helps lead people into worship, share joys and concerns, and then share in reading of the passage of scripture for the week’s focus. Allow space for the words to move into the people’s lives and then ask, “How did you encounter this passage this week?” Another question might be, “Where did you experience God’s disruptive grace as you prayed and lived this passage?”

It’s also helpful to ask, “As you prayed and lived this passage, what questions surfaced for
you and for our experience today?" You can then close with a re-reading of the passage and an invitation to generosity (Disciples Generous Response) and a prayer for new opportunities to encounter God, one another and our neighbors in the coming week. Close by singing verses 1 and 5 from Sing for Peace #15.

- Consider developing a service around Psalms of Praise written by the congregation. Begin by sharing this statement and experience: "St. Augustine suggests that praising God is a deeply intellectual and spiritual act. It is not uncontrolled emotions but a deep appreciation for how we encounter God in the many facets of our experience. Let’s spend a few minutes in this sacred space considering the depth and richness of creation; the beauty around us in relationships and purpose. Where are we sensing joy, hope, love, and peace? Also consider the difficulties and challenges that draw us together and closer to the one who seeks a relationship with us.”

Share in the reading of Psalm 139:1-18 then ask the congregation - What is your psalm of praise this morning? What words are on your heart this morning? Lets pause, reflect, and write words of praise we have this morning. After folks have an opportunity to write their psalms ask for those who are willing to share their psalms. This sharing takes the place of the sermon and becomes the message for the morning. You can then add other worship elements around this sharing to plan your worship experience.