

Creating Dynamic Lay-led Worship



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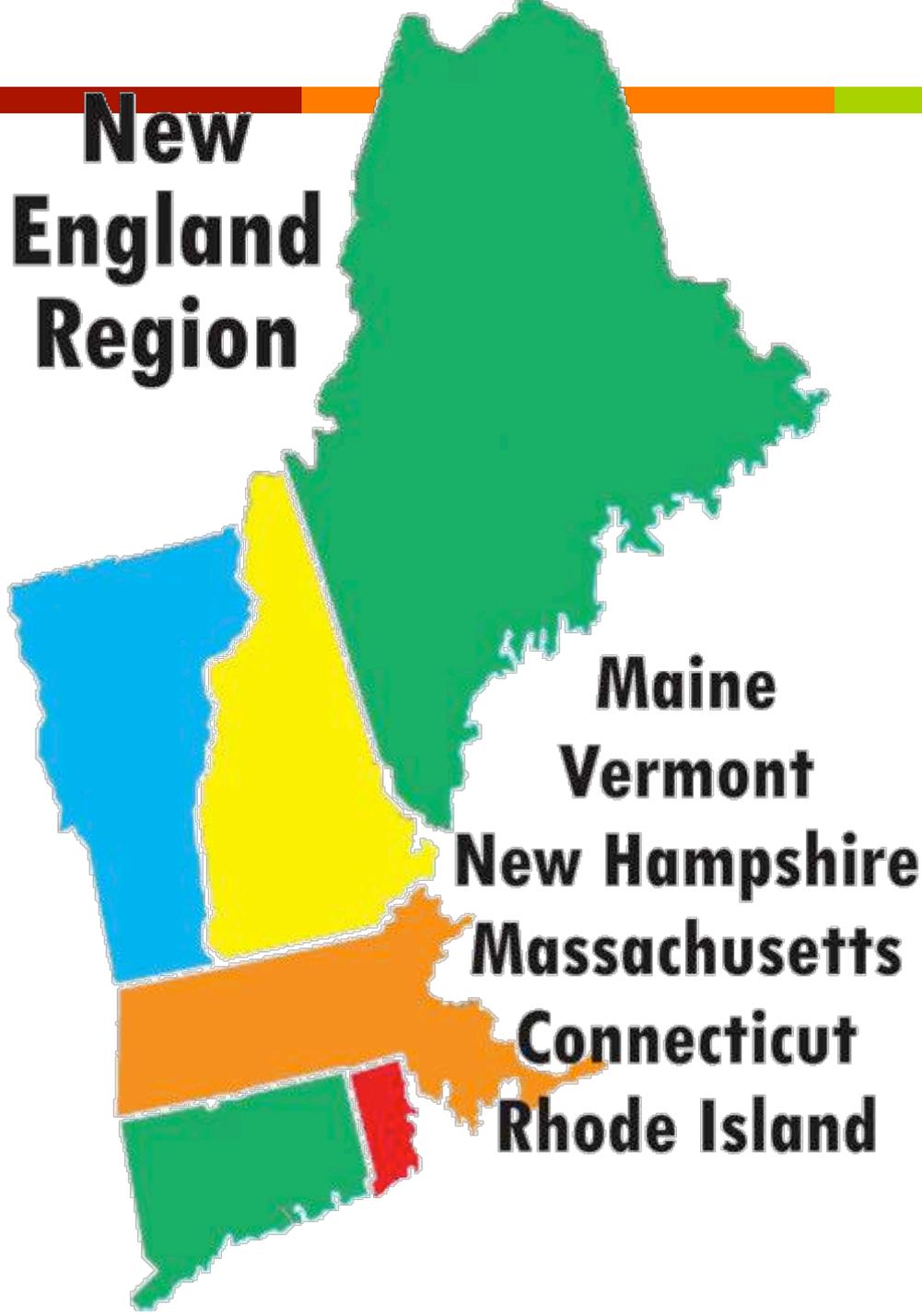
New England
Region

Human beings are at their core defined by what they worship rather than primarily by what they think, know, or believe.

That is bound up with the central Augustinian claim that **we are what we love.**



New England Region



Maine

Vermont

New Hampshire

Massachusetts

Connecticut

Rhode Island

What was
that one
thing that
brought
you here
today?

WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE



wor·ship

/'wər-SHəp/



I know it when I see it



lit·ur·gy

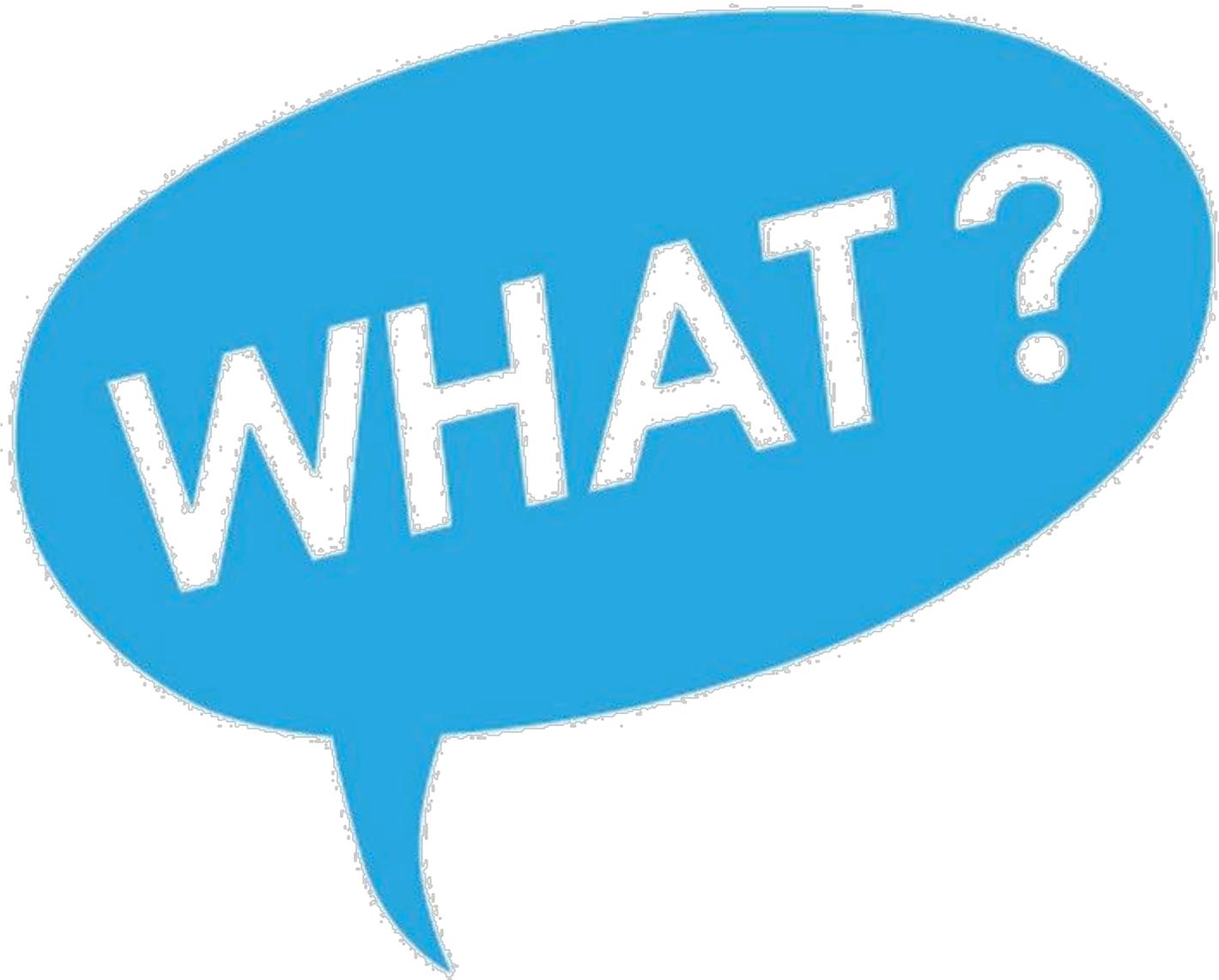
'lidərjē/

Noun

1. a form or formulary according to which public religious worship is conducted.







WHAT?



Justice

Searching

Interdependence

Love

Peace

Authenticity

What else?

Community

Spirit

Wonder

Our Values

Hope

Faith

Inspiration

Discovery



SO WHAT?



- Does it lift up something universal?
- Does this make space for the things people are carrying in their hearts today?
- Does it do justice to the depth of people's longing for connection to others and to the divine/spirit?
- Does this take seriously the sacred trust of the pulpit?





~~Multigenerational Worship~~

Whole Congregation Worship

(and a word about story for all ages)



Myths
&
Realities

Building Blocks of Worship

S C R A B B L E

S₁

C₃

R₁

A₁

B₃

B₃

L₁

E₁

BRAND

LETTER DISTRIBUTION

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1776

Model No. 37813H

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M E M O R A B L E

CROSSWORD GAME

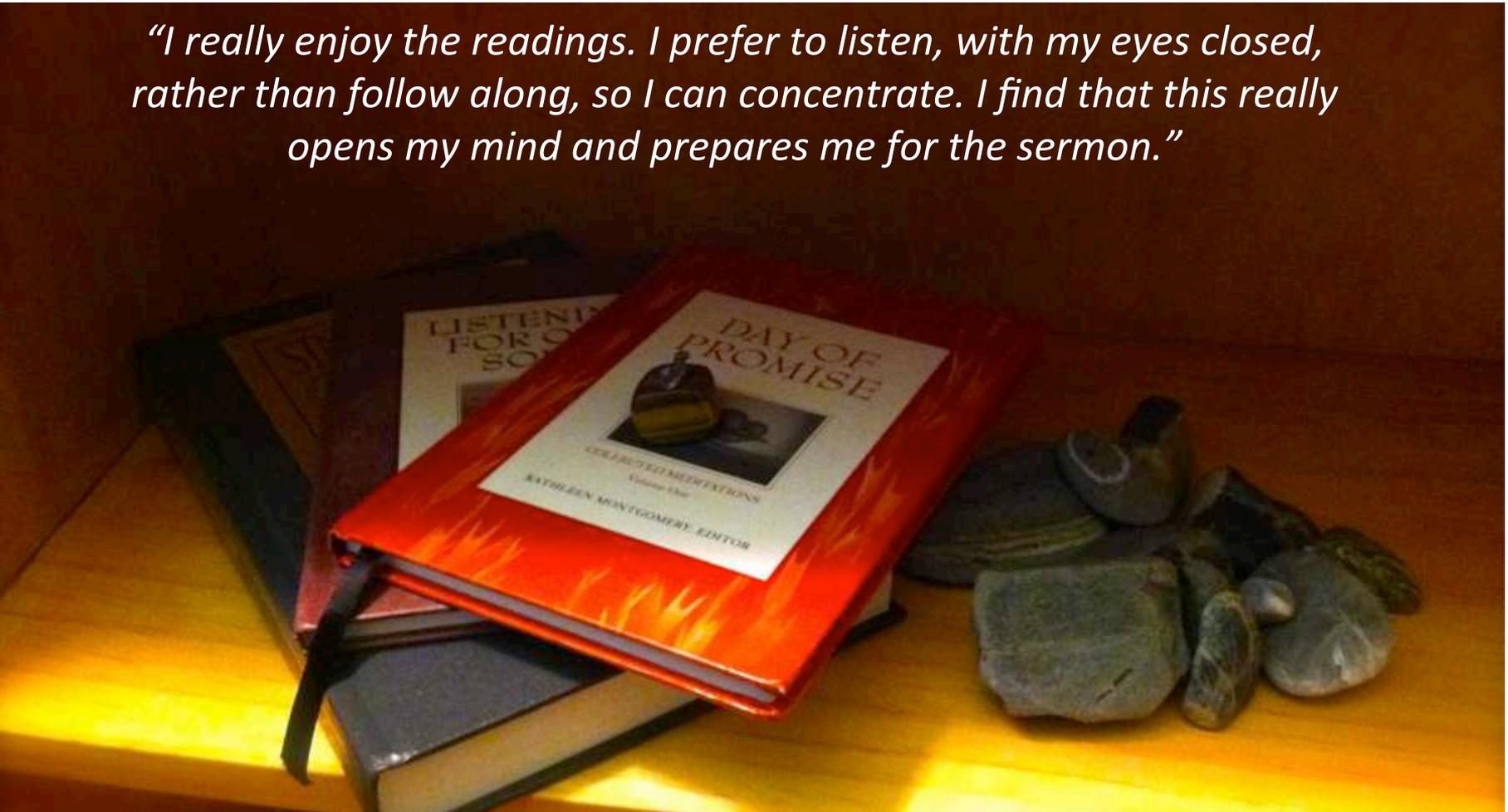
S C R A B B L E

S C R A B B L E

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Linguistic

“I really enjoy the readings. I prefer to listen, with my eyes closed, rather than follow along, so I can concentrate. I find that this really opens my mind and prepares me for the sermon.”

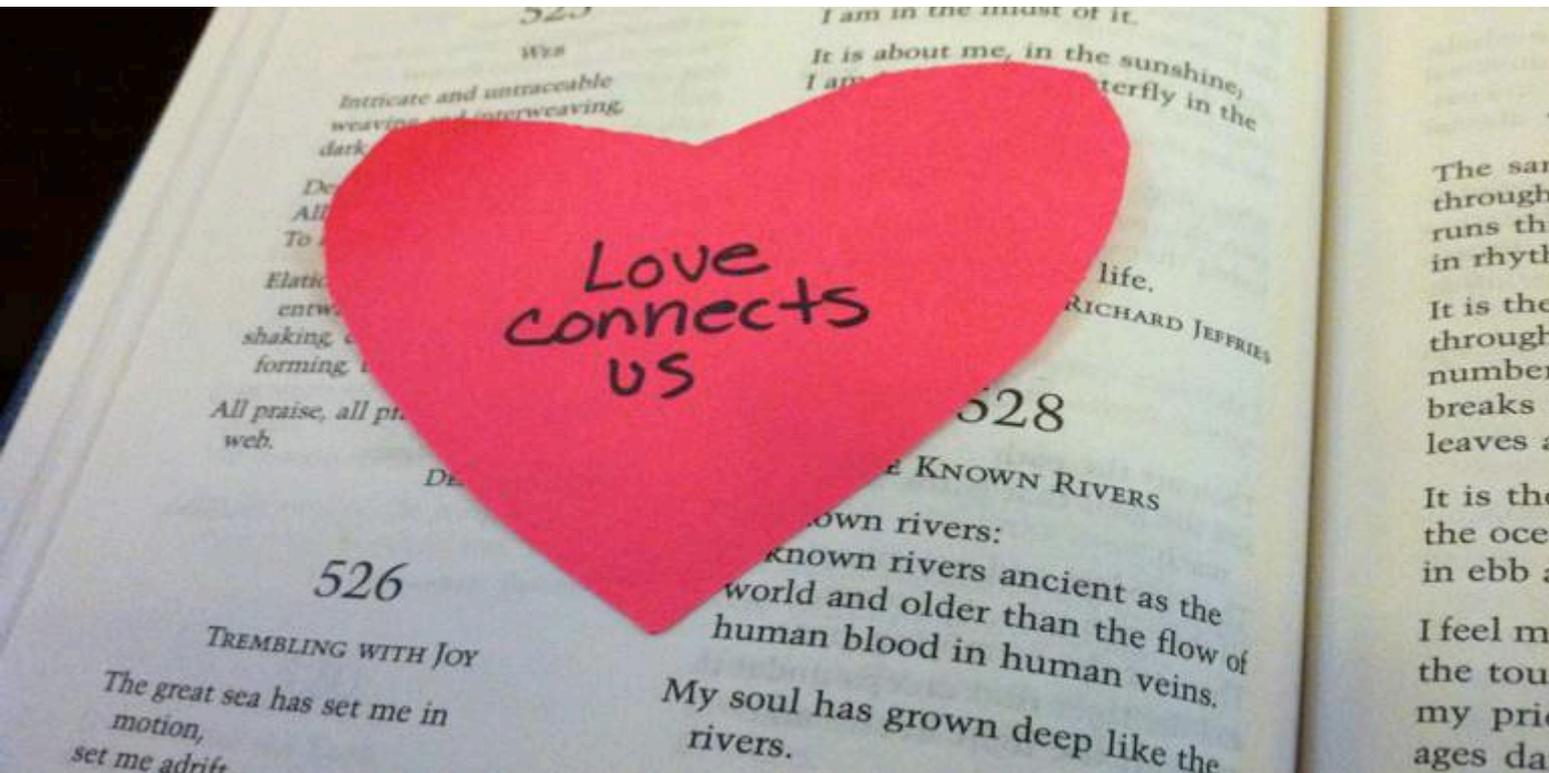


Musical



“Without music that gets me out of my head and into my body, able to truly feel emotions and open myself up to that which is so much greater than me, I cannot worship.”

Logical - Mathematical



“For me, it's not a single thing, but rather when there is good flow - when the hymns and readings along with sermon/homily are all obviously connected.”

Spatial



“I get a lot of meaning from visual symbols. It is peaceful and comforting and inspiring to see and know that others have put care and intention into the space where I am, where we will name and acknowledge the sacred.”

Bodily - Kinesthetic



*“Kinesthetic prayer is vital to my worship. My own action involves *me*, transports *me*.”*

Intrapersonal



“The longer the silence in community the more I am filled up. I love the sounds in all that silence--babies, feet-shuffling, sighs, creaking, breathing...”

Interpersonal



"I love being with the people, connecting with them and being known by them in some way."



Linguistic

Musical

Logical-
Mathematical

Spatial

Bodily-
Kinesthetic

Interpersonal

Intrapersonal

Tools of worship

- Words
- Music
- Visual space
- Community
- Connection



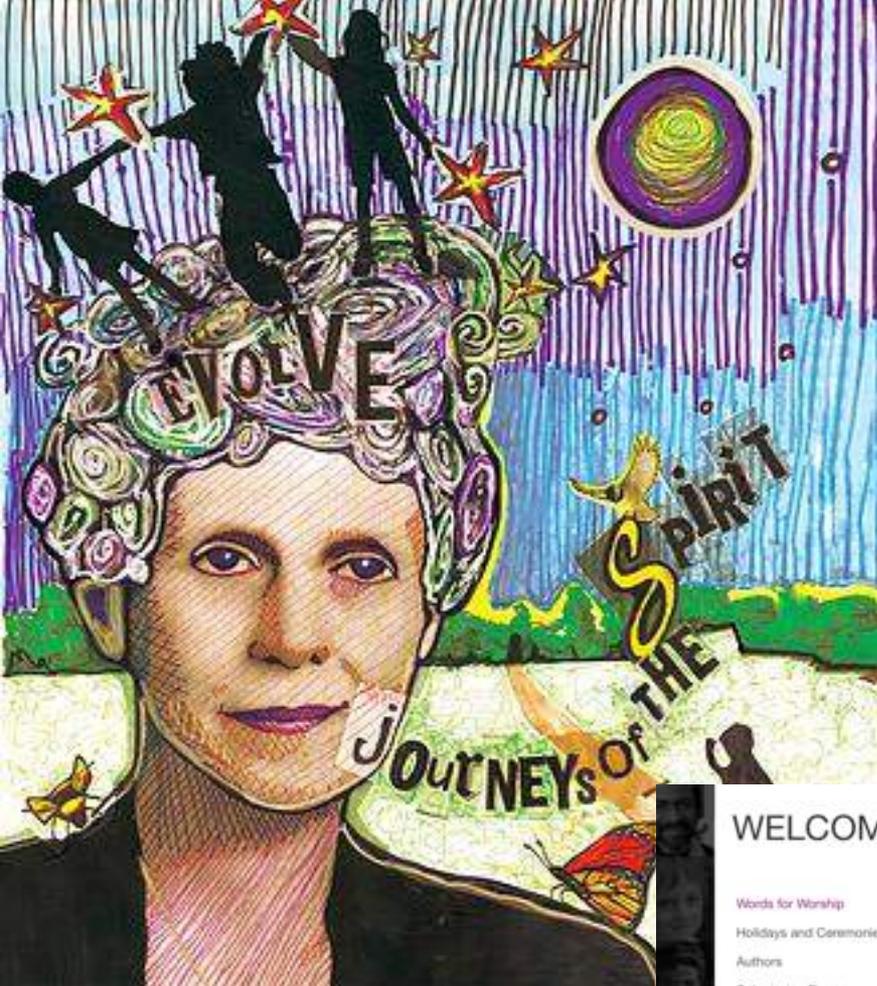


Flow of worship

- beginning (where we are)
 - middle (invitation to move through / transformation)
 - end (comfort and call)
-
- internal to external
 - personal to universal
 - what is real to aspirational ideal



Announcements



HOME > RELIGIOUS EDUCATION > THEME-BASED MINISTRY



Image courtesy of Church of the Larger Fellowship.

THEME-BASED MINISTRY

WELCOME TO WORSHIPWEB

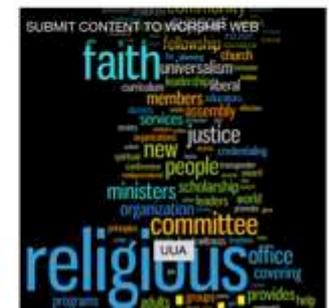
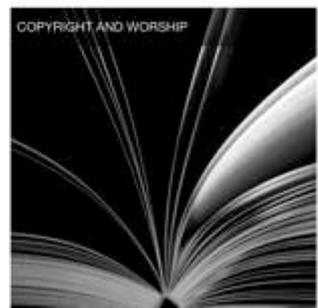
- Words for Worship
- Holidays and Ceremonies
- Authors
- Submission Form
- Worship Theory
- Multigenerational Worship
- Multicultural
- Music Resources
- Contemporary Worship
- Technology
- Share Your Worship Resources
- Lay-Clergy Collaborations
- Worship Collections
- Circle Worship
- Copyright & Worship
- Congregational Stories About Worship
- Quotations from the Wayside

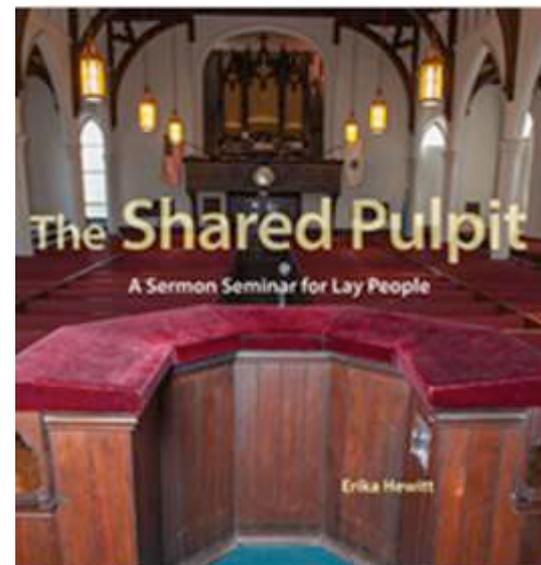
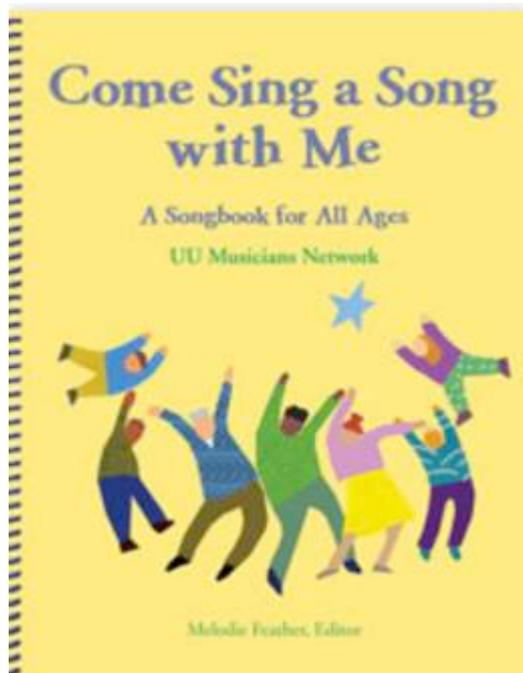
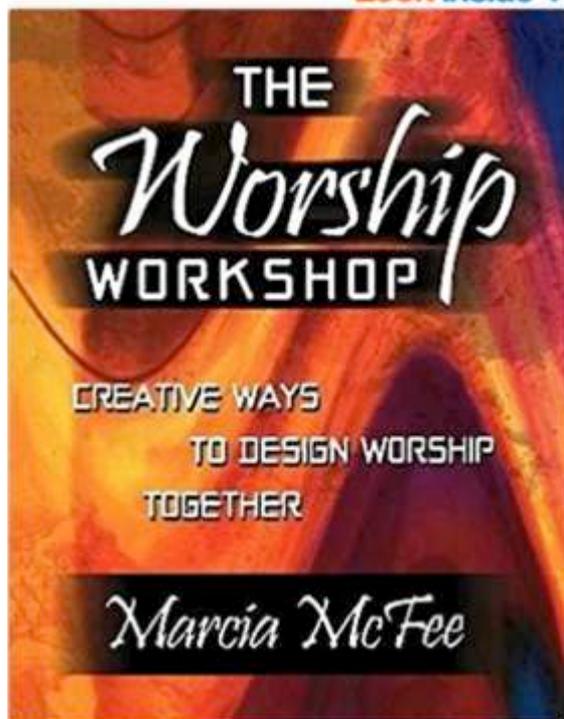


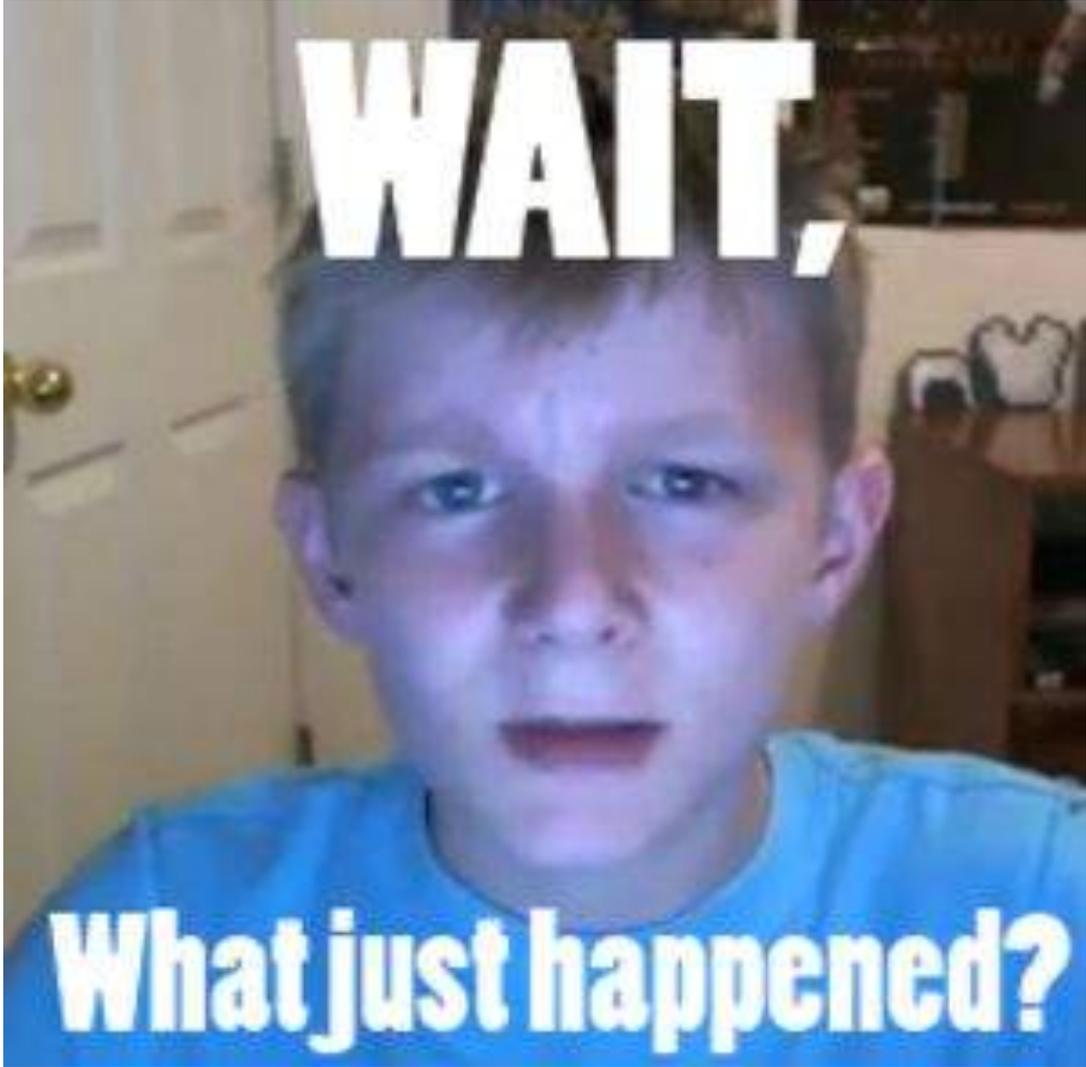
Search "Words for Worship"

In our "Words for Worship" collection, you'll find everything from chalice lightings and prayers to stories and rituals for your use. You'll also find images, music, and other resources that go "beyond words."

SEARCH NOW







WAIT,

What just happened?



Beginning

- Centering
- Calling in
- Remind us who we are

Can include, but not limited to:

- Prelude
- Opening hymn
- Chalice lighting
- Opening words
- Call to worship



Middle

- Transformational
- Moving through from personal to universal
- From where (who) we are to where (who) we want to be
- Naming limitations
- Declaring possibilities

Can include, but not limited to:

- Reading(s) / Story
- Musical interlude/anthem
- Meditation/prayer
- Hymn (praise, sorrow, seeking)
- Sermon



End

- Rededication
- Clarity of expectation / call
- Leave with hope
- Community building

Can include, but not limited to:

- Joys & sorrows – interdependence
- Offering – make manifest our commitment to gathered community
- Extinguish chalice
- Benediction – sending us out into the world fortified and fed



Interpersonal

Hymns

Spatial

Sermon

Story



Alchemy of Worship

Anything that brings us together — inspiring us to open our hearts, hands, or minds, to forget our differences for a moment and remember we are one — is a sacrament.

- Forrest Church, Unitarian Universalist Minister



Design by Jessica Ferguson; Photo by Guilherme Jófil

- 
- Occupying the pulpit is act of sacred trust & stewardship
 - Say yes if you have something of worth to bring, say no if it's not your thing to speak in public – no shame (but taking the risk also worthy)
 - Read/listen to others' sermons – many are archived on church websites – hear different voices, notice patterns



To do

Have clear theme/message

Include musicians in planning

Choose hymns and stories to align w/ theme

Include other voices (readings, chalice lighting)

Pray/ask for Spirit/Grace/Humility before the service starts – beyond the stage managing



To don't:

Be afraid of silence

Let readers pick readings w/o consulting

Forget people of all ages, abilities

Use other people's work w/o attribution

'Borrow' practices of other cultures Choose important enough (value not widely shared)

Settle for poor presentation

Muddled message

Primarily about leader

Boring

Bad boundaries (TMI)