

Making Sense In Worship.....

This act of worship was created for an outdoor event and grew out of the space that would be available and so makes use of being able to be outside and in touch with all of creation. However with imagination, it could be adapted for any setting. It's really important to use the visuals and it is vital to give time: it needs a good hour and a half to do it justice!

I gave myself the creative challenge of not using the most obvious stories to help us engage our senses (i.e. not using a healing story for touch), and also decided not to have the gospel stories read from scripture but simply told from another perspective to encourage the need for listening (and participation at one point). The music is deliberately repeated to give a familiar feel to an act of worship that is essential unfamiliar.

Because of the nature of the event not everyone was there at the start, and I found that although this act of worship had an overall theme because it was also 5 separate acts of worship in one, people were able to slip into it easily.

All the songs are attributed to the writer. Any words and stories that have no attribution are (c) Anne Sardeson "out of the box" publications 2012.

Below you will find a script for the leader(s) and also a worship sheet for the congregation. Please feel free to use this and adapt it as you wish.

Anne Sardeson June 2012

Gathering: SING: - "wait for the Lord" (*Taize*) & "Come all you people" (*Iona*)

Welcome & introduction- *In this space we will sing, share, listen and reflect.....*

The SMELL of Jesus (*visual: smelly food*)

SONG: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful (*Taize*)

A STORY OF JESUS HEALING: "Smelling God's Glory".

They say when you lack a sense other senses sharpen up. I'm not sure, but I do know I smell well! Not that I smell good - I know sometimes I don't - but I can smell things that go on. I know when my mother is cooking, I know when the sun is shining, I know when the fruit on the tree is ripe - I can smell it!

I also know whose around - I know how my friends smell. Which means I also know when someone new is about - a new smell.

So I think I smelt him first - a new smell. I took a deep breath and I knew he was there. So I shouted out "Jesus - son of David - have mercy on me!" I embarrassed some of the people around me, but I called out all the same - I knew he was there, and I knew he could help.

Then the smell got stronger, and I knew he was right in front of me. I could smell his sweat, I could smell his hair, I could smell his clothes (and they weren't that clean!). Then I could smell his hands and I felt him touch my face. Then I started to see.

Weird shapes, all around me, light, colour, movement. So I went to smell everything I saw to put shapes and colours to the smells I knew so well. I saw what my favourite fruit looked like, I saw where my house was, and I saw my mum, and I smelt she was cooking my favourite food.

EXPERIENCE: close eyes and take a deep breath - what do we smell? Invite people to talk about smell, and then smell and talk about the smelly food that is there..... consider what happens when we can't smell.

Today we are "smelling God's glory!"

SONG - In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

WORDS if the Word becomes flesh
 there is hope in our veins
 if the Word dwells among us
 we smell the breath of life

SILENCE

The SIGHT of Jesus (*visual: binoculars*)

SONG - "Look around you" (*Jodie Page-Clarke*)

A STORY OF JESUS' JOURNEY: "Seeing God's Way"

I could not believe it.

He had asked a question - who did we think he was, and I had answered (and I think I got it right). "Messiah" I said. And he said "yes" and then complements about how good I was, about how I could be a foundation.... felt good.

Then smiled at us all and looked away - away from us, into the distance.

"and now, I will suffer" he said.

"No" I screamed "don't talk like that", and then the insults came. I was no longer a rock but a stumbling block, a temptation.

"We will go to Jerusalem" he said.

I said nothing this time, I just watched him as he looked up the road to Jerusalem. A long dangerous road. There would be people waiting there, people who would harm him. Even kill. Want him destroyed.

I wanted to say "no" and "why", but I said nothing.

His sight was set, on a place beyond anything that was safe.

I could not believe it.

Why look that way?

EXPERIENCE: go out into the space and look around - what can we see? (alone, or with others)

Come back together and share what we saw.

Will we be observant today?

Will we be "Seeing God's way"

SONG: - Look around you

WORDS if the Word becomes flesh
 there is love on our streets
 if the Word dwells among us
 we see the face of God

SILENCE

The SOUND of Jesus (*visual: water*)

SONG: "Don't be afraid, my love is stronger" (Iona)

A STORY OF JESUS SPEAKING: "Hearing God's voice"

Act the story out in the group by getting groups to be the different players. Help them to decide what sound they are going to make when their time comes in the story. Remind them to go quiet when Jesus says "peace, be still".

Sounds: Wind, Rain, Wave, Cries of disciples, Jesus "peace, be still", Silence

Jesus looked over to the far side of the Lake and told the disciples that they were going over the water. The disciples were pleased - they liked the water.

They all got in the boat, and Jesus was tired, so he settled down at the front for a sleep.

Then the **WIND** started to blow - gently at first, then stronger.....

Then the **RAIN** started to fall - gently at first, then harder.....

Then the **WAVES** started to crash - noting gentle there!

And the **DISCIPLES** started to cry out.....

They called to **JESUS** to wake him up.

He stood and look at the storm and cried out "peace be still"

And the wind and rain and waves stopped,

And all was still.

SONG: Don't be afraid

EXPERIENCE: share together what did we heard going on. People will more than likely start by talking about the peace and the power of Jesus, but if you give time they might start to talk about the fear and uncertainty. Consider what we might hear around us today? Will we listen for what God will say today?

Will we be "hearing God's voice"?

WORDS: if the word becomes flesh
there is joy in our bodies
if the Word dwells among us
we hear creation's voice

SILENCE

The TOUCH of Jesus *(visual: stones and dirt)*

SONG - "Oh the earth is the Lord's and all its weary people" (with percussion if possible!)
(Andy Thornton & Charlie Irvine)

A STORY OF JESUS FORGIVING: "Touching God's earth"

I watched from a distance. A group of men stood with a woman, talking together of her guilt, and then they saw Jesus, and shared it with him. He looked around at them and then at the ground. He bent down, and ran his fingers through the dirt. Then he spoke to them:

"The one of you who has done nothing wrong may cast the first stone."

And he bent down and wrote on the ground again.

And one by one I saw them leave, from the eldest to the youngest, until no one was left standing there.

Jesus stood up "where have they gone?" he said to the woman "is no one left to condemn you?"

She shook her head "no one is left" she said.

"Then I do not condemn you. Go on your way. But don't do it again."

EXPERIENCE: Write or draw prayers on pieces of paper; Go out and touch the earth, trees, grass; Feel creation; clip prayers to the lines in the trees *(I had attached washing lines to the trees earlier)*; Be grounded by God's earth - whatever is going on for you.

Today we are "touching God's earth"

SONG: Oh the earth is the Lord's

WORDS if the Word becomes flesh
 there is life worth living
 if the Word dwells among us
 we touch hallowed ground

SILENCE

The TASTE of Jesus *(visual: food to share)*

SONG: "Amazing grace" *(John Newton (1725-1807))*

A STORY OF JESUS EATING: "Tasting God's Grace"

I was never invited to dinner parties. Never. I was not the sort of person who would be invited. If I came into your home I would lower the tone, and things might go missing. It's all true - They didn't tell lies about me.

Then one day I was invited. Apparently a big feast had been planned, and no one who was invited turned up. So the servants of the one throwing the party went into the streets and demanded (yes, demanded) that we go. Not that I took much persuading, once I was sure it wasn't a joke or a trap.

So I went, and I ate, my fill - and more.

And I laughed, and I cried, and I sang, and I made friends and I wondered..... Why had I been invited to such a feast?

EXPERIENCE: We share food together and stories of God's grace.

Today we are "tasting God's grace"

SONG: Amazing grace

WORDS if the Word becomes flesh
 there is truth in our home
 if the Word dwells among us
 we taste divinity

SILENCE

BLESSING

The God who is seen, and heard,
and smelt, and touched, and tasted,
bless us now,
that we might notice.
This day, and all days.

SING: Amensi-aku-dumisa *(South African)*

Because we were part of a larger event and not everyone had come to this worship, we took the food out and shared it with everyone else who was gathering for their lunch time picnic.

Making sense in worship

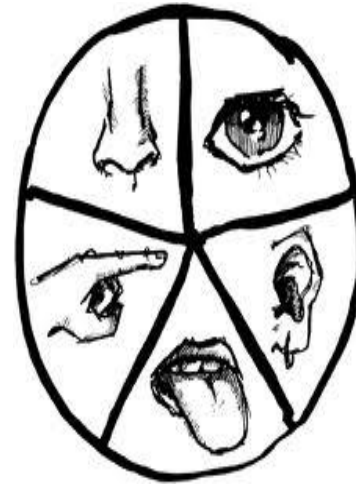
Welcome....

***In this space we will sing,
share, listen and reflect.....***

Gathering songs -

Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord:
Keep watch, take heart!
Taize

Come all you people,
come praise your maker (x3)
Come now and worship the Lord
Iona Community



The Smell of Jesus.....

We sing -

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful.

In the Lord I will rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.
Taize

A story of Jesus healing.....

"Smelling God's Glory"

We sing – In the Lord.....

Prayer and reflection

The Sight of Jesus.....

We sing –

Look around you - can you see?
Times are troubled, people grieve
Feel the hardness, see the violence
O my people, weep with me
Kyrie elesion (Lord have mercy)
Christe elesion (Christ have mercy)
Kyrie elesion (Lord have mercy)

Walk among them: I'll go with you,
Reach out to them with my hands:
Suffer with me, and together
We will serve them, help them stand
Kyrie elesion.....

Forgive us our God, hear our prayer
We will walk with you, anywhere-
Through your suffering,
with forgiveness,
Take your life into the world.
Kyrie elesion.....

Jodie Page-Clarke

A story of Jesus' journey.....

"Seeing God's Way"

We sing – Look around you.....

Prayer and reflection



The Sound of Jesus.....

We sing -

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to
be always near.

Iona Community

A story of Jesus speaking..... "hearing God's voice"

We sing – Don't be afraid

Prayer and reflection

The Touch of Jesus.....

We sing -

One day, (one day),
one day, (one day) x2

*Oh the earth is the Lord's and all it's
weary people. Oh, the earth is the
Lord's and everything that breathes.*

One day soon there'll be fields for
the poor. One day soon there'll be
bread for us all. *Chorus*

One day soon we will give up our
riches. Walk in peace with our
brothers and sisters. *Chorus*

One day soon we will learn to be
righteous. Give back land to the
children of toil. *Chorus*

One day soon we will bow down in
sorrow. Leave our sin and repent for
tomorrow. Give back fields and
break up the plantations, Build a
house for the family of nations. *Chorus*
Andy Thornton & Charlie Irvine

A story of Jesus forgiving..... "Touching God's Earth"

We sing – Oh the earth is the Lords

Prayer and reflection

The Taste of Jesus.....

We sing -

Amazing Grace (how sweet the
sound) that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found
was blind, but now I see.

As grace first taught my heart to fear
so grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and
snares, I have already come;
God's grace has brought me safe
thus far, and he will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures;

and, when this heart and flesh shall
fail and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

John Newton (1725-1807) altd.*

A story of Jesus eating..... "Tasting God's Grace"

We sing – Amazing grace!

Prayer and reflection and blessing

We sing

Amensi-aku-dumisa (x2)
Amen Ba-o, Amen ba-o
Amensi-aku-dumisa!
(Amen and praise the Lord! – South Africa))