

Called to Be the Church 2021

Lectionary Worship Starters

Week 1

Week 2

Lent 2021	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Feb. 21– Mar. 21, 2021	<p>“As Long as We Follow” (MV 140)</p> <p>“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” (VU 108)</p>	<p>Mark 1:9–15: Once you receive a gift, how do you use it? This is the stewardship question. The gospel reading describes Jesus’ actions after his baptism, the gift of God’s grace. How does the act of receiving change you? Where have you experienced God’s grace? What was your call to follow Jesus?</p>	<p>Mark 8:31–31: A decision for discipleship. Just as we choose to follow Jesus, so we also choose to be generous. How are we doing this as individuals and as a congregation?</p>
The Early Church in Eastertide	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
April 11– May 9, 2021	<p>“Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” (VU 179)</p> <p>“Let Us Build a House” (MV 1)</p>	<p>Acts 4:32–35: Life in the resurrection community is transformative. Spiritual practices are transformative. If generosity is a spiritual practice (and it is!) how are we and our faith community being transformed by our generosity? What is the role of belief in this? Do we give because we believe or does our giving lead us into (or deeper into) belief?</p>	<p>Luke 24:48: As disciples of Jesus, you are witnesses. Celebrate the way that you are bearing witness to God’s mission through the generosity and activities of your community of faith.</p>
28 Days to Thanksgiving	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Sept. 12– Oct. 10, 2021	<p>“Seek Ye First” (VU 356)</p> <p>“Sent Out in Jesus’ Name” (MV 212)</p>	<p>Mark 8:27–38: Who do you say that Jesus is? This is a key question for disciples to answer. This week introduce the spiritual practice of testimony! Use the “Why I Give” exercise. (See Program Guide, p. 18)</p>	<p>Mark 9:30–37: In welcoming and serving the marginalized and powerless, we are in fact welcoming Jesus and also welcoming God. How does that affect the mission you do locally?</p>
World Communion to All Saints’	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Oct. 3– Oct. 31, 2021	<p>“There’s a Spirit in the Air” (VU 582)</p> <p>“Go Make a Difference” (MV 209)</p>	<p>Psalm 34:1–8 (19–22): The spiritual practice of generosity is intimately linked to the practice of gratitude and thanksgiving. Disciples recognize that everything they have comes from God’s generosity and grace. Where do you find signs of God’s generosity in this psalm? How does God’s generosity impact your generosity?</p>	<p>Isaiah 25:6–9: This reading gives us one description of God’s mission. The hungry and thirsty are fed. Death and mourning are no more. Tears are wiped away. Honour is bestowed. God is praised. How have the saints of your community shared God’s feast with you? How have you shared this feast with others?</p>

Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Inspire: Mission & Service	Invite	Thank
John 2:13–22: How is anger at injustice a motivator for us? How are we standing up for justice and "turning the tables" on injustice? Share a Mission & Service story that describes the discipleship of justice making. Generosity makes this possible.	Ephesians 2:1–10: We are made alive together with Christ. You are invited to follow Jesus in the risen life of generous and life-giving service; come to the light and generously support the mission of our congregation and our church.	John 12:20–23: Unless a grain of wheat... We are thankful for those who answer the call to discipleship: who dare to go beyond themselves and give, who dare to risk living out the gift they have been given, who are planting and hoping and trusting something to grow.
Inspire: Mission & Service	Invite	Thank
Acts 4:5–12: As the church is faithful to God's mission, disciples will eventually be seen as a threat to the status quo. Mission & Service is how individual disciples and communities of faith work together with partners around the globe to be faithful in Jesus' name and therefore potentially disruptive around the world.	Acts 8:26–40: The practice of invitation. Phillip is invited into the chariot. The eunuch asks, "What is to stop me being baptized?" What are you inviting people into, today? How could responding to this invitation make a difference in people's lives?	Psalm 98: O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvellous things. Acts 10:44–48: Give thanks for the abundant gifts God has poured out on this community of faith and celebrate!
Inspire: Mission & Service	Invite	Thank
Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9: 20–22: The story of Esther is a story of craftily standing up to injustice in a foreign land (i.e. not Judea). How are we doing this through Mission & Service?	Hebrews 1:1–4, 2: 5–12: God did not give the world to angels, but to us humans. This week, invite people to generosity as one way to be the change! The message for disciples this week could also be tied to the Invitation to the table. It is not our table, but Jesus' table.	Joel 2:21–27: Thanking God that we have been blessed with this much abundance. Thanking people for their choice to share generously for God's mission as disciples of Jesus.
Inspire: Mission & Service	Invite	Thank
Mark 12:38–44: Don't judge a gift by its appearance. Mission & Service teaches us about partnership. Following Jesus calls us to community with others, respect, and mutuality. Those who are served have as much to share with us as we have with them. The widow's offering might look tiny, but it is the gift Jesus points out.	Hebrews 10:23–25: An invitation to participate in the good deeds of this community of faith and beyond (Mission & Service) through your generosity. What would provoking the people of your community of faith to good deeds look like?	John 18:33–37: Jesus speaks as if there are two worlds, two cultures. We can choose the culture of power and greed and empire, or the culture of service and sharing and love. The act of thanking and living thanksgiving is a sign that we have chosen Jesus' world. How will you thank people today?