

# Called to Be the Church

Lectionary Worship Starters

Week 1

Week 2

Epiphany 2022	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
The new five-week materials			
Lent 2022	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Mar. 6– Apr. 10, 2022	<p>“I Have Called You by Your Name” (MV 161)</p> <p>“O Jesus, I Have Promised” (VU 120)</p>	<p>Deuteronomy 26:1–11: Making an offering is an act of generosity and an act of recalling what God has done for us and through us. There is a clear link between the spiritual practice of generosity and the spiritual practice of gratitude. Ritual helps create habit, and faith habits become our living responses to God’s goodness. These are hallmarks of discipleship.</p>	<p>Philippians 3:17–4:1: The spiritual practice of imitation of mentors. As we follow Jesus and those elders of the church who have gone before us, we learn perseverance as we do God’s mission in our local context. Tell an inspiring story of a local mission project that took perseverance or was multi-generational. How is your congregation encouraging others?</p>
Post-Easter 2022	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Apr. 24– May 22, 2022	<p>“Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” (VU 179)</p> <p>“When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace” (MV 136)</p>	<p>Acts 5:27–32: Peter says that as disciples we are witnesses to what the risen Christ can accomplish in someone. Our practice of generosity is a witness to the joy of Easter’s resurrection life.</p>	<p>John 21:1–19: How does resurrection life surprise and appear and transform your community? The whole boatload of disciples is fishing together, responds together, eats together because of the call of the risen Christ. Sometimes communities are called to fish on the other side—to do ministry in new ways. What does that look like for you?</p>
28 Days to Thanksgiving	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Sept. 11– Oct. 10, 2021	<p>“Will You Come and Follow Me” (VU 567)</p> <p>“Grateful” (MV 182)</p>	<p>Luke 15:1–10: I am worthy and lovable, as God has searched me out and found me (sheep/coin analogy). Realizing this spiritual fact produces great gratitude in me for what God has done. Great gratitude leads to great generosity in return.</p>	<p>Luke 16:1–13: We really like what <i>The Message</i> does with this passage. Be just as shrewd as big business and politicians and those we would expect to be dodgy, but do so for the mission of God. As a sign of its discipleship, how is your community of faith fully faithful with what you have been blessed with?</p>
Post Thanksgiving	Theme Hymns	Stewardship as Spiritual Practice	Inspire: Local Mission
Oct. 23– Nov. 20, 2022	<p>“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples” (VU 507)</p> <p>“Deep in Our Hearts” (MV 154)</p>	<p>Proper 25</p> <p>Luke 18:9–14: What does authentic generosity look like? If our generosity is not drawing us closer to Jesus, what needs to change? What is the relationship between generosity and gratitude?</p>	<p>All Saints’ Day</p> <p>Ephesians 1:15–16: If Paul wrote this to your community of disciples, what would he have heard about? Your mission within your community? How have you, in the past, in the present, and perhaps in the future, shown or will show your local community that God loves them?</p>

Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
<b>Inspire: Mission &amp; Service</b>	<b>Invite</b>	<b>Thank</b>
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Building and following from week 2's theme of perseverance. Isaiah 55:1-9: How does the church host a party with no expectation of return? How does God nourish and sustain all of God's beloved people? Outreach ministries across Canada supported by Mission & Service do this all the time.	2 Corinthians 5:16-17: Invitation to not just be part of a new creation, but to BE a new creation, in Christ. Transformation. The spiritual practice of letting go. Invitation to generosity as a way to mark the transformation away from greed and scarcity and into the new creation of plenty and blessing and sharing.	John 12:1-8: Thanking you for whatever you do. Big, small, life-changing, apparently insignificant, whatever you give is like perfume on Jesus' feet, and Jesus will appreciate it and you. Tie into week 1.
<b>Inspire: Mission &amp; Service</b>	<b>Invite</b>	<b>Thank</b>
Psalms 23: Through our shared Mission & Service we are walking with many who are also walking as together we seek green pastures, thirst for still waters, need restoration both physical and spiritual, hunger for a table to be welcomed at, comforted to overflowing. Share some Your Generosity Matters (formerly Minutes for Mission) stories related to these themes.	John 13:31-35: The new commandment. Love for one another is our clear calling and mark of discipleship to Jesus. Today you are invited into that command to make love real. What will your generous love look like?	Psalms 67: A psalm of blessing and celebration for all God does. Let the people praise you, O God. Praise and celebrate your generous responses to God's grace and action. Where are you discovering the Holy Spirit at work around you? How are you joyfully praising?
<b>Inspire: Mission &amp; Service</b>	<b>Invite</b>	<b>Thank</b>
Luke 16:19-31 and 1 Timothy 6:6-9: A message for rich disciples. Take notice! In order to care, you first have to notice the person and accord them the same rights and worth as yourself. Mission & Service helps us notice the needs around us (local, Canadian, global) and to respond, so as people made right with God we can be rich in generous good works.	2 Timothy 1:5-7: "I am reminded of your sincere faith.... For this reason I remind [invite] you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." How could you invite people to rekindle the fire of faith through generous sharing of their gifts?	Philippians 4:4-9: Rejoice!! Give thanks for all the ways God has blessed your community of faith and how, as disciples of Jesus, you are committing to sharing them.
<b>Inspire: Mission &amp; Service</b>	<b>Invite</b>	<b>Thank</b>
Proper 27 Luke 20:27-38: Jesus tries to get the Sadducees to see life as God sees it. Because you have chosen to say YES to the God of the living (which makes you a disciple), you make this ____ happen. Find a couple of Your Generosity Matters (formerly Minutes for Mission) stories to share as illustrations.	Proper 28 Isaiah 65:17-25: God's mission!! Generous disciples are countercultural and help God's mission come to fruition, even on the micro scale if not the macro. You are invited to help be the change.	Reign of Christ Luke 1:78-79: We give thanks for you and your generosity, through which you are God's light dawning from on high and giving light to those who sit in darkness.