

Liturgy Planning Ideas

The purpose of this grid is to help you **develop visual ideas that fit your general liturgy style**. The major movements of worship each have a goal for the congregation, and that goal should shape visuals for worship. By articulating the main theme or task of each movement, accomplishing that task becomes the target for our visuals. Visuals then are not mere illustration, but part of the way we do what we do in worship. Creative ideas are sparked and evaluated using the themes as the key criteria. Using this grid as a model, your congregation could develop your own grid of the movements you use regularly, the themes that are central to each, and visuals that fit the theme well.

<i>Movements</i>	<i>Basic Theme</i>	<i>Key idea</i>	<i>Fitting visuals</i>	<i>Less-fitting visuals</i>
Gathering	God calls us to gather as His people and to worship him Who is God? Who are we as a called people?	Preparation, traveling, approaching Gathering, anticipation Needing Encounter with God (as Trinity) Responding in praise Beginning of dialogue	-Thematic scripture -Psalm of ascent -Questions -Countdown -Components to be assembled -Logo? -Welcome screen?	Announcements Instructions
Renewal (Confession & Assurance)	We acknowledge our brokenness in the fall, receive Christ's redemptive work, and are summoned to a new life What is our brokenness? How are we renewed? Who are we as redeemed people?	Sin and Grace Contrast, intense dialogue -God's grace, our brokenness, -sin and forgiveness, Baptismal Identity! Remember who we are Creeds of universal church	-Contrasts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • light and dark • high and low • chaos and order • hand down, hands up • fonts & colors -Baptism: Washing, water, birthing, drowning, Dying and Rising	(don't skip confession/lament; can't be honest before God without it)
Nourishment: Sermon	As the redeemed people of God we are nourished and transformed by God's Word What is God's message for his renewed people? How are we changed? What is our past and future?	God's revelation Father's creative provision Christ's work Spirit's empowerment God' plan for all history Strong, personal eye contact	-Visual Aid (e.g. a map) -Diagram (e.g. structure or context of text) -Illustration (a metaphor) -Demonstration (movie clip) -Navigation (Where are we?) -Package, message, gift	Written outlines are easily abused
Nourishment: Lord's Supper	We are nourished -as the bride of Christ -at his banqueting table -as beggars brought in How are we nourished?	Sign that points to Christ Seal that validates the promises Memory and Hope New Creation Physical participation God's gifts	-Food, feast, party, -bread & wine, wheat & grapes -Body & blood, -Passover, Thanksgiving -Gifts	
Sending	We actively respond in gratitude by offering our lives in service; We prepare to enter the world and enact the kingdom. How will we serve? How are we sent?	Offering ourselves Ethics Prayers of universal church Make general concrete Sending, commissioning	Announcements Service opportunities Specific ministries Missionaries Scripture on producing fruit Scripture on the Kingdom	Money Cash register

Simple Planning Grid

Each week, the movements of worship are colored and interpreted by a specific theme, text, or topic. **The key task in planning a service is to articulate what each section looks like in light of a specific topic.** If, for example, today's overall topic is the "global church," what does the *Gathering* look like? What do we *Confess* as a global church? Then, using these topic-specific themes for each movement, ideas for songs, prayers/litanies, and visuals can be generated and evaluated. The specific themes become the target for all liturgical choices, and the liturgy is unified in purpose and flow. Song ideas in one area may stimulate visual imagery in another, but since the theme is the target, visuals do more than simply illustrate individual lyrics or Bible passages.

Using this grid as a model, list the basic movements of your worship and articulate the theme of each in light of the week's topic. Then brainstorm songs, spoken words, and visuals for each movement. Write down all the ideas, and look for threads or metaphors that run throughout the service. Eliminate ideas that do not fit the theme for each section as well as the others.

Service Date:		Preacher:	
Text:		Musicians:	
Main Theme:		Liturgists:	
Basic Imagery:		Planners:	
	Theme	Music Options	Spoken Words
Gathering (Praise) [Creation]			
Renewal (Confession & Assurance) (Baptism) [Fall & Redemption]			
Word / Nourishment (Sermon & Lord's Supper) [Transformation]			
Response (Prayers, offering) [Discipleship]			
Sending [New Creation]			

Project:

Date:

Gathering

God calls us to gather as His people and to worship him. [Creation]

Who is God?

Who are we as a called people?

Confession

We acknowledge our sinfulness and lament our broken world. [Fall]

What is our brokenness?

How do we lament?

Assurance

We receive Christ's redemptive work in the cross, are washed of our sins, and are summoned to a new life [Redemption]

How are we renewed?

Project:

Date:

Service of the Word

As the redeemed people of God we are nourished by God's Word and receive the Lord's Supper. We begin to become new creatures. [Transformation]

How are we nourished in word and sacrament as his renewed people?

Service of Response

We actively respond in gratitude by offering our heads, hearts, hands, and lives in service, praying for each other and God's kingdom. [Discipleship]

How do we prepare to enter the world and enact the kingdom?

Dismissal

We are commissioned and sent out with Pentecostal fervor to love our neighbor and serve the Lord. [New Creation]

How are we sent?

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How are we sent?

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FROM THE BLOG

Juice on the Loose: Harvest Bible Chapel Naperville

Posted January 13th @ 11:13 am by Jerod

Beware churches in the greater Chicagoland area. Church Juice may be busting through your doors soon. Well...kind of. We're actually more of a mosey-on-in, laid-back operation. Anyway, after a fairly rough start to the new year, my wife and I find ourselves in the ever-popular Christian ritual of church shopping. In some ways, it's sort of exciting. For the first time in awhile, we'll be able to get a feel for what other churches are doing. And as we visit each new church, I want to share with you what that church is doing in the area of communications. The idea of Juice in the Loose isn't to critique. Instead, we want to show you some inspiration by examples of what's working at a church. Our first stop -- [Harvest Bible Chapel](#) in Naperville, IL.

The most impressive thing to me about Harvest is how well all the communication materials I saw accurately represented the church I visited. The website, signage, worship folder and in-service graphics all had a similar look and feel. And all of it graphically represented the actual feeling I got being in the church. Talk about great branding.

For example, when I pulled up their website to check them out, my first impression was that this was a modern, young, contemporary church. I got that vibe from the simple, clean website design along with a modern logo. As I looked around the site a little more, the other graphics and pictures (real people, not stock) supported that feel.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Forums online for church tech-types?
on: 10/15/2010 12:42 pm by MikeK

Paper vs. E-newsletters: Content
on: 10/11/2010 11:58 am by MikeK

How do you combat burn out?
on: 06/29/2010 01:58 pm by Jerod

Do you use connection cards each week?
on: 06/11/2010 02:48 pm by Jerod

VIEW MORE ▶

GET TRAINING

The world of church communications can be overwhelming at times for everyone. If you're just getting started or have been at it for a long time, we want to provide you with the resources you need to be strong communicators. Whether it's branding, marketing, website development or social media strategies, we're building a library of resources to help you push your church communications forward.

VIEW MORE ▶

GET CONSULTING

Looking for more one-on-one attention? We can try to help you there as well. Take a look at some of the projects we've worked on in the past to see if we



HARVEST
BIBLE CHAPEL

PRAYER • CONTACT US • SERVICE TIMES

search

Helping real people experience lasting change

WHO WE ARE

CONNECTING

WORSHIP

WALK

HAPPENINGS

Leading with Light

Worship Media as Liturgical Practice

Worship 101

"Come in!"

"It's good to see you!"

"I'm glad you're here with me"

"I'm sorry we've been gone. It's been hard."

"It's OK. I know it hurts, but I can make it better."

"Thanks for caring so much!"

"I've got some things to tell you."

"Thanks for helping us understand! It will make a difference for us"

"May I offer you a bite to eat?"

"Thanks! You have given us so much. What can I do in return?"

"Use my gifts. Go with my blessing!"

"Thanks again! You're awesome!"

September 10, 2005 in [Thinking About Worship Media](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

The Screen is like...

What is the screen like? How do we think about a projection screen in worship? What does it do? What models do we use to filter our thinking? Is it a song book? Movie theater? What is it like?

In the early days of movies, many directors simply put the camera in front of a stage. The camera didn't move around, but sat like an audience member at the theater watching play. All the action happened in one place in front of one camera that didn't move, turn, or zoom. It was Theater in Pictures. It took some time before people started moving the camera into the action itself, or editing different shots together.

[Continue reading "The Screen is like..." »](#)

June 20, 2005 in [Thinking About Worship Media](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

CATEGORIES

[Specs and Techs](#)

[Thematic Worship Media](#)

[Thinking About Worship Media](#)

POINTS OF INTEREST

[Media Resources at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship](#)

[Hi-Tech Worship? by Q. Schultze](#)

[ChurchMedia.Net](#)

[Anthony Coppedge's Church Tech Blog](#)

[Midnight Oil Productions](#)

STANCE



The "Stance" sequence shows how a single visual element changes as

the worship service unfolds. The mannequin, representing our posture before God, changes positions as the congregation's liturgical task changes. This sequence also intentionally leaves space for text, but can also serve as a plain banner. These images are courtesy of Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in St. Catharines, Ontario.

KIDS' MOSAICS



The "Kids' Mosaics" sequence is an example of found

art. Children in the congregation had earlier created paintings and paper mosaics during Lent. Several of these were selected and organized to follow the liturgical pattern. They were photographed under even light and cropped. This sequence of photographs became a congregational favorite. These

<i>Learning to Follow</i>	Theme	Music	Spoken	Visual
Gathering	God our Teacher calls us as his disciples			
Confession	We confess rebellion against his leadership, rejection of his teaching			
Assurance	God seeks us, sends Christ, calls us to heed instruction;			
Service of the Word	With our renewed ears and hearts we are instructed by God's Word.			
Service of Response	As renewed disciples, we offer our learning and loyalty, we are sent to teach the world			