

Resources for Developing a Worship Service
with a Bioethical Emphasis

By Luci Gunderson

Project for Bioethics and Human Dignity
BIO 780

April 2006

© Lucy Gunderson, 2006
All rights reserved.

Table of Contents:

- Resource 1: Worship Service for Sanctity of Life Sunday or Sanctity of Life Month
- Resource 2: Hymns and Worship Songs Suitable for Topics in Bioethics

Resource 1:

**Worship Service
for
Sanctity of Life Sunday or Sanctity of Life Month**

Project for Bioethics and Human Dignity
BIO 780

Luci Gunderson, student
April, 2006

The order of service presented here is a suggested template for one or more services focusing on the sanctity of human life. The focus of the service(s) should be as sensitive as possible to all people who might be attending the service(s). This would include young people; young adults; the single and the married; those with children and those who wish to have children but perhaps cannot; the healthy and the disabled; those with chronic illness; people facing choices involving biotechnology; non-Christian visitors; and the elderly. This is no small task! However, a loving presentation of God as creator of life, sustainer of life, Savior, and His promise to be present in all circumstances may enable people to focus on trusting in the Lord regardless of individual situations.

To enhance the service, people of various ages (and perhaps disabilities) could participate in the readings or the music. Pictures representing various people and circumstances could be projected on a screen or posted on the side walls of the sanctuary. These could include premature infants, children, young adults, the disabled, the elderly, the lonely, or others as appropriate.

This service may touch individuals in very personal ways. It would be helpful to have resources available after the worship service(s) such as prayer support for individuals, information regarding Christian counseling, and support groups. It may be helpful to offer a separate healing service at another time for those not only with disabilities and illnesses, but also for those desiring healing and forgiveness for past behaviors that were not God-honoring.

There may be additional ways to use this service. It may serve as an introduction to a series of Bible studies focusing on bioethical issues. Written and visual resources on bioethical topics should be displayed and available. (The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity [CBHD] has excellent, easily readable resources focusing on bioethical topics. The BioBasic Series consists of 6 booklets each with a specific topic presented in question and answer format. They have additional resources as well, such as information and forms for Advance Directives for Health Care. Focus on the Family also has resources for life issues, including videos, CDs, and suggested sermons.) People who attend services such as these should be guided to connect their faith to topics in bioethics.

Opportunities for service to others may also be incorporated. Perhaps donations could be collected to give to a local Life Care Center, a Crisis Pregnancy Center, or a local health clinic that serves those without jobs or health insurance.

Hopefully, a service (or services) such as this will help people connect their faith to bioethics, and their concerns and questions to appropriate biblical resources. The goal of such Christian worship should be to encourage loving sensitivity to those who are experiencing painful dilemmas related to life and death concerns, and point them to biblical principles to guide their decisions.

Note: A paraphrase on Psalm 139 is suggested as a handout to be provided along with the written order of worship. See Leslie Brandt, *Good Lord, Where Are You?* 1967. pp. 63-64. St. Louis, MO. Concordia Publishing House.

Worship Service
Sanctity of Life Sunday

(Suggested hymns / songs are from the attached list of resources)

Preparation for Worship

I Will Follow

Introductory Worship Songs

This is My Father's World
Immortal, Invisible
When Morning Gilds the Skies
I Will Serve Thee

Welcome

Scripture Reading #1

Genesis 1:26 – 31

Worship in Song

All Creatures of Our God and King
Father, I Adore You

Confession of Sin

Dear Lord, in humility of heart we offer our worship to You on this Lord's day. We worship You as the Creator of every living thing. You give life, You sustain life, and You take life, all in Your time. By Your sovereign will, You even create us human beings in Your image. "Your image"...that is more than we can comprehend! We confess to You that we often forget that we are bearers of Your image. We are easily tempted to put self-will above honoring Your will. Forgive us, Lord. We often dishonor Your image in our lives by what we eat, how we behave, and the choices we make. In Your mercy, please forgive our self-centered lives and give us Your Spirit to help us live God-centered lives. We present to You, our loving Lord, the whole of our lives – our joys and sorrows, our successes and failures, our health and our disabilities, our hopes and our fears. In the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Worship in Song

O How He Loves You and Me
Great is Thy Faithfulness

Scripture Reading #2

Genesis 2:21 – 24
Matthew 19:6

Worship in Song

Circle of Two (duet)
As Man and Woman We Were Made

Scripture Reading #3

Genesis 3:1 – 19

Prayer

Lord, You not only created us in Your image, but You redeemed us from our sins of disobedience. In Your perfect plan, the blessings of new life would have no heartaches. But in our now fallen and imperfect world, we experience heartache, pain and suffering. We want children and may not be able to. We have problems with pregnancy and childbirth. And the life that You give is only loaned to us until Your appointed time for death. We need Your loving presence in every situation. Lord, be with us. Amen.

Worship in Song

People Need the Lord
Children of the Heavenly Father

Scripture Reading #4

Psalm 139

Worship in Song

The Greatest Thing
I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
I Was Created

Confession of Faith in The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
and on the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
and he will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

Take My Life and Let it Be
Change My Heart, O God

Prayer

O Lord, Provider and Creator of all, we humbly offer to You this day a portion of the many blessings You provide. Bless these gifts to be used for Your glory. Help us also to remember that we are to offer to You our lives as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You. As we prepare our hearts to hear Your Word today, guide our thoughts and actions so that we wholeheartedly strive to make our lives a living sacrifice. In the name of our living Lord we pray, Amen.

Message

“Begotten, Not Made”
(suggested sermon outline)

- I. Created in God’s image (begotten, not “made”)
- II. Man and woman created to be in relationship with God and with each other (procreation vs. reproduction)
- III. Effects of sin on marriage and the family (procreation includes blessings as well as heartaches, including infertility) (**Testimony** as appropriate)
- IV. The everlasting and always present love of our Creator (Our sovereign God is in control of life from conception until God’s appointed time for death)

Time for Silent Confession

Closing Prayer

Awesome Creator God, in Your sovereign plan You created us in Your image. You have given us life, human love, and Your redeeming love. Help us to be obedient and honor You above all. As Your Word says in the book of Romans, “not one of us lives for himself, or dies for himself; if we live, we live for the Lord; if we die, we die for the Lord; whether we live or die, we are Yours.” Thank You for speaking to us from Your Word this day and send Your Holy Spirit to help us be faithful in following You. Humbly, in Your name we pray, Amen.

Closing Song

Find Us Faithful
Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

Benediction

May the Father who created you, the Son who redeemed you, and the Holy Spirit who promises to be with you always, enable you to follow Him so that you may enjoy the blessings promised to those who are obedient and faithful. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

(NOTE: This suggested worship service outline could also be divided into 4 separate services with the appropriate Scripture readings and related sermon topics. This could then provide the framework for a "Sanctity of Life" month. Parts of this service could also be used for a special "healing service," perhaps to be held on a Sunday evening.)

Service designed to honor our Almighty Creator.
To God be the glory!

.....FYgi fW&
Hymns and Worship Songs
Suitable for Topics in Bioethics

Project for Bioethics and Human Dignity
 BIO 780

Luci Gunderson
 April, 2006

Written sources for hymnals and songbooks with acronyms include:

- CH Covenant Hymnal
- GL Great is the Lord
- HFG Hymns for the Family of God
- HWC The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration
- LBW Lutheran Book of Worship
- LH The Lutheran Hymnal
- LW Lutheran Worship
- MC2 Master Chorus Book II
- MG Moments of Grace
- MP Maranatha Music Praise Chorus Book
- SBH Service Book and Hymnal

(Note: Only one written source for these hymns and songs is listed even though they may be found in various sources. Songs without written sources were heard on CDs or tapes.)

For trust and guidance in facing difficult choices

- Abide with Me! Fast Falls the Eventide LW
- All Depends on Our Possessing LW
- Because He Lives by Wm. GaitherMP
- Be Still, My Soul LW
- Breathe on Me, Breath of God CH
- Cares Chorus by K. WillardMP
- Gentle Shepherd by Wm. Gaither GL
- Guide Me, O Thou Great JehovahLW
- Have No Fear, Little Flock CH
- He is Able by R. Noland & G. Ferguson MP
- He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought HFG
- His Eye Is on the Sparrow by C. Gabriel GL
- I Am Jesus/ Little Lamb LW
- I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus LBW
- I Need Thee Every Hour HFG
- I, the Lord of Sea and Sky MG
- If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee SBH
- In His Time by D. Ball GL

I Walk in Danger All the Way	LW
Jesus, Lead Thou On	LW
Jesus, Priceless Treasure	LW
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	.....SBH
O Love That Will Not Let Me Go	HFG
Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways	.....@K
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past	LW
Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise	LW
(close of service)	
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	HFG
Seek Ye First by K. Lafferty	.....GL
(quiet and meditative)	
Step by Step by D. Strasser	.....MC2
There Is a Balm in Gilead	MG
They That Wait upon the Lord by S. Hamblen	HFG
Thou to Whom the Sick and Dying	SBH
Through It All by A. Crouch	GL
Trust in the Lord With All Your Heart	CH
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus by H. Lemmel	MP
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	SBH
What God Ordains is Always Good	LW
What Is the World to Me	LW
When in the Hour of Deepest Need	LBW

Focus on God as provider of life

All Creatures of our God and King	.....	CH
All Things Bright and Beautiful		CH
As Man and Woman We Were Made		CH
Crown Him with Many Crowns		CH
For the Beauty of the Earth	.....	HWC
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands		CH
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise		HFG
I Sing the Mighty Power of God		HWC
I Was Created by B. & D. Funk (goes well with Ps. 139)		
I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry		CH
I Will Serve Thee by Wm. Gaither		GL
Let All Things Now Living		CH
People Need the Lord by G. Nelson and P. McHugh		
The Way I Was Made by E. Cash, J. Reeves, C. Tomlin		
This Is My Father's World		HFG
We Give Thee but Thine Own		HFG
What God Ordains Is Always Good		LW
You Do All Things Well by J.M. Clement & J. Reeves		

Focus on life in worship

Choose Life by B. Batstone & S. Wiggins	
Father, I Adore You by T. Coelho (quiet and meditative)	MP
Find Us Faithful by J. Mohr (for close of service)	MC2
Lord, Be Glorified by B. Kilpatrick (quiet and meditative)	GL
Now Thank We All Our God	LW
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	HWC
Shine, Jesus, Shine by G. Kendrick (commitment to radiating God's truth)	MC2
The Greatest thing by M. Pendergrass (quiet and meditative)	GL
They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love	HFG
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	SBH

Focus on God's love for children

Away in a Manger	HFG
Children of the Heavenly Father	HFG
Jesus Loves Me, This I Know	HFG
Jesus Loves the Little Children	HFG
Roses by F. MacKrell and P. Naish	

Surrender to God's will

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord	CH
Change My Heart, O God by E. Espinosa	MC2
God in Heaven (Prayer for a New Year) by P. Lessard	
Have Thine Own Way, Lord!	HFG
He Giveth More Grace	HFG
If You Will Only Let God Guide You	CH
I Give You My Heart by R. Morgan	
I Will Follow by J. & A. Barbour	
Search Me, O God by J. & D. Hunt	
Spirit Song by J. Wimber	MP
Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated	HFG
Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord	LH
Trust and Obey	HFG
Your Will, Not Mine by R. & C. Harris	

Confession and Grace

Alas, My God, My Sins Are Great	LW
Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound	HFG
And Can It Be?	HWC
Just as I am, without One Plea	LW
Kyrie by S. Amerson & B. Cantos	
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	SBH
O How He Loves You and Me	HFG
Today Your Mercy Calls Us	.....LW

When facing fears and/or death

Asleep in Jesus! Blessed Sleep	LH
Because He Lives by G. & Wm. Gaither	
For all the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest	LW
Gentle Shepherd	HFG
He Who Began a Good Work in You by J. Mohr	MC2
If You But Trust in God to Guide You	LW
I'm But a Stranger Here	LW
It Is Well with My Soul	HFG
Lord Jesus, Think on Me	CH
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	.....HFG
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need	HFG
Nearer, My God, to Thee	LW
On Eagle's Wings by M. Joncas	
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	CH
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	CH
Rock of Ages	HFG
Safely Home by J. Mohr	
Shepherd's Song by S. Amerson & L. Alexander	
The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want	LW
The New 23 rd by R. Carmichael	GL
We Cannot Measure How You Heal	CH
You are My Hiding Place by M. Ledner	MP

Christ's victory over death

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness	LBW
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!	LBW
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	HFG
Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!	LBW
With High Delight Let Us Unite	LBW
Thine Is the Glory	LBW

Reminders of God's love

A Mighty Fortress is Our God	CH
God Will Take Care of You	HWC
Great Is Thy Faithfulness	HFG
He Hideth My Soul by F. Crosby	
How Deep the Father's Love for Us by S. Townend	
How Great Th Art	CH
Oh, How He Loves You and Me by K. Kaiser (quiet and meditative)	GL
Who Am I? by M. Hall	

Resources

- CH The Covenant Hymnal
1996, Covenant Publications, Chicago, IL
- GL Great is the Lord
1984, Pilot Point Music, Lillenas Publishing, Kansas City, MO
- HFG Hymns for the Family of God
1976, Paragon Associates, Nashville, TN
- HWC The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration
1986, Word Music, Waco, TX
- LBW Lutheran Book of Worship
1978, Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship,
Augsburg Publishing, Minneapolis, MN
- LH The Lutheran Hymnal
1941, Concordia Publishing, St. Louis, MO
- LW Lutheran Worship
1982, Concordia Publishing, St. Louis, MO
- MC2 Master Chorus Book II
1994, Lillenas Publishing, Kansas City, MO
- MG Moments of Grace
2002, Wheat Ridge Ministries, Creative Communications for the
Parish, Fenton, MO

MP Maranatha Music Praise Chorus Book, 2nd ed.
1990, Maranatha! Music, USA

SBH Service Book and Hymnal
1958, The Commission on the Liturgy and Hymnal,
Augsburg Publishing, Minneapolis, MN