

2011

2011 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Week of the Laity



Laity 2011

The Laity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are always involved in the functions of the church. From teaching Sunday school to preparing a fellowship gathering, the laity of the church participate. Laity Sunday, however, is a time when the lay people of the church pause to consider their gifts and are intentional in offering these gifts in worship and in other ways on this designated Sunday. As Disciples of Christ, we pro-

claim that we are followers of the examples and instructions that Christ has given us. We can each, regardless of age, make our own unique contributions to proclaim our positions as Christ's followers on Laity Sunday and every day. Though we often lean on our Pastor (Shepherd) to be our spiritual leader, as the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9-10), we too can take time to prepare for and to worship God.

2011



Inside:

Overview	2
Worship Instructions	3
Worship	4
Music Library	12
Parables	26
Volunteer List	27
Internet Resources	28

PRE-SERVICE PREPARATION

Take time to begin all activities with prayer. If there is to be a leadership team, invite everyone to stop for a brief time to come together and pray, asking that God directs the activities of the day.

All participants are worship coaches, who are commissioned to encourage the congregation to praise and to honor God. The purpose of worship is not to be entertained, it is to please God.

Written and compiled by Lonnie Graves

Overview

Often times a pastor, elder or other leader may have identified a person to chair the organization of the Lay Sunday events. That person may have already participated in leading worship in your congregation, or participated in other active roles in the church, so they may be helpful to others. Identify key participants based on observed gifts and talents. **Use the Appendix form A** found at the end of the resource materials.

An email or postal mailed letter should be sent to participants (or passed out at a planning meeting) prior to Laity Sunday. It can be simple and might sound something like this:

Thank you so much for agreeing to participate in this year's Laity Sunday activities. This congregation has long appreciated the efforts of its participants and worship leaders, bringing a variety of gifts and styles to our worship. May God bless you as you share your gifts with us!

The chair of this committee or planning team or worship leader for this event has two important tasks:

- 1) Plans the worship service using this resource and adjusting it to the needs and personality of your congregation, and planning a timeline.
- 2) Leads the worship service.

The Worship outline is on page 4.

Give the planning team plenty of time to study the themes and scriptures and resources, name the participants, and prepare for the event. Be aware that in this resource material there is a suggestion for the youth to visit the ill and shut-in members to hear their story and present these stories and their own as the message. If this option is selected, talk with the youth leader and prepare with as much lead time as possible. This will enable the youth to design a wonderful message.

On Laity Sunday, if there are visitors and if the worship service has unusual aspects that might confuse visitors, please be sensitive to that and offer an explanation at the beginning of the service. You might say something along the lines of "Today's service is a bit different from our usual services in that...."

In an effort to separate the announcements from focused times of prayer and the sharing of the message, it is encouraged that these announcements are made at a pre-determined time that is separate from prayerful moments. This might be very early in the service or just before prayers of the people. You will not find "announcements" in the Order of Worship so that each congregation can determine where it will fit best, based on the needs and traditions of the church. You will want to keep the announcements short.

**Today's service
will be a little
different from
our usual
services ...**



Worship Instructions and Guidelines

Worship is a time to let God know our love. Worship is a time to give glory and honor to God. It is a time to acknowledge God in our lives. It is a time to recognize the gifts and blessings God has given to us. Worship is a time to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit and to understand the incredible gift God gave us in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are many places in the Bible that show expressions of worship. In Exodus 15:19 Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron's sister, worshipped with tambourine and dancing. In Psalm 134 they lifted their hands in the sanctuary and songs of praise are throughout the Psalms. Many of today's worship practices are rooted in the scriptures.

As you will find in these resources, a prepared service of worship, is designed. You may extract segments to include in worship services you have prepared, or add to what is written, according to your needs. Remember, this is worship, and it is your time to express your love to God.

Guidelines for children's moment segment in worship found on page five.

You might prepare for this segment of the service by bringing in photos of a few children from different communities or other places around the world (there are some YouTube links in the appendices at the end of this resource). After singing the refrain of "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (page 13) then have a conversation with the children about the part of the song that says "all the children of the world" as you show them the photos. If you are able to use them during your service, there are YouTube links to other children singing the same song. Preview them at home to decide if they would be a resource for the children's moment or in Sunday school class. Ask them what this song means to them.

If you have a small group or very young children, speak to them based on the most familiar part of the song. If your children are older, after your discussion of the refrain, dissect the messages in each stanza one-at-a-time (you might have different children read each stanza and pause after each to discuss). Ask for their thoughts of what each stanza means. Ask how the song relates to the story that was just read. The song with all stanzas and URL for melody can be found in appendix B. A second song you might use if you prefer is "Jesus Loves Me" which can be found in appendix B. You can end the children's time with a prayer and by singing the song (as much as you like). You might ask the congregation to join you.



Guidelines for The Sermon/Message found on page six.

Note: On Laity Sunday the message can be delivered in many ways. If only one person is delivering the message, encourage time for prayer and discernment that God will direct the design and content of the message. With the theme "I Love to Tell the Story," it is suggested that you visit the parables (stories) told by Jesus (see appendix C). Try to identify a parable that speaks to the heart of the one delivering the Laity Sunday message as it encourages the presenter to develop their own story as they share part of their personal spiritual journey. This is an opportunity to inform others of how God has worked in their lives.

We are also offering a collaborative choral reading (following) which will compile selected parables and sift them through today's filters and align them with real events in the presenters' lives. The transitions from reader to reader will be bridged with a hymn stanza sung by the congregation.

Worship Service

Call to Worship

We are gathered here in this place to glorify God! We acknowledge God's presence and invite in the Holy Spirit, recognizing that God is the reason we are gathered here. We are here in this place to hear the stories. We are in this place to listen for the truth. We are gathered in this place as followers of Jesus Christ to seek the truth. Let us worship.

Hymn *(see appendix B – Music Library for all verses and internet connection for the melody. Also find other hymn choices if you would prefer.)*

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Litany

Leader: I love to tell the story

People: Jesus told the parable of The Mustard Seed

Leader: I love to tell the story

People: Jesus told the parable of The Pearl of Great Price

Leader: I love to tell the story

People: Jesus told the parable of The Sower

Leader: I love to tell the story

People: Jesus told the parable of The Talents

Leader: I love to tell the story

All: Jesus told many stories that we might learn. We are ready to listen and we are ready to learn. I am listening.

Reader: Matthew 19:13-14 (New International Version)

The story of the Little Children and Jesus

¹³Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

¹⁴Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Would the children please come forward and join us for a time for children.

Time for Children (optional if children are not otherwise involved in the service)

You will find suggestions for this part of the service on page three.

(Greet the Children and ask them if they were listening to the story that was just shared in the scripture.)

You might begin by saying something like this: I would like to begin by asking you a couple of questions. Were you listening to the story that was just read? Do you know the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children" of the world? (Give the children time to answer and then offer an opportunity to sing the part that is most familiar to them.)

***Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world***

Pray together and sing together to close the session.

Scripture

Mark 4:10-12 (Contemporary English Version)

Why Jesus Used Stories

¹⁰When Jesus was alone with the twelve apostles and some others, they asked him about these stories.

¹¹He answered:

I have explained the secret about God's kingdom to you, but for others I can use only stories. ¹²The reason is, "These people will look and look, but never see. They will listen and listen, but never understand. If they did, they would turn to God, and he would forgive them."

Scripture Response

All: As we hear the stories and parables of Jesus, it is our prayer that we will listen, really listen and look and understand. It is our prayer that we are open to hear the truth.

Prayers of the People

Most gracious God, we come before you, asking you to be attentive of those of us gathered here today, and also of those who are not present. We ask that you remember those who are ill or facing life challenges that are so prevalent today for many people. We pray for all of us, each with our own stories to tell. We ask that you are with our children, who are collecting new stories of their own. We ask for them, guidance and direction. For those who bridge the gap between generations, we ask for your wisdom and times for personal enrichment. For those who have moved into their senior years, we ask for strength and support. For those who are scattered and wandering, we ask for clear direction and encouragement that they may find the joy in Christ.

For the wars, natural disasters and troubles of this world, we ask that your Holy Spirit is present to guide the leaders of all nations. We pray for the suffering children and families in all places.

We pray now, that you hear our voices as we release to you the names that are on our hearts, that you are present in each of their lives and mindful of their challenges and victories.

(Pause and let the congregants offer names)

We know you hear our prayers and know our needs. May we now commend them to you. We know you are our refuge and helper, and that you gave to us, the greatest gift in our Savior, Jesus Christ in who's name we pray and who taught us to pray in this manner:

(Insert The Lord's Prayer in the translation that is most common in your congregation.)

Amen

The Sermon/ Message

Collaborative Choral Reading

(to be used as all or part of the sermon)

Facilitator:

If we truly listen, we can learn from the story. Mark 4:33,34 from the Contemporary English Version gives us this message:

³⁴Jesus used stories when he spoke to the people. In fact, he did not tell them anything without using stories. ³⁵So God's promise came true, just as the prophet [a] had said, "I will use stories to speak my message and to explain things that have been hidden since the creation of the world."

Congregational Response – sings: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus - Parker / Challinor

*Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
Things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here;
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

Reader #1:

I love to tell the story of LIGHT - Luke 11:33-36 (CEV)

(To be read by a child between 4th and 6th grade)

³³No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a clay pot. A lamp is put on a lampstand, so that everyone who comes into the house can see the light. ³⁴Your eyes are the lamp for your body. When your eyes are good, you have all the light you need. But when your eyes are bad, everything is dark. ³⁵So be sure that your light isn't dark-ness. ³⁶If you have light, and nothing is dark, then light will be everywhere, as when a lamp shines brightly on you.

Reader #2:

(insert readers name and topic title here)

Tells personal story of a time he/she was quiet about being a Christian. Perhaps it will be a story of opportunity when the good news was shared when one least expected to do so.

Congregational Response – sings: This Little Light of Mine

*This little light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

(add additional verses as desired)

Reader #3:

I love to RAP the story and tell it just right.

(To be read or rapped by a teenager, or two or three if they design it that way)

The kingdom is like a mustard seed
Small at first but it did succeed
To grow with branches far and wide
Onto which birds did abide

The visible church started quite small
But popular today with buildings quite tall
But beware of the birds that nest in its branches
who take advantage of the circumstances

Reader #4:

Translation: (pause) This story is not about a bush or a tree. What he said was:
I love to tell the story of what is like the kingdom of heaven - Mark 4:30-32 (CEV)
 (pause)

³⁰Finally, Jesus said: What is God's kingdom like? What story can I use to explain it?

³¹It is like what happens when a mustard seed is planted in the ground. It is the smallest seed in all the world. ³²But once it is planted, it grows larger than any garden plant. It even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to nest in its shade.

Congregational Response – sings: *Shall We Gather at the River*

*Shall we gather at the river,
 Where bright angel feet have trod,
 With its crystal tide forever
 Flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
 The beautiful, the beautiful river;
 Gather with the saints at the river
 That flows by the throne of God.*

Reader #5:

I love to tell the story of *The Sheep and the Goats* - Matthew 25:31-46 (The Message)

³¹⁻³³"When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

³⁴⁻³⁶"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
 I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
 I was homeless and you gave me a room,
 I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
 I was sick and you stopped to visit,
 I was in prison and you came to me.'

³⁷⁻⁴⁰"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

⁴¹⁻⁴³"Then he will turn to the 'goats,' the ones on his left, and say, 'Get out, worthless goats! You're good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,
 I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
 I was homeless and you gave me no bed,
 I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
 Sick and in prison, and you never visited.'

⁴⁴"Then those 'goats' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help?'

⁴⁵"He will answer them, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.'

⁴⁶"Then those 'goats' will be herded to their eternal doom, but the 'sheep' to their eternal reward."

Reader #6--9:

If you have one who has a personal story of a time he or she had an opportunity to share the good news with someone, or demonstrated their love as is outlined in passage above. If this is not an option, share this passage with two or three who are willing to reflect on it and write and share a couple of passages. Consider asking one of the seniors of the church, a working member and again, a teenager or young adult.

Congregational Response – sings: *Wonderful Story of Love – Driver/Driver*

*Wonderful story of love;
 Tell it to me again;
 Wonderful story of love;
 Wake the immortal strain!
 Angels with rapture announce it,
 Shepherds with wonder receive it;
 Sinner, oh, won't you believe it?
 Wonderful story of love.*

Refrain:

*Wonderful! Wonderful!
 Wonderful, wonderful story of love.
 (add additional verses as desired. Words and melody found in appendix C.)*

(Optional Hymn substitution: *Wonderful Words of Life in the Chalice Hymnal on page 323*)

Facilitator:

You have heard, again, some of the stories that were told by Jesus through parables. You have also heard some of the stories and reflections of the people of this congregation. As lay people, we are to revisit these stories as we get older, that we don't continue to understand them as a child but to continue to grow on this journey, that in all things we glorify God. Let each of us find our purpose and live it fully.

All:

Jesus told many stories that we might learn. We are ready to listen, we are ready to learn.

Offering

Each day, God gives from His bounty, let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

Call to Discipleship

You have heard stories of the love of Jesus Christ. If you want to be a follower, believe the good news of God's abounding love in Jesus Christ. Persons desiring to make their confession of faith in Christ and to be baptized into his body, or to transfer membership to this congregation, or to renew their Christian commitment, may come forward as the congregation sings a hymn of dedication.

Hymn

Page 609

Take my Life and Let it Be
Chalice Hymnal

(If individuals come forward, greet them and have the Pastor or an Elder join you according to the traditions of your congregation.)

Communion Meditation**First Reader – Communion**

Everything we do in public assembly is a measure of our respect for God. Nothing we do should dishonor God – at church or in our daily lives. Because we do fall short of respecting God in everything we do or think, we are indeed blessed to have Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Today, we are gathered as a portion of Christ's church, and in the scriptures, Jesus reminds of his promise: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Second Reader - Communion

We are gathered here, in the name of Jesus Christ. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, there are similar accounts of the time when Jesus sat down with his disciples to share a most important meal. In Matthew, the 26th chapter, beginning with the 26th verse it is written:

Third Reader - Communion *(or the Pastor or an Elder if that is the preference of your church)*

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Second Reader - Communion

And in the next verse of the same passage it is also written:

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

First Reader - Communion

And so, in the same manner, we will share the cup, and together we will sing a hymn. Please join in this feast, as again, we have heard the story of the gift of the covenant that has been poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.

(Share here the method in which the communion will be distributed.)

Hymn

Page 480

I Love to Tell the Story

Chalice Hymnal

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

(additional verses found in Chalice Hymnal)

Benediction Litany

Leader:

Please stand and join me in our Benediction Litany:

And so, we too are disciples, each with gifts we have been given to glorify God. And as Jesus sent them out into the world, let us know that it is still our responsibility to carry with us, all of us and every day, the good news of Jesus Christ. Let us remember that life is a journey with others.

Community:

We travel as a people on a winding road. We share our stories, our lives, our experiences, our hopes, our fears.

Leader:

With joy and hope we welcome other travelers to share our stories and our lives. We learn from each other.

Community:

We laugh and cry with each other. Life is a series of hellos and good-byes.

Leader:

Christ walks with us in newness of life: go forth in confidence and joy! Tell your story.

Everyone together:

We love to tell the story. We are the voices, we will tell the story of Jesus Christ, the one we love to hear. We are the body of Christ, and with our voices, we will share the good news.

Appendix B

Music Library

In the collection of hymns and music that follow, every effort has been made to provide resources to help you prepare for the worship and study experience. When possible, you will find the sheet music for a pianist or organist to accompany the vocals. In the event that is not available, refer to your Chalice Hymnal.

It is also exciting to provide at the end of the lyrics page, website addresses that may provide more information on the music and in some cases an opportunity to listen to the melody if you are not familiar with the song.



Jesus Loves the Little Children - Clare H. Woolston

Jesus calls the children dear,
"Come to Me and never fear,
For I love the little children of the world;
I will take you by the hand,
Lead you to the better land,
For I love the little children of the world."

Refrain:

*Jesus loves the little children,
[*Jesus died for all the children,]
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
*Jesus loves the little children of the world.
[*Jesus died for all the children of the world.]

Jesus is the Shepherd true,
And He'll always stand by you,
For He loves the little children of the world;
He's a Savior great and strong,
And He'll shield you from the wrong,
For He loves the little children of the world.

I am coming, Lord, to Thee,
And Your soldier I will be,
For You love the little children of the world;
And Your cross I'll always bear,
And for You I'll do and dare,
For You love the little children of the world.

*Alternate text for refrain.

URL for Jesus Loves the Little Children

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Jesus_Loves_the_Little_Children/

The Melody:

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Jesus_Loves_the_Little_Children/midi/

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

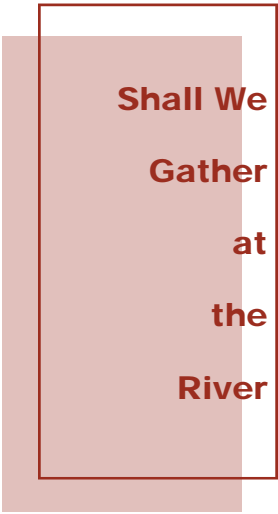
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will talk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

At the smiling of the river,
Mirror of the Savior's face,
Saints, whom death will never sever,
Lift their songs of saving grace.

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.



Shall We
Gather
at
the
River

URL for Shall We Gather at the River

[http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Shall We Gather at the River/](http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Shall_We_Gather_at_the_River/)

For the Melody:

[http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Shall We Gather at the River/midi/](http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Shall_We_Gather_at_the_River/midi/)

Shall We Gather at the River?

REVELATION 22:1-2
R. L., 1864

HANSON PLACE
Robert Lowry, 1864

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod, _____
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, _____
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we eve - ry bur - den down; _____
 4. At the smil - ing of the riv - er, Mir - ror of the Sav - ior's face, _____
 5. Soon we'll reach the sil - ver riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease; _____

With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
 We will talk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
 Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown,
 Saints, whom death will nev - er sev - er, Lift their songs of sav - ing grace.
 Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er.

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus -

William H. Parker / Frederick A. Challinor

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
Things I would ask Him to tell me if He
were here; Scenes by the wayside, tales of
the sea, Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round
His knee, And I shall fancy His blessing
resting on me; Words full of kindness,
deeds full of grace, All in the love light of
Jesus' face.

Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the
sea, Tossing the boat in a tempest on Gali-
lee; And how the Maker, ready and kind,
Chided the billows, and hushed the wind.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
Waving a branch of the palm tree high in
my hand; One of His heralds, yes, I would
sing Loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

Show me that scene in the garden, of bitter
pain; Show me the cross where my Savior
for me was slain; Sad ones or bright ones,
so that they be Stories of Jesus—tell them
to me.

URL for Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Tell_Me_the_Stories_of_Jesus/

The Melody:

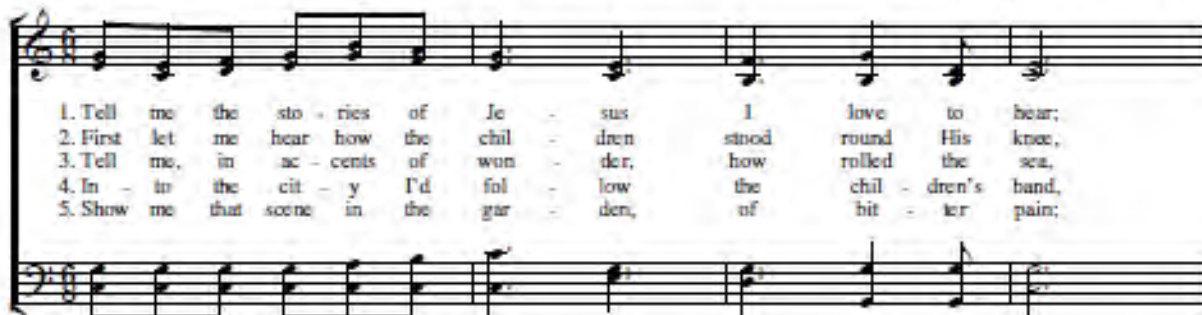
http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Tell_Me_the_Stories_of_Jesus/midi/

Tell Me the
Stories of
Jesus I
Love to
Hear

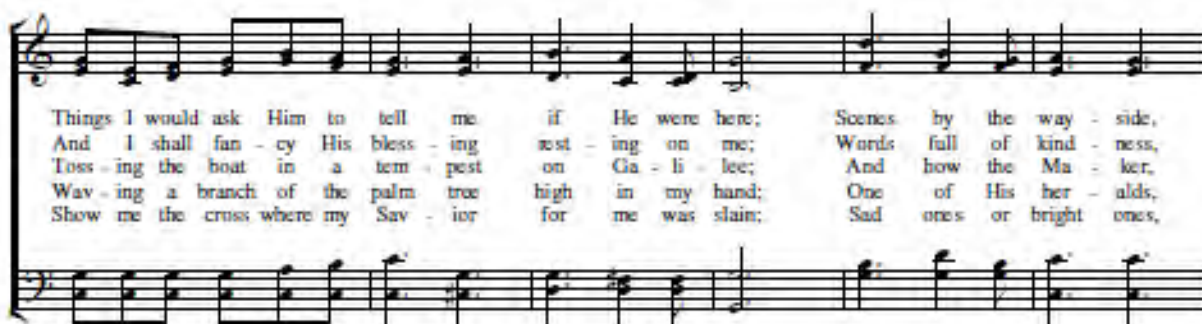
Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

MATTHEW 19:14
William H. Parker, 1885

STORIES OF JESUS
Frederick A. Challinor, 1903



1. Tell me the sto - ries of Je - sus I love to hear;
2. First let me hear how the chil - dren stood round His knee,
3. Tell me, in ac - cents of won - der, how rolled the sea,
4. In - to the cit - y I'd fol - low the chil - dren's band,
5. Show me that scene in the gar - den, of bit - ter pain;



Things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here; Scenes by the way - side,
And I shall fan - cy His bless - ing rest - ing on me; Words full of kind - ness,
Toss - ing the boat in a tem - pest on Ga - li - lee; And how the Ma - ker,
Wav - ing a branch of the palm tree high in my hand; One of His her - alds,
Show me the cross where my Sav - ior for me was slain; Sad ones or bright ones,



tales of the sea, Sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.
deeds full of grace, All in the love light of Je - sus' face.
read - y and kind, Chid - ed the bil - lows, and hushed the wind.
yes, I would sing Loud - est ho - san - nas, "Je - sus is King!"
so that they be Sto - ries of Je - sus— tell them to me.

Revive us Again - William P. Mackay / John J. Husband

We praise Thee, O God!
For the Son of Thy love,
For Jesus Who died,
And is now gone above.

Refrain

Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Hallelujah! Amen.
Hallelujah! Thine the glory.
Revive us again.

We praise Thee, O God!
For Thy Spirit of light,
Who hath shown us our Savior,
And scattered our night.

All glory and praise
To the Lamb that was slain,
Who hath borne all our sins,
And hath cleansed every stain.

All glory and praise
To the God of all grace,
Who hast brought us, and sought us,
And guided our ways.

Revive us again;
Fill each heart with Thy love;
May each soul be rekindled
With fire from above.

URL for Revive us Again

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Revive_Us_Again/

The Melody:

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Revive_Us_Again/midi/

Halleluiah,
Thine the
Glory,
Halleluiah
Amen

Revive Us Again

Psalm 85:4
William P. Mackay, 1863

John J. Husband, 1815

1. We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love,
 2. We praise Thee, O God! For Thy Spirit of light,
 3. All glo - ry and praise To the Lamb that was slain,
 4. All glo - ry and praise To the God of all grace,
 5. Re - vive us a - gain; Fill each heart with Thy love;

For Je - sus Who died, And is now gone a - bove.
 Who hath shown us our Sav - ior, And scat - tered our night.
 Who hath burne all our sins, And hath cleansed eve - ry stain.
 Who hast brought us, and sought us, And guid - ed our ways.
 May each soul be re - kind - led With fire from a - bove.

Refrain

Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry. Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men.

Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry. Re - vive us a - gain.

Be Still My Soul - Katharina A. von Schlegel / Jean Sibelius

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
 Leave to thy God to order and provide;
 In every change, He faithful will remain.
 Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
 Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
 To guide the future, as He has the past.
 Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
 And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
 Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,
 Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
 Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
 From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
 When we shall be forever with the Lord.
 When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
 All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise
 On earth, believing, to Thy Lord on high;
 Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,
 So shall He view thee with a well-pleased eye.
 Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine
 Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.

URL for Be Still My Soul

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Be_Still_My_Soul/

The Melody:

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Be_Still_My_Soul/midi/

Be Still My
 Soul the
 Lord is on
 thy side.

Be Still, My Soul

2 CHRONICLES 14:11

Katharina A. von Schlegel, pub. 1752; tr. by Jane L. Borthwick, pub. 1855

FINLANDIA

Jean Sibelius, 1899

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side. Bear pa-tient-ly the
 2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un-der-take To guide the fu-ture,
 3. Be still, my soul: when dear-est friends de-part, And all is dark-ened
 4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hast-ning on When we shall be for-
 5. Be still, my soul: be-gin the song of praise On earth, be-liev-ing,

cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide;
 as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
 in the vale of tears, Then shalt thou bet-ter know His love, His heart,
 ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,
 to Thy Lord on high; Ac-know-ledge Him in all thy words and ways,

In eve-ry change, He faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: thy
 All now mys-ter-ious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the
 Who comes to soothe thy sor-row and thy fears. Be still, my soul: thy
 Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul: when
 So shall He view thee with a well-pleased eye. Be still, my soul: the

best, thy heav'n-ly Friend Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 waves and winds still know His voice Who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
 Je-sus can re-pay From His own full-ness all He takes a-way.
 change and tears are past All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.
 Sun of life di-vine Through pass-ing clouds shall but more bright-ly shine.

Jesus Loves Me - Anna B. Warner / William B. Bradbury

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."

Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.

URL to Jesus Loves Me

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Jesus_Loves_Me/

The Melody:

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Jesus_Loves_Me/midi/

Chalice Hymnal page 113

Yes,
Jesus
Loves
Me!

Wonderful Story of Love – Driver / Driver

Wonderful story of love; Tell it to me again; Wonderful story of love; Wake the immortal strain! Angels with rapture announce it, Shepherds with wonder receive it; Sinner, oh, won't you believe it? Wonderful story of love.

Refrain:

Wonderful! Wonderful!
Wonderful, wonderful story of love.

Wonderful story of love; Though you are far away; Wonderful story of love; Still He doth call today; Calling from Calvary's mountain, Down from the crystal-bright fountain, E'en from the dawn of creation, Wonderful story of love.

Wonderful story of love; Jesus provides a rest; Wonderful story of love; For all the pure and blest, Rest in those mansions above us, With those who've gone on before us, Singing the rapturous chorus, Wonderful story of love.

URL for Wonderful Story of Love

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Wonderful_Story_of_Love/

The Melody:

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Wonderful_Story_of_Love/midi/



Wonderful
Story of
Love

Living for Jesus (Chisholm) | Thomas O. Chisholm

Living for Jesus, a life that is true,
Striving to please Him in all that I do;
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain:

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,
For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me;
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne;
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus Who died in my place,
Bearing on Calv'ry my sin and disgrace;
Such love constrains me to answer His call,
Follow His leading and give Him my all.

Living for Jesus, wherever I am,
Doing each duty in His holy Name;
Willing to suffer affliction and loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross.

Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of His smile;
Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

URL for Living for Jesus

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Living_for_Jesus_Chisholm/

Melody:

http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Living_for_Jesus_Chisholm/midi/

Living for
Jesus a
life that is
true

Living for Jesus (Chisholm)

ACTS 17:28
Thomas O. Chisholm, 1917

LOWDEN
Carl H. Lowden, 1915

1. Liv - ing for Je - sus, a life that is true, Striv - ing to please Him in all that I do;
2. Liv - ing for Je - sus Who died in my place, Bear - ing on Cal - v'ry my sin and dis - grace;
3. Liv - ing for Je - sus, wher - ev - er I am, Do - ing each du - ty in His ho - ly Name;
4. Liv - ing for Je - sus through earth's lit - tle while, My dear - est treas - ure, the light of His smile;

Yield - ing al - le - giance, glad - heart - ed and free, This is the path - way of bless - ing for me.
Such love con - strains me to an - swer His call, Fol - low His lead - ing and give Him my all.
Will - ing to suf - fer af - flic - tion and loss, Deem - ing each tri - al a part of my cross.
Seek - ing the lost ones He died to re - deem, Bring - ing the wear - y to find rest in Him.

Refrain

O Je - sus, Lord and Sav - ior, I give my - self to Thee, For Thou, in Thy a - tone - ment, didst

give Thy - self for me; I own no oth - er Mas - ter, my heart shall be Thy

throne; My life I give, hence - forth to live, O Christ, for Thee a - lone.

Appendix C

Table of Parables

Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Lamp Under a Basket	5:14-16	4:21-22	8:16-17 & 11:33-36
The Barren Fig Tree			13:6-9
New Cloth on Old Garment	9:16	2:21	5:36
New Wine in Old Wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:35-38
Building on Rock or on Sand	7:24-27		6:47-49
Faithful and Wicked Steward	24:45-51		12:42-28
The Sower	13:3-23	4:2-20	8:4-15
The Rich Fool			12:16-21
The Good Samaritan			10:30-37
The Mustard Seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
The Leaven	13:33		
The Creditor and Debtors			7:41-43
The Pearl of Great Price	13:45-46		
The Lost Sheep	18:14-12		15:3-7
The Two Sons	21:28-32		
The Fig Tree	24:32-44	13:28-32	21:29-33
The Wedding Feast	24:2-14		14:16-24
The Ten Virgins	25:1-13		

Appendix A

Volunteer List

2011

	Participant's Ministry	Name/Phone	Commitment Yes/No	Will attend rehearsal
LEADERSHIP ROSTER	Event Coordinator/Host			
	Children's Study Coordinator			
	Youth Study Coordinator			
	Prayer/Spiritual Leader			
WORSHIP ROSTER	Call to Worship			
	Opening Litany			
	Reader: <i>Matthew 19:13-14</i>			
	Time for Children			
	Scripture: <i>Mark 4:10-12</i>			
	Prayers of the People			
	The Sermon/Message			
	Facilitator			
	Reader #1			
	Reader #2			
	Reader #3 or group			
	Reader #4			
	Reader #5			
	Reader #6-9 <i>(depends on number of stories that will be shared.)</i>			
	Offering			
	Call to Discipleship			
	Communion Meditation			
	First Reader			
	Second Reader			
Third Reader				
Benediction Litany				

Appendix D

ONLINE

YouTube Video Library

For the first time, it is exciting to provide website addresses that will direct you to various YouTube sites where you can hear the melodies of selected songs and also view a video. For facilities that have internet and /or video connections, this may expand resources for worship options.

For those facilities that have video resources in the classroom, these may be good teaching resources for Sunday school classes.

The website addresses can be copied into, or cut and pasted into the search engine. A faster connection if you are on a computer with internet access is to click the cursor in the middle of the web address, then hold down the ctrl key, and while holding it down, left-click the mouse once. In most cases, this will take you directly to the internet site.

Please preview these sites first to make sure they are a fit for your congregation's worship style.

Appendix D

YouTube sources for selected supporting musical videos**Shout to the Lord**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I71XhjqpHvs&p=1D627C65C8554D95&playnext=1&index=5>

Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDxebXA13vA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qclNQcjCuA&NR=1>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKHK3_scRRk

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFjAT6wyU3o&NR=1>

Jesus Loves Me

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXp_MeJ5v6k

This Little Light of Mine

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RhUANmDXQI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx3nTsFJEOE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oNcmrhoZvI&feature=related>

I Love to Tell the Story

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkeQgwwuRKc>

Shall We Gather at the River

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGxrsqi5Jyo>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5V38FmDUJKI&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fIOyBZzxOM&feature=related>

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p74pB-WhsWE&p=1D627C65C8554D95&playnext=1&index=4>

**Shout to the
Lord, All the
Earth Let us
Sing!**

Week of the Laity



Contact Information

(888) 346-2631

Rev. Billye Bridges

Director of Christian Education
bbridges@dhm.disciples.org
(317) 713-2634

William Culp

Administrative Assistant
wculp@dhm.disciples.org
(317) 713-2637

<http://www.discipleshomeissions.org/pages/CE-Home>



*Laity writer **Lonnie Graves** is an Adjunct and Part-Time Instructor at two local colleges in California. She is also a private communications consultant and program developer and is currently doing historical research. She has also served as a director of women's ministries in the national office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).*



Why Jesus Used Stories

Mark 4:10-12 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁰When Jesus was alone with the twelve apostles and some others, they asked him about these stories. ¹¹He answered:

I have explained the secret about God's kingdom to you, but for others I can use stories.

¹²The reason is,

"These people will look and look, but never see. They will listen and listen, but never understand. If they did, they would turn to God, and he would forgive them."



Feedback Form: Disciples Home Missions 2011 Week of the Laity Resources

How are we doing? Please help us keep improving by offering us your feedback:

- This form can be printed and sent in the mail to *Disciples Home Missions* (see address below).
- An identical form can be filled out quickly on-line at the website: www.discipleshomemissions.org

Questions #1 to 4 have to do with what you thought about *DHM's Week of the Laity* resources:

1. Which most closely describes the portion of this year's *Laity* resources that your group used?
(a) none (b) theme only (c) some (d) most (e) all
2. How adaptable and appropriate did you find this year's materials to your congregation's needs?
(a) not at all (b) slightly (c) somewhat (d) very
3. Before this year, what has been your experience using *DHM Week of Laity* resources?
(a) never used before (b) used, often not helpful (c) used, sometimes helpful (d) used, usually helpful
4. How likely are you to use *DHM Week of Laity* resources next year?
(a) will not use (b) might use (c) probably will use (d) definitely will use

Answer #5 to 8 if your congregation held a Laity Sunday worship service of some type.

5. Approximately how many people were present at your Laity Sunday service?
(a) under 50 (b) 51-100 (c) 101-200 (d) 201-500 (e) over 500
6. How useful were the resources in helping your group plan, prepare, and conduct Laity Sunday?
(a) not at all (b) slightly (c) somewhat (d) very
7. How would you rate your overall Laity Sunday worship service?
(a) waste of time (b) slightly meaningful (c) somewhat meaningful (d) highly meaningful
8. How useful do you think the resources were in helping to equip your group to know, live and share the good news of Christ?
(a) not at all (b) slightly (c) somewhat (d) very

Free Response (feel free to add additional comments on the back or another page):

9. How will 2011's Laity Sunday be remembered at your church? (free response)
10. What about the *Laity Sunday Resources* did you particularly like or find helpful for your group?
11. What about the *Laity Sunday Resources* would you like to see changed or added for next year?

Return this form to:

Disciples Home Missions
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
Attention: William Culp

Optional information:

Congregation name, location

Person filling out this form/position in church:

Demographically, our congregation is: