

A COVENANT OF TRUST

Genesis 9:8-17 // Ideas for the First Sunday of Lent

Truth-telling, repentance, and Baptism all require trust – trust given by the covenant that God makes with us. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.

CHOOSING SCRIPTURE // FOR THE FOUNDATION

The following passage from Genesis 9:8-17 lays out a thematic foundation for this service. Other passages support this theme and might be utilized throughout the service.

- ◆ Psalm 25:1-10
- ◆ 1 Peter 3:18-22
- ◆ Mark 1:9-15

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ◆ **And Can It Be, That I Should Gain?**
Text and Music: Charles Wesley and Thomas Campbell
- ◆ **My Hope is Built on Nothing Less**
Text and Music: Edward Mote and William B. Bradbury
- ◆ **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**
Text and Music: Phil 4:6; Joseph M. Scriven and Charles C. Converse
- ◆ **How Deep the Father's Love For Us**
Text and Music: Stuart Townend
Stuart Townend Copyright © 1995 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)
- ◆ **At the Cross (Love Ran Red)**
Text and Music: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jones Myrin, Matt Armstrong, and Matt Redman
©2014 SIXSTEPSRECORDS/SPARROW RECORDS
- ◆ **He Will Hold Me Fast**
Text and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty
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CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Read the scripture passages above. Then, introduce and show these two videos from Work of the People [workofthepeople.com] instead of preaching a long message. Use the videos to prompt small group discussion.

[Away From Home, featuring Phuc Luu](#)

[Dust We Are and Shall Return](#)

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING



Christ in the Wilderness is a painting created by artist Kramskoi, Ivan Nikolaevich in Moscow, Russia. “The painting portrayed a lonely Jesus sitting on a stone in a desert, lost in melancholy meditation”. This painting can go along well with the scripture ideas listed above. Specifically, Mark 1: 9-15 which talked about the baptism of Jesus, and the temptation by Satan in the wilderness. You can find more information [here](#).

LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

How might today’s worship be applied in daily life? Are there any personal or communal action steps?

What are things that tempt us daily? How can we take that temptation to the Lord?

Do you fully trust God with your life? How do you see Him guiding your everyday walk?

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPING

For the worship space, everything should be kept to a minimum. You often see less in a church during this season because of the mourning that comes along with what Lent means. Many times, churches will present the color purple in some way in the worship space. Another option is to not use songs or texts that present the word “Alleluia” during this season.

WRITING POETRY // FOR PRAYING

Here are some thematic prayers that would flow well in a service for the first Sunday of lent:

God of wilderness and water,
 your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
 Guide us through this season,
 that we may not avoid struggle,
 but open ourselves to blessing,
 through the cleansing depths of repentance
 and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.

God of the covenant,
 in the glory of the cross
 your Son embraced the power of death
 and broke its hold over your people.
 In this time of repentance,
 draw all people to yourself,
 that we who confess Jesus as Lord
 may put aside the deeds of death
 and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

Here is a scripture-based prayer that would also flow well:

God of our salvation,
 your bow in the clouds
 proclaims your covenant with every living creature.
 Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth,
 that by your Holy Spirit,
 we may remember our baptismal vows
 and be keepers of your trust with earth and its inhabitants. Amen.

All prayers are from the Revised Common Lectionary Prayers which can be found [here](#).

A meditation for the Lenten season:

For us He was wounded; His head was pierced with thorns; His back ploughed with the scourge; His hands and feet pierced; His side riven; - all this that we might be healed; that in his wounds we might hide, and so be safe.

Meditation from Wikimedia Commons which can be found [here](#).



SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

*A Covenant of Trust/First Sunday of Lent // Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15
// Lent*

The Covenant: Truth-telling, repentance, and Baptism all require trust - trust given by a covenant that God makes with us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,

For we have not only met temptation, we have felt his grip.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,

For we have not only committed sin, we have felt his sting.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,

For we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

O come, let us worship the Lord!

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PROCESSION

WELCOME

Welcome everyone and invite them to prepare their hearts and minds for worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 9:8-17

SONGS OF WORSHIP

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Prayer of Illumination

This could be a great place for the painting "Christ in the Wilderness". While this photo is showing, you could have a prayer of illumination:

Through God's word, O Holy Spirit,
bring us closer to our Savior.

And in response, triune God, prompt our hearts to offer you sincere thanks for our salvation.

In the strong name of Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

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SCRIPTURE READING

Typically, this would be the reading that the message is based on.

SONG OF HOPE AND LONGING

He Will Hold Me Fast
And Can It Be, That I Should Gain?

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT// EUCCHARIST

CLOSING SONG

At the Cross (Love Ran Red)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Life and Ministry of our Church

BENEDICTION

Grace and peace to you
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the
present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Galatians 1:2-5, NIV

SENT OUT TO SERVE