

# Informal Service Order

(with highlighted All Age service ideas)

## OPENING WORSHIP:

1. Indescribable
2. He's got the World in His Hands (All Age) (encourage the children to do actions at the front!)
3. I give thanks to you my Heavenly Father (All Age)
4. Praise Him you Heavens
5. From the Tiny Ant (All Age)

## WELCOME & PRAYER/PRAISE

## INTRODUCTION

## READINGS

All Good Gifts Around Us: Genesis 1: 26-31, John 2:1-11  
The Price We Pay For Food: Leviticus 25:1-12 & 18-24, Luke 12:16-21  
Just Food: 1 Corinthians 10:23-31, Luke 4:16-21:  
Bread of Life: Hosea 2: 18-23, John 6: 5-12 & 48-51  
Feeding the Body of Christ: Luke 14:1 & 7-24, 1 Corinthians 12:17-27

## SERMON

Pick one of the sermon outlines in the sermon series – All Good Gifts Around Us, The Price We Pay For Food, Just Food, Bread of Life and Feeding the Body of Christ. As part of the sermon, link up a projector and watch the themed video. To make the sermon more interactive and engaging for all ages, you could also play some of the games below at the beginning of your sermon.

### **Food Show and Tell: (All Age)**

You could ask families or groups to bring in a few typical food items from their home, and interview them at the front of the church. The minister could introduce the members (a parent / child interviewee team would work well!) and then ask them various questions to do with the food, such as: [a] Is this one of your favourite foods? [b] Where did you / your parents buy it from? [c] If you were going to try and guess, how do you think it has probably been grown / made? [d] What kind of journey do you think this food would have been on to get from the field to the state it is now it?

### **Food Charades: (All Age)**

If you are talking about different food terms in your sermon, such as 'free range' or 'food miles', you could play a game of Food Charades at the beginning of your sermon to get families involved. Ask parent / children pairs to come to the front of the church and give them different terms to act out together, which the rest of the congregation guess – for example, you could have 'battery hen',



'free range', 'food miles', 'communion', 'fair trade', 'factory farm', 'pesticides' or 'supermarket'.

### **Fruits of the Forest (All Age)**

As you are speaking about the gift of delicious food, you could get the church community to try to identify some of the different fruit trees God has given us. You could ask some children to hold up pictures of trees while the rest of the congregation are asked which are which. You could have pictures of the following trees: Apple, Pear, Walnut, Pomegranate, Fig, Cherry, Orange, Pine Nut, Plum, Sweet Chestnut. Once you have tried to guess these trees, you could ask the congregation what they show you about different aspects of God's character? For example, you could ask what the trees show you about God's: Faithfulness (each year the tree produces fruit), abundance (many of these trees produce large amounts of food and the trees provide food for us and other creatures), joy (colour, shape and taste of all different foods).

## **TIME OF REFLECTION**

As part of your reflection time, why not have some activities at the front / back / side of the church that people can do as they think and pray about what they have heard? During this time, you could also have some contemplative worship music playing.

### **Rice and Seed Banner (All Age)**

During reflection time, children could make a rice and seed banner (lentils, coriander seeds, sunflower seeds etc) by sticking seeds onto a large piece of card / paper saying something like 'Bread of Life' or 'All Good Gifts Around Us'. For more colour, you could try doing potato prints and / or leaf art with brightly coloured paint. After the banner has dried, you could hang it in your church.

### **Seed Planting (All Age)**

Place a large tarpaulin on the floor at the back of the church and have a bag of compost, various types of seeds and lots of little plant pots. As part of the reflection time, you could encourage people to plant a seed and pray over it, thanking God for new life and asking Him to help us to live in a way that honour Him, other people and the whole of creation.

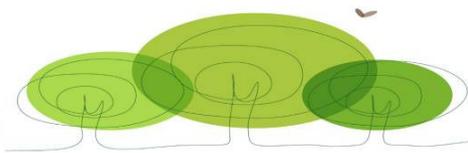
### **Food collage (All Age)**

Collect lots of old food magazines, as well as colourful farming pictures, farmer's market leaflets, photos of community meal times, people laughing etc... and bring in a large piece of card, scissors and glue. Encourage everyone to make a large church collage, showing the beautiful foods that God has created and the way in which food brings us together.

## **CREDAL STATEMENT**

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer:

- who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them
- who gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it 'very good'
- who crafts men and women, calling us to partner with him in caring for his world
- who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of creation to thrive
- who grieves at the way we neglect and spoil his masterpiece, and calls us to account



- who, like a loving parent, sees our weakness and yet persists in love
- who purposes to restore what is broken and retrieve what is lost

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ

- who shared with his father the wonder and promise of creation-tide
- who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain
- who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world
- who used the natural world to teach us more of God's nature
- who modelled for us a pattern for living with integrity even though it cost him everything
- who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope
- who returned home to his father – his earthly work complete

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit

- who danced in the darkness at the dawn of time to bring light and life
- who breathes life and purpose into all living things
- who inspires and guides all people of God throughout the ages
- who opens our eyes to injustice and points us truth-wards
- who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth
- who transforms our hearts and minds, empowering us to be faithful stewards
- who will lead us home at the end of our age

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing the earth and labouring for its healing and renewing,

- in loving obedience to God,
- following the example of Jesus Christ,
- and seeking the help of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*(Lynda Taylor – August 2007)*

## COLLECTIVE REPENTANCE

Lord God, we are sorry when we consume recklessly without thanking and without thinking. We are sorry for the way in which we partake in systems that destroy your world. Please help us to be mindful and to consider the way we live and the food that we buy, grow and eat.

## PRAYER

Thank God for His creation and the wonderful food that he provides for us. You could have a time of open thanksgiving prayer here, where you all close your eyes and anyone in the congregation can speak out and thank God for things which they are grateful for.

You could then pray for godly wisdom in our food choices, by saying this following prayer together:

On the web, in the supermarket, shop or store,  
*Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.*



Faced with over-packaging that simply goes to waste,  
*Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.*  
Calculating food miles, delivered door to door,  
*Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.*  
Fairtrade, convenience, cut price or organic,  
*Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.*  
Seeking conscientiousness, in all I'm shopping for,  
*Help me, Lord, to choose with you more.*

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

Send Revival Start with Me – Matt Redman  
We are Blessed (Bring Heaven to Earth) – Andy Flanagan  
Rise and Shine –

## **BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

Baptising Spirit – send us out to be hope-bringers to the tired and the vulnerable.  
Fire of the Spirit – send us out to be sparks that rekindle the blaze of your glory.  
Fruitful Spirit – send us out like branches as your fruit-bearing people.  
Gentle Spirit – send us out like doves as we confront humanity's insecurities and fears.  
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest on us now and always. Amen.

