



Worship materials for congregations

January 2021

At AMBS, we are aware of the toll that COVID-19 has had on pastors and worship planners over the last eight months. Even in a normal year, the Advent and Christmas season involves extra planning and work. During the pandemic, this planning has likely been even more exhausting.

We would like to offer support to worship planners for all you are doing to keep worship in your congregations vital in these extraordinary times. Members of the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary community have created elements of a worship service that we are offering to our constituent congregations.

These worship elements, featuring the story of Jesus in the temple as a boy (Luke 2:41-52), would fit particularly well on Jan. 3, 2021, for those following the narrative lectionary. The message of the sermon is broadly focused on the topic of faith formation, though, so it could easily be used at another time as well.

These are the worship elements we have prepared (**see next page**):

- a call to worship that can be done by one voice, two voices, or more.
- a song, "Jesus, we are here" (*Sing the Journey* #6), sung in several languages by AMBS students
- a prayer
- a presentation of Luke 2:41-52 by Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Director of Campus Ministries
- a sermon by AMBS President David Boshart that is based on the encounter of Jesus with temple leaders at age 12. The sermon speaks to the essential work of every congregation to create spaces where faith formation and vocational call of young and old alike are explored.
- a closing song, "The Lord lift you up" (*Sing the Journey* #73), sung by AMBS employees

The video elements are available in this playlist (**links are also included on the next page**):

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbOAx84ri7g24chhYnxsux3YQvJhxINOs

We invite you to use whatever parts of the service will be useful to you, or to pass these resources along to those who plan worship in your congregation. We would love to hear back from you if you decide to use any of the resources.

Blessings,
Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Director of Campus Ministries
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Worship materials

January 2021

Call to worship

(can be done by one voice, two voices, or more)

Joy to the world! The Savior of the world has come to us!

Joy to the earth! Jesus entered into our brokenness to bring us healing and hope.

Come to this time of worship, bringing your hopes as well as your heartaches.

We gather with Jesus in our midst, open to hearing God's wisdom,
and longing for our hearts to be stirred by the Holy Spirit.

—Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Director of Campus Ministries, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Song

"Jesus, we are here" (*Sing the Journey* #6), sung in several languages by AMBS students

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffUGAdTsZ3k&list=PLbOAx84ri7g24chhYnxsux3YQvJhxINOs&index=1>

Prayer

Jesus, we are here for you.

Like the wise ones who traveled to worship you at your birth,
we have gathered to proclaim you Savior of all people.

Like Anna and Simeon, who had been waiting with hope,
we look to you to bring healing and new life into our broken and hurting world.

Like the teachers and worshipers in the temple who were awed by your insights and questions,
we gather to hear your word to us.

Thank you for this new year, and for your mercies to us each new day. Amen.

—Janeen Bertsche Johnson, AMBS Director of Campus Ministries

Scripture presentation: Luke 2:41-52

Presented by Janeen Bertsche Johnson, AMBS Director of Campus Ministries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtBHPKQSK1Y&list=PLbOAx84ri7g24chhYnxsux3YQvJhxINOs&index=2>

Sermon: "Creating Space for the Important Questions"

Presented by David Boshart, AMBS President

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpsQRcQwNac&list=PLbOAx84ri7g24chhYnxsux3YQvJhxINOs&index=3>

Closing song

"The Lord lift you up" (*Sing the Journey* #73), sung by AMBS employees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2K7hFlmQh0&list=PLbOAx84ri7g24chhYnxsux3YQvJhxINOs&index=4>