

Resources for Ordained Ministry Sunday

We recommend that each local United Methodist Church celebrate a Call to Ordained Ministry Sunday. The suggested date is the second Sunday following Annual Conference, which is normally the time for the celebration of a new minister or the reappointment of the current minister.

The Revised Common Lectionary suggests the following scriptures for this Sunday (if this date falls after Trinity Sunday):

| Year A | Year B | Year C |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Gen 12:1-9 | 1 Sam 8:4-20 (11:14-15) | 1 Kings 17:8-24 |
| Ps 33:1-12 (UMH 767) | Ps 138 (UMH 853) | Ps 146 (UMH 858) |
| Rom 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31) | 2 Cor 4:13-5:1 | Gal 1:11-24 |
| Mt 7:21-29 | Mk 3:20-35 | Lk 7:11-17 |

An Order for the Celebration of an Appointment, *Book of Worship*, p. 595

Aldersgate Day or Sunday, *Book of Worship* (439)

Call to Worship

One: Our congregation is called to serve the Lord our God!

All: We celebrate our congregation's ministries to the world!

One: We are each called to serve the Lord our God through Baptism!

All: We celebrate our individual calls to Christian service.

One: Some are called to become ordained clergy. Others are called to serve as Local Pastors.

All: We celebrate those that choose this special form of Christian service for their lives. We thank them for celebrating the sacraments with us! We encourage those within our congregation that may be experiencing a call to become a pastor!

Scriptures - taken from *The Candidacy Guidebook*, by Richard A. Hunt and Robert F. Kohler, Third Edition 1989

| Old Testament | | New Testament | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Genesis 12:1-9 | Abram and Sarai | Luke 1 | Zechariah and Elizabeth |
| Genesis 32:22-32 | Jacob | Luke 1 | Mary |
| Exodus 3:1-4:20 | Moses | Matthew 1 | Joseph |
| Joshua 1 | Joshua | Luke 3:1-20 | John the Baptist |
| Judges 4:4-22 | Deborah | Matthew 3-4 | Jesus |
| Judges 6:11-18 | Gideon | Mark 1:9-12 | Jesus |
| 1 Samuel 1:1-4:1 | Hannah and Samuel | Luke 3:31-4:21 | Jesus |
| 1 Kings 17:1-19:21 | Elijah | Matthew 4:18-22 | The Disciples |
| Ruth 1:1-18 | Naomi and Ruth | Mark 1:16-20; 6:7-13 | The Disciples |
| Isaiah 6 | Isaiah | Luke 5:1-11 | Peter |

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|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Jeremiah 1:4-19 | Jeremiah | Matthew 9:9-13 | Matthew |
| Ezekiel 1-3 | Ezekiel | Acts 9 | Paul |
| Hosea 1:1-11 | Hosea | Romans 1:1-6 | Paul |
| Amos 1:1-2, 7:7-17 | Amos | 1 Corinthians 1:1 | Paul |
| Jonah 1-4 | Jonah | Galatians 1 | Paul |
| Zechariah 7 | Zechariah | 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5 | Timothy |
| | | Titus 2 | Titus |
| | | Luke 18:18-30A | Ruler |
| | | Luke 19:1-10 | Zacchaeus |
| | | John 3:1-16 | Nicodemus |

Hymns

What Gift Can We Bring (87)
 God Hath Spoken by the Prophets (108)
 How Can We Name a Love (111)
 Canticle of Covenant Faithfulness (125)
 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (127)
 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought (128)
 Give to the Winds Thy Fears (129)
 I Love to Tell the Story (156)
 Jesus Es Mi Rey Soberano (180)
 Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands (273)
 Woman in the Night (274)
 Where He Leads Me (338)
 Spirit of the Living God (393)
 Take Time to Be Holy (395)
 O Jesus, I Have Promised (396)
 Jesus Calls Us (398)
 Take My Life and Let It Be (399)
 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee (430)
 The Voice of God is Calling (436)
 O Young and Fearless Prophet (444)
 Lord, Speak to Me (463)
 The Prayer of Saint Francis (481)
 Are Ye Able (530)
 Called to God's Mission Hymns # 567-593

Liturgy (to be led by the Lay Leader)

One: We are thankful for our pastor who leads us in examples of Christian service.
All: Let us remember that we are all called to deeds of Christian service!
 One: We are thankful for our pastor who interprets the Word of God in preaching.
All: Let us meditate on the sermons that inspire us to Christian living!
 One: We are thankful for our pastor who administers with us the mystery of the Sacraments.

All: Let us embrace God's mystery in our lives!

One: We are thankful for our pastor who provides order and leadership within our congregation.

All: Let us thank God for calls to ordained ministry. Let us encourage those in our congregation who may be called to a ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament and Order!

Children's Sermon - have the pastor explain the stole and the symbolism of the yoke. Possibly show how weights can be carried around the neck. Show how the stole is a symbol of the pastor's service to the congregation. Let the children know that they may be called to be a pastor some day.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we seek your forgiveness in our lives. Too many times we seek to put other concerns ahead of you. We make idols of frivolous things. We spend more time in front of the television or on the computer than we do in prayer or service to you. Forgive us we pray. Let us truly seek your will for our lives. Let us open our ears and listen for your call in our lives. Lead us and guide us as your disciples. Use us as you would. We pray this in Christ's name.

All pray in Silence.

Words of Assurance (spoken by the pastor)

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we understand that God's grace and forgiveness is available to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Know that the Holy Spirit works in you to change your life for the better. Seek to understand how God is working in your life. Amen!

Call to Worship

One: We are called to worship, and called to serve.

All: Here we are, Lord.

One: We are called in the quiet of the night, and called in the faces of those who hunger for God's Word.

All: Here we are, Lord.

One: We are called to serve as laity, as deacons, and as elders. Each of us are called. When we are called to worship, to give thanks, to serve, to lead, help us, O God, to say with all our hearts . . .

All: Here we are, Lord!

Hymn Suggestions

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| <i>Here I Am, Lord</i> | UMH 593 |
| <i>God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian</i> | UMH 648 |
| <i>How Shall They Hear the Word of God</i> | UMH 649 |
| <i>Rescue the Perishing</i> | UMH 591 |
| <i>Lord, You Give the Great Commission</i> | UMH 584 |
| <i>Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service</i> | UMH 581 |
| <i>Whom Shall I Send?</i> | UMH 582 |

Children's Moment

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Focus: The call of God is a unique and individual thing. The focus of this sermon is to affirm that we may hear God calling our hearts when we least expect it.

Experience: To simulate Samuel's calling by having someone in the congregation call the name of one of the children three times, and sending the child to investigate. When the child is unable to discover the caller, you will explain how God calls us.

Arrangements: Choose someone to do the "calling," agree on which child's name will be called, and provide directions about when the calls are to come and how the caller can remain hidden from the child. Be sure to check before the service (or with the child's parents the night before) to make sure she/he is in church for the sermon.

LEADER: Well, hello! How is everyone today? Great to see you, and it's good that you all are here, because we have something very important to talk about . . . (*Provide cue to caller.*)

CALLER: Christopher!

L: What was that?

CHILDREN: Someone called Christopher!

L: (*Turning to Christopher*) Christopher, who would be calling you?

CHRISTOPHER: I don't know!

L: Well you'd better go see so that we can continue. (*Child goes out into congregation. In our case, Christopher is rather outspoken and so he demands . . .*)

CHRISTOPHER: Who called me? (*And of course, no one answers!*)

L: Well, Christopher, come on back and we'll keep going. Now let's see, I said, "Good morning," and then I said we had something important to talk about, and . . . (*Cue caller.*)

CALLER: Christopher!

L: Go ahead: see if you can find out who called. (*Christopher leaves to search, asks one or two people if they called him, returns with head shaking.*) Oh well, let's keep going. The important thing I want to talk to you about this morning is in the Bible, and . . . (*cue caller.*)

CALLER: Christopher!

CHILDREN: (*Giggles.*)

CHRISTOPHER: I know, I know, go and see who it is. (*Goes and returns with no luck.*)

L: Well, you know, this has worked out pretty well anyway, because I wanted to tell you about Samuel this morning. He was a young boy who served in the temple long ago. One night he kept hearing his name called, but he couldn't tell who it was. He thought it was the priest, but who do you think it turned out to be?

CHILDREN: God? Jesus?

L: That's right, it was God! Sometimes God can call us, maybe not with a voice that we hear, like Christopher's caller, but in a special voice that speaks to our hearts. Let's have a prayer and give thanks that God sometimes calls our hearts and tells us how much we are loved. (*Prayer.*)

**From Welcoming the Children: Experiential Children's Sermons by Brant D. Baker: Augsburg Press, 1995, ISBN 0-8066-2835-9.*

Scriptures

1 Samuel 3:10

Psalm 46

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Luke 1:26-38

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Offering Meditation

[A special offering will be taken each year during the Ministerial Sunday service. These special gifts will be placed in an endowment fund to help defray the cost of seminary expenses for those who are called to pastoral ministry. Resources for this meditation may well come from your own pastor and his or her struggle with the costs of such a necessary but expensive education.]

Prayers

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Ignatius of Loyola, Spain, 16th cent.