

For Caring for Creation Website—to accompany Worship Arts Article

From Lake Junaluska's Caring for Creation Conferences

Orders of Service

Notes Related to Orders of Service:

Call to Worship—Sunday Service, 2009 Conference:

The following script for the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Word and Drama leads directly into the Congregational Response printed in the order of worship. They flow as one unit.

Script for the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Word and Drama:

Lines in the following are simple and, for most effective presentation, need to be memorized. The word "stage," in the directions, refers to the area of action, not a literal stage. Stage "L" and "R" are from director's perspective, looking toward the stage. "Actors" for all parts may be either male or female.

Leader: *(Enters without notes, carrying bible w/marker at Luke 10:25-37, and speaking as s/he moves toward place at front:)*

We're so familiar with the Good Samaritan story that it is difficult to hear it anew, experience it differently. As we begin our worship, may we listen to its telling with reverent hearts and heightened sensitivity.

(Deliberately opens bible and looks around.) A lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

Speaker 1: *(Stands from front row.)* Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Leader: What is written in the law? What do you read there?

Speaker 1: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.

Leader: *(Looking pleased, nodding.)* You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.

Speaker 1: And who is my neighbor?

Leader: I'll tell you a story. *(Reads from bible as actors dramatize the reading. "Victim" carries Earth—an inflatable globe ball available from*

www.photomagnet.com (402-935-7733)

“Leader” must watch carefully, pausing as needed to allow time for the action.)

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

Action: 3 characters pantomime/act the robbery. The victim enters from stage left, walking purposefully, passes stage center, turns to walk toward stage front, is attacked by two robbers emerging from stage right. They take something, perhaps a scarf from around victim’s neck. Victim falls (right of center, near stage front), loosens hold on Earth. Robbers rapidly exit right.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Action: “Priest”, distracted, approaches (perhaps down side aisle or left of congregation) spots victim, stops in tracks, shows disgust, hurries far left, then to stage rear, and freezes facing left with nose in air.

So, likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Action: “Levite” approaches, perhaps from congregation right, struts by, then freezes near priest, arms crossed on chest, back turned to the fallen man.

But a Samaritan, while traveling came near him: and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

Action: Leader pauses in reading as needed to allow “Samaritan” to approach, see, show concern, put own shawl or jacket around victim.

Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.

Action: The Samaritan helps victim to feet and off stage, helping to carry Earth. He then returns to stand, back toward priest and Levite, acts taking money from wallet and placing it on outstretched hand in direction of victim’s exit, then freezes.

Which of these (*gesturing toward the 3*), do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?

Speaker 1: The . . .one. . .who showed him mercy.

Leader: Go and do likewise.

Speaker 1: But wait a minute. That guy was carrying . . . *Earth*?

Speaker 2: (*Stands, in audience, sounds puzzled at first*) Yeah. Strange, wasn’t it? But . . . maybe I get it. To violate Earth is to violate humanity and all of creation; so. . .to serve the earth is to serve those in need. And . . . to *really* care for the needy, we must care for Earth.

Speaker 3: (*Also stands, in audience*) That makes sense! Water pollution robs human and nonhuman, alike, of a necessity of life. Air

pollution steals health. Erosion snatches food from the hungry. And . . . perhaps the merciful need to think of their neighbors in time as well as space, and consider the kind of world we're leaving our descendants.

Leader: *(Turning to the priest, Levite, and Samaritan and gesturing toward them)*

Thank you.

Action: The priest, then the Levite, then the Samaritan exit, perhaps each with an appropriate "attitude."

Leader: *(Addressing congregation)* Turn, now, to the words in your bulletin,
(Pause)

Pick up here with the "Congregational Response" printed in the order of worship for the Sunday morning service of the 2009 Caring for Creation Conference) which begins with the Leader saying: Tell me. If you are to be a good neighbor. . . ." See "Orders of Service."

