



**WOMEN'S DAY  
(March is Women's History Month)**

**MUSIC & WORSHIP RESOURCES**

**Brandon A. Boyd**, Young Adult Liturgist

Minister of Music, Worship and Arts, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Choral Conducting Graduate Student, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL and

**Marty Austin Lamar**, Guest Lectionary Liturgist

Assistant Minister of Music, Turner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, Hyattsville, MD

**Worship Planning Notes**

**Creative Ideas to Integrate into the Worship Experience**

- Use pictures of phenomenal women, particularly within the church, to promote this special service. Use on the program cover or projected on screens prior, during, and after service.
- Celebrate the “SURVIVORS” within your congregation who have overcome sickness, imprisonment, recession, education challenges, etc. Allow these women the opportunity to serve as your worship leaders and program participants.

- There are several dramatic works written specifically about women. “Crowns” by Regina Taylor uses the emphasis church hat as its vehicle to discuss tradition, death, womanhood, and faith. This piece could be produced as a staged reading or as a vignette during the worship experience, or it could be incorporated into a hat show and tea.

Do not be afraid of using literature that is a bit more controversial. Be wise in your editing so that the work is appropriate for the church setting but not in a way that loses its meaning or reality. Please review the suggested list below:

The Exonerated: A New Play. By Jessica Blank and Eric Jensen

Rabbit Hole. By David Lindsay-Abaire

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf. By Ntozake Shange

Peace from Broken Pieces: How to Get Through What You’re Going Through. By Iyanla Vanzant

All excerpts presented during the worship experience should be minimally produced. Use all black costuming, stools, and music stands.

- Attempt to incorporate the national theme for Women’s History month as frequently as possible.

### NATIONAL THEME for 2013

**Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**

The national theme can be used creatively with the YOUTH of your congregation. Find women within your congregation who have careers in the listed fields of the theme. Have your youth interview these phenomenal women and broadcast the interview in a 20/20 format during a special event or throughout a series of worship services.

#### 1. Litany and Congregational Prayer

##### Women’s Sunday Litany

**Leader:** Today we celebrate the strength, power, passion, beauty, courage, and faith of women across this world. Made in the image and likeness of God, He chose the woman to lead, support, nourish, and deliver His glory to the earth.

**People:** **We praise God for the creation of the woman.**

**Leader:** We celebrate women for following the Savior’s example of service. These

vessels of life, these wives, these mothers, and these believers are often overlooked, choosing to relinquish their will for the uplifting of others.

**People:** **We honor God for endowing the spirit of service into the heart of the woman.**

Leader: We give reverence to every woman, who like the beautiful, thoughtful, mindful, and powerful women of scripture continue to defy odds, banish stereotypes, and serve in the face of oppression and tradition.

**People:** **We thank God for the unselfish spirit that lives in the heart of the woman.**

Leader: We honor the women of our past who were beaten, raped, and abused because of skin color and gender. We honor their resilience and intuition to escape and assist others with escaping. We honor those who blazed trails and rose above the conditions of their time. We honor those mighty women who tarried in prayer and sang the songs of Zion while their backs were lashed and their wombs mistreated.

**People:** **We worship God for the memory our ancestors, mothers, and grandmothers.**

Leader: We celebrate the women of today. We celebrate the sharing of their gifts, talents, and skills. We celebrate their ability to manage the home and the office. We celebrate their ability to serve as a public official and a Sunday School teacher. We celebrate those who are required to be both the matriarch and the patriarch, and those who are strong enough to fight for civil equality but gentle enough to be the woman of some man's dream.

**ALL:** **We praise God for the virtuous women who persevered through our yesterdays, influence our todays, and shape our tomorrows. From the rib of man God created woman. He has found favor in her and has sent her into the lives of every man and child. God's creation is man's testimony of God's never-ending love, grace, and mercy for His children.**

### **Congregational Prayer**

Leader: Most merciful and all-wise God, it is by your hand that you took the rib of Adam and made woman. We laud and glorify your holy name for the wisdom, strength, faith, and courage you birthed into the heart of every woman. Teach us, O Lord, to pattern our lives, our witness, and our service after the women of scripture whom you ordained to serve and labor in your kingdom.

**PEOPLE:** With Miriam, who with Moses and Aaron led the people of Israel out of Egypt; With Deborah, who judged the people of Israel in truth and righteousness; With Ruth, who was an example of faithfulness; With Mary Magdalen, who first brought the good news of the resurrection; With Phoebe, deacon and leader of the early Church; With Priscilla, who labored with Aquila in the service of Christ; With Dorcas, who tirelessly served, doing good and helping the poor; With Mary the mother of Jesus, who said “yes” with no holding back; With these, our sisters, we pray for women everywhere who see their families divided, their children sad.

Leader: We pray for women who against all odds create an environment of love and peace for their family to live in; we pray for women who, when tempted to give up, find new strength in you and continue to follow the path you have ordered.<sup>1</sup> God our God, you have made women in your own image and likeness. Teach us to trust your design and seek the divine destiny that you have for every woman in every corner of your universe.

**ALL:** Grant us favor and continue to protect our spirits from anything that may hinder our walk with you or our sister. We offer this prayer to you. Amen!

## **2. Hymns and Congregational Songs**

(a) Help Us Accept Each Other. By Fred Kaan. Tune, (AUERELIA).

(b) I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord. By Sylvana Bell and E.V. Banks

(c) God of Grace and God of Glory. By Harry Fosdick. Tune, (CWM RHONDDA).

(d) We've Come This Far by Faith. By Albert Goodson. Arr. by James Abbington

## **3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs**

(a) Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down. By P. Caldwell and S. Ivory

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNlNkfkJulw>

(b) Give Me Jesus. Negro Spiritual. Arr. by Nolan Williams

(c) This Day. By Edwin Hawkins

## **4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams**

(a) Still I Rise. By Rosephanye Powell

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8sfJ3KmsvI>

(b) Champion. By Ashaala Jenkins

(c) Strength. By John P. Kee

## **5. Liturgical Dance or Mime Ministry Music**

(a) Still I Rise. By Percy Brady

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efmV-qOtjql>

(b) My Refuge, My Strength. By Byron Cage

(c) I Look to You. By R. Kelly

#### **6. Anthems**

(a) Give Thanks and Sing for Joy. By Roy Belfield

(b) Hail Warrior. By Undine Smith Moore

(c) If I Faint Not. By Kevin and Celeste Johnson

#### **7. Modern Songs**

(a) I'm Still Standing. By Kurt Carr

(b) God Made Me. By Jules Martholomew

(c) Back to Eden. By Donald Lawrence

#### **8. Offertory Song or Instrumental**

(a) You're All I Need. By Jason Clayborn

(b) All of My Help. By T. Manley and N. McNair

(c) Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land. By Glenn Burleigh

#### **9. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer**

(a) Just a Little Talk with Jesus. By Cleavant Derricks. Tune, (JUST A LITTLE TALK).

(b) Is Your All on the Altar. By Elisha Hoffman

(c) What Shall I Render. By Margaret P. Douroux

#### **10. Sermonic Selection**

(a) It Pays to Serve Jesus. By Frank Huston

(b) Powerful God. By D. Kipping and J.J. Hairston

(c) Turning Around. By C. Rodgers, L. Gray, P. Feaster, and V. Mitchell

#### **11. Invitational Song or Instrumental**

(a) It Pays to Serve Jesus. By Frank Huston

(b) Give of Your Best to the Master. By Howard Grose. Tune by Charlotte Barnard

(c) I Trust in God. By W.C. Martin. Tune by C. Gabriel and V. Nix

## **12. Benediction Song or Instrumental**

(a) Order My Steps. By Glenn Burleigh

(b) The Lord Bless You and Keep You. By Peter Lutkin

(c) Till We Meet Again. By Kirk Franklin

## **13. Visual Aids**

Please refer to Worship Planning Notes for creative suggestions that include dramatization, liturgy, etc.

### **Cites and Additional Information for Music and Material Listed**

#### **1. Call to Worship and Responsive Reading**

The Women's Sunday Litany is by Marty Lamar. <sup>1</sup>Beginning with the words "With Miriam," this text of the Congregational Prayer is from the More Than Life website (<http://www.morethanlife.org/prayerstopray.html#Women>).

#### **2. Hymns and Congregational Songs**

(a) Help Us Accept Each Other. By Fred Kaan. Tune, (AURELIA).

Location:

The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990. #358

(b) I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord. By Sylvana Bell and E. V. Banks

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #480

The Celebration Hymnal: Songs and Hymns for Worship. Integrity Publications, Nashville, TN: 1997. #410

Lead Me Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1987. #281

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. Nashville, TN: Triad Publications, 2005. #433

Total Praise: Songs and Other Worship Resources for Every Generation. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2011. #488

(c) God of Grace and God of Glory. By Harry Fosdick. Tune, (CWM RHONDDA).

Location:

The Celebration Hymnal. #435

Total Praise. #135

(d) We've Come This Far by Faith. By Albert Goodson. Arr. by James Abbington

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #412

### **3. Spirituals or Traditional Songs**

(a) Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down. By P. Caldwell and S. Ivory

Location:

Earthsongs  
220 NW 29th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
Phone: 541-754-5887

Online location: [www.earthsongschoralmusic.com](http://www.earthsongschoralmusic.com)

(b) Give Me Jesus. Negro Spiritual. Arr. by Nolan Williams

Location:

Total Praise. #557

(c) This Day. By Edwin Hawkins

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY  
4913 Albemarle Road #103  
Charlotte, NC 28205  
Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

Total Praise. #451

### **4. Gospel Songs for Choirs, Ensembles, or Praise Teams**

(a) Still I Rise. By Rosephanye Powell

Location:

Fred Bock Publishing  
P.O. Box 570567  
Tarzana, CA 91357  
Phone: 818-996-6181

(b) Champion. By Ashaala Jenkins

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY  
Phone: 704-531-8961  
Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

(c) Strength. By John P. Kee

Location:

Kee, John P. and The New Life Community Choir. Strength. New York, NY: Verity Records, 1997.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

## **5. Liturgical Dance or Mime Ministry Music**

(a) Still I Rise. By Percy Brady

Location:

Adams, Yolanda. Songs from the Heart. New York, NY: Verity, 1998.

(b) My Refuge, My Strength. By Byron Cage

Location:

Cage, Byron. Faithful to Believe. New York, NY: Verity, 2009.

(c) I Look to You. By R. Kelly

Location:

Houston, Whitney. My Love Is Your Love/I Look to You. Nashville, TN: Arista, 2009.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

## **6. Anthems**

(a) Give Thanks and Sing for Joy. By Roy Belfield

Location:

GIA Publications, Inc.  
704 South Mason Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638  
Phone: 1-800-GIA-1358

Online location: [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

(b) Hail Warrior. By Undine Smith Moore

Location:

GIA Publications, Inc.  
Phone: 1-800-GIA-1358  
Online location: [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

(c) If I Faint Not. By Kevin and Celeste Johnson

Location:

GIA Publications, Inc.  
Phone: 1-800-GIA-1358  
Online location: [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

## **7. Modern Songs**

(a) I'm Still Standing. By Kurt Carr

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

(b) God Made Me. By Jules Martholomew

Location:

Mississippi Mass Choir. God Made Me. Jackson, MS: Malaco Records, 2009.

(c) Back to Eden. By Donald Lawrence

Location:

The Law of Confession. New York, NY: Verity Records, 2008.

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

## **8. Offertory Song or Instrumental**

(a) You're All I Need. By Jason Clayborn

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

(b) All of My Help. By T. Manley and N. McNair

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

(c) Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land. By Glenn Burleigh

Location:

GIA Publications, Inc.

Phone: 1-800-GIA-1358

Online location: [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

## **9. Song or Instrumental for the Period of Prayer**

(a) Just a Little Talk with Jesus. By Cleavant Derricks. Tune, (JUST A LITTLE TALK).

Location:

Total Praise. #376

(b) Is Your All on the Altar. By Elisha Hoffman

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #420

Total Praise. #396

(c) What Shall I Render. By Margaret P. Douroux

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #389

Total Praise. #403

## **10. Sermonic Selection**

(a) It Pays to Serve Jesus. By Frank Huston

Location:

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #447

(b) Powerful God. By D. Pipping and J.J. Hairston

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

(c) Turning Around. By C. Rodgers, L. Gray, P. Feaster, and V. Mitchell

Location:

NTIME MUSIC COMPANY

Phone: 704-531-8961

Online location: [www.ntimemusic.com](http://www.ntimemusic.com)

## **11. Invitational Song or Instrumental**

(a) It Pays to Serve Jesus. By Frank Huston

Location:

The World's Top Gospel Artists and Songs: Gotta Have Gospel! Vol. 2. Inglewood, CA: Gospocentric Records, 2004.

(b) Give of Your Best to the Master. By Howard Grose. Tune by Charlotte Barnard

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #465

The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition. #446

Total Praise. #469

(c) I Trust in God. By W.C. Martin. Tune by C. Gabriel and V. Nix

Location:

Lead Me, Guide Me. #231

## **12. Benediction Song or Instrumental**

(a) Order My Steps. By Glenn Burleigh

Location:

African American Heritage Hymnal. #333

(b) The Lord Bless You and Keep You. By Peter Lutkin

Location:

Total Praise. #622

(c) Till We Meet Again. By Kirk Franklin

Location:

Total Praise. #576