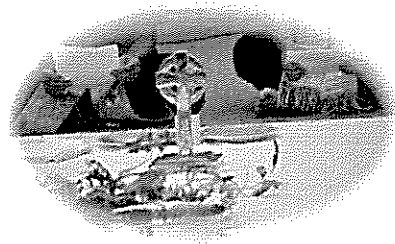


A more formal Celebration, primarily but not exclusively for use with 1st generation and other older adults

One Great Sunday of Sharing 2009 - 2010



“Guest and Host – Hospitality and God”

1. Preparation

As you plan try to ensure that there are not some who are “hosts” with all others as “guests”. Rather plan so that all those who are sharing in the event have opportunity to be both: “host” and “guest” so that together the whole gathering can experience the hospitality of God!

If there are living members of the original Indigenous clans or tribes for your area, invite them to the gathering and respectfully ask if they would bring a greeting or welcome to country: recognise them as “hosts” and us as “guests”.

- Remind everyone that racial, cultural and language diversity is not simply about ‘colour’ or languages other than English. The Welsh are not English, Germans are not Celtic, and all Pacific Islanders are not the same. Indonesia is not one language or one culture or even race but many – of each. And so on!
- Invite people to consider their personal history. This is better done as part of the invitation process, but could be included as part of the act of Gathering for the worship:
- Their origins and those of their parents, grandparents and great grandparents.
- How did their family come to be in Australia?
- What do they value and what is distinctive from each of those parts of the family tree?
- Encourage people to bring with them something that reflects or illustrates their experiences as “guest” and “host”
- Decide what languages you will use in addition to English:
- How you will use them: singing, printed order of service, data projector and so on
- Where in the service you will use them: readings, drama, prayers, preaching [some key headings or very brief summaries in other languages invite greater understanding and therefore inclusion], and the passing of the peace, blessing and so on.
- Even simple things like having the headings for worship in several appropriate languages shows respect for others and invites fuller participation in what is going on.
- Will there be a meal or other kind of “food fellowship”? Consider how the various groups can be both “hosts” – providers of some kinds of traditional foods with opportunity to speak about them, and “guests” those who receive the hospitality of food fellowship. Give everyone the opportunity to be both: guest and host at the same event.
- Will there be some kind of cultural exchange, not just Pacific Island singing or Indonesian [Balinese] dancing for example, but from all diversity of cultures represented?
- Decorate the place with symbols from the diverse racial, cultural and language groups who are sharing in the celebration
- Make sure there are name badges available for everyone – large stick-on labels are best with thick textas for writing so names can be read easily

2. Songs and Music for the One Great Sunday of Sharing: The choices available are always dependent on the skills and gifts in local communities. Congregations are encouraged to use songs in each other’s languages or from a variety of cultures. Many hymn books in languages other than English include hymns for which there are English language versions, so familiar hymns can be sung if ‘new’ songs are difficult in local circumstances. Short, simple songs that are easy to translate can be

sung in two or more languages and are useful in multicultural and cross-cultural settings and with children.

The UCA Assembly published the songbook 'Something to Sing About' in 2005. It contains 11 original songs that celebrate being a multicultural church. It is available for purchase from the National Assembly Office (\$6.00 + postage).

You can contact Julie Redal for a copy: phone: 02 8267 4220 or email: julier@nat.uca.org.au

*Examples are: *Jesu, tawa pano (Jesus, we are here); God is so good [see above]; Good morning, good morning, peace be with you; Santo, santo, santo (Holy, holy, holy).**

Songs from the hymn book 'Together in Song' suitable for multicultural worship include 29, 36, 54, 152, 164, 241, 248, 459, 467, 468, 473, 474, 477, 640, 648, 650, 675, 676, 681, 693, 699, 704, 711, 723, 726, 738, 749.

Together In Song [TIS] 477 'Jesus calls us here to meet him' - John Bell (also in 'Love from below' p 93) has a 4th verse, pointing towards the hospitality of the sacrament of Holy Communion:

*Jesus calls us to His table
Rooted firm in time and space,
Where the church in earth and heaven
Finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, His body;
Share the love of which we sing;
Share the feast for saints and sinners
Hosted by our Lord and King.*

3. Tools for use in the process

RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

- R = take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others – “I think...”, “I feel...”*
- E = listen with EMPATHY*
- S = be SENSITIVE to differences in how people communicate*
- P = PONDER on what you hear and feel before you speak or respond*
- E = EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions*
- C = keep CONFIDENTIALITY*
- T = TRUST ambiguity and difference because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong but to learn from one another*

From Eric Law: various publications where permission is also given for use – Tony Floyd

MUTUAL INVITATION

Conversations and discussions are not easy for everyone to participate in. In some cultures participation in a conversation is by invitation, not by force of views or personality. For some people regardless of cultural background, putting ones' views in the face of strongly held and confidently voiced opinions is difficult, even painful.

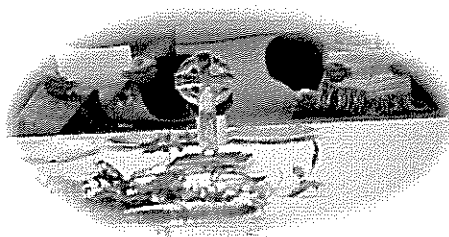
“Mutual Invitation” is a tool for participation that is built on equality of voice [mutual] and opportunity [invitation].

In order to ensure that everyone who wants to share has opportunity to speak, and that no one is allowed to simply dominate the conversation by speaking often and at length, our conversations will proceed like this:

- o The leader or designated person will speak first.*
- o After that person has spoken, she or he then invites another person to share – they do not need to be the person sitting next to you!*
- o The person invited to share may not want to speak so they simply say “Pass” – BUT they still have the right and responsibility of inviting someone else to share.*
- o If the person invited does not have anything they want to say now, but they might have something to say later in this process, they can say “Pass for now” and proceed to invite someone else.*
- o It is important that the leader keeps track of this in the process and makes sure an invitation is given later for that person to speak.*
- o No one is allowed to interrupt or speak again until everyone has been invited, and then only by invitation*

From Eric Law: various publications where permission is also given for use – Tony Floyd

Celebration/Worship



1. Gathering [*Very important! For each section note the comments about the use of different languages in the Preparation notes above*]

Among the different groups who are gathering there may be traditional ways of announcing the time for gathering/starting: the use of the Didgeridoo [some Indigenous peoples'] or the conch shell [some Pacific Island peoples'], cymbals or gongs, trumpet or drums for example.

Acknowledging

A time of silence as we remember and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples, original caretakers of this land. If you know the name of the local Indigenous clan or tribe, name them in the Order of worship, if there are living members of that tribe or clan, invite them to the gathering and respectfully ask if they would bring a greeting or welcome to country: recognise them as "hosts" and us as "guests".

Greeting

People will come from the East and West, North and South, and will take their places in the feast in the kingdom of God. (Luke 13: 29)

The peace of Christ be with you! (*People could greet one another with "Peace" in their own language*)

2. Call to Worship: *Invite several people to call the gathering to order in their own language: it might be an invitation to prayer, or calling out a name for God*

L: Dear Pilgrim people of God, we come together today to celebrate God's gifts of unity and difference.

P: We gather together to affirm that it is good to belong to a multi-cultural church in a nation of many cultures.

L: God delights in our differences – of colour language, customs and the ways we think, pray, worship and speak of God.

P: We will sing for joy in the presence of this God!

L: Our ancestors and some of us journeyed here from many different places around the world.

P: And here in this land immigrants discovered the living presence of the same God in Christ of their homelands. We are different, yet because of Christ, we are one.

ALL: Praise God! Let us worship this One who walks with us in every way on the journey to God's promised end.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND GREETING

These are mainly "Peace", G'day or "How are you?"

Inchbess Es: Armenian, **Suksabai**: Cambodian, **Kia Orana**: Cook Islanders', **Nae Hoe Ma**: Chinese, **Hoe Gaat Het**: Dutch, **Endemanesh**: Ethiopian, **Nisa Bula**: Fijian, **Kamusta**: Filipino, **Bonjour**: French, **Gutten Tag**: German, **Yasu**: Greek, **Namaste**: Hindi, **Estan**: Hispanic, **Apa Kabar**: Indonesian, **Buongiorno**: Italian, **Anyong Haseyo**: Korean, **Kedu Ka Imelu**: Nigeria, **Todo Bem**: Portuguese, **Zdrastvoite**: Russian, **Oa Mai Oe**: Samoan, **¡Hola**: Spanish, **Vanakkam**: Tamil, **Fefe Hake**: Tongan, **Como Zao Qui' Vie**: Vietnamese

Can we add any other languages to our list from people who are present today?

3. Song/hymn of joy and praise – perhaps even of dancing

4. Prayers of Praise [adapted from *Praise of Creation: Psalm 104 – Melanesia*] These prayers could be accompanied by images and/or pictures

L: For the earth and all its parts:

P: We praise you, God

L: For cliffs that show forth your strength, and your unchanging, never-ending love

One Great Sunday of Sharing 2009: Preparation and Planning

UCA Assembly - Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry: <http://www.nat.uca.org.au/multi>

Ph: 02 8267 4224 [Sydney] 03 8786 7515 [Melbourne] Mobile: 0438 299 377 Email: tonyf@nat.uca.org.au

P: We praise you, God

L: For sea shells, which show forth your delight in creating the earth that you entrust to our care:

P: We praise you, God

L: For coconuts and taro plants which show your care of us:

P: We praise you, God

L: For birds and fish and land animals reminding us of your gracious provisions for all peoples and your calling to share life in peace, working and sharing together:

P: We praise you, God

L: For similarities between peoples, such as are found in the pacific island languages, traditions, customs and denominations, bringing out the challenge of your Word and your message to all peoples:

P: We praise you, God

5. Thanks...

L: Living God, you make yourself known yet remain beyond all knowledge. You show yourself and yet remain mysterious. You have shaped this land and its people.

P: We thank you, creator God. Thank you for the gift of this land and for those who have cared for it since time immemorial.

L: Thank you for all those who for centuries have come to these shores bringing their hopes and fears, gifts and graces.

P: Thank you that here you welcome us, guests in your creation, weaving in us and among us threads of new life and hope.

L: Yours are the diverse people who now share together in this home, Australia.

P: May we cherish this land, its first peoples' and all who have come after. In love may we continue to learn how to live justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with You and all our neighbours.

6. Confession

We don't always appreciate your freedom from us, and we try instead to keep control, withstand your word, pretend our sufficiency, and stay safe.

AND/OR

We struggle to see beyond our own needs, our culture, and our distinctiveness; to see the limitations of our focus on ourselves;

We ignore the needs of our brothers and sisters, the rich gifts that our differences bring.

We decline the gift of our differences and diversity you lay before us, finding it easier to bask in separation and expectations of becoming the same.

Deluge us in your Grace, O God

P: Deluge us in your Grace

7. Assurance of forgiveness: God is love. Through Christ Your sins are forgiven. Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

R: Thanks be to God.

8. Response of joy: Together in Song 720 [from the Caribbean— a great song to move to!]

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu jah!

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu jah!

Hal-le lu jah, Hal-le lu jah!

[Or other similar song]

9. Offerings of song/drama/dance [there could be some here and some at # 14 below]: acts of praise, choirs, singing groups, bands, traditional music/singing, celebrations of thanks, illustrations of the Bible stories for the day, illustrations of experiences of being 'guest' and 'host'

10. Bible readings – these can be read in various languages and/or dramatised by groups with those who are comfortable wearing traditional dress – reminders that the Bible speaks out of a particular culture and into every place, culture and time.

- If you have access to a data projector a simple way to be inclusive without repeating each of the readings is to have the other languages you have chosen up on the screen
- If you have a printed order of service then readings can be in a variety of languages with the others printed there
- If there are pew Bibles in one language, then encourage those who know that language to follow the reading there while it is read aloud in another language

11. Response to the Word - a Love song to God: Santo, santo, santo (from Argentina) **Together in Song # 723, 'As One Voice' #92**

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores You!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, Lord!

Santo, santo, santo, me corazon te adora!
Me corazon te sabe decir: san to eres Señor.

12. Proclamation of a contemporary Word through "Faith story sharing":

Have people from different parts of the world [including different parts of Europe and north America] share stories of discovering the hospitality of God in their experiences as "guest" and/or "hosts"

13. Responses to God's Word among us

Offerings of song/drama/dance [*this could be a continued from # 10 above or simply at this time*]: acts of praise, choirs, singing groups, bands, traditional music/singing, celebrations of thanks, illustrations of the Bible stories for the day, illustrations of experiences of being 'guest' and 'host'

Offering of money and our lives: Let us respond to God's excellent goodness by making our offering, the gift back of our lives and our goods, and a symbol of who and whose we are.

(If a decision has been made to have a special offering in support of particular projects of Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, then an announcement here would be appropriate. Current projects for 2009 and 2010 include: Translation into community languages of Andrew Dutney's new Book: "Introducing the Uniting Church in Australia" and a National Gathering in 2010 specifically for 2nd generation young people and young adults from racial, cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds)

Offering hymn: Together In Song # 640 Kneels at the feet of his friends (Ghana) [OR SIMILAR]

(Please stand for the last verse as the gifts are brought forward)

Prayers for others, the church and for ourselves: Various members lead in their preferred language

- Put simple list of those things that will be prayed for either in order of service or on data projector so everyone knows what is being prayed for, even if they do not know the exact words.
- Images are another way to help people make connections here.
- A small candle may be lit for each country and/or situation that we pray about today – as a sign of our hope that the light of Christ will break through all darkness.

The Lord's Prayer spoken the language and translation in which you are most at home

14. Affirmation: A CHURCH FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE [*from the 11th Assembly – 2006*]

L: Called to be witnesses to the hope of reconciliation, we renew our commitment to being a Church for all God's People. Within the life of our nation we will:

P: Recognise the place of Australia's first peoples and work for reconciliation

Reflect the love of Christ for all people

Contribute to building an inclusive Australian society

Seek to minister effectively within a culturally diverse society and build bridges with people of different cultures and faiths

L: As a welcoming community we will:

P: Be open to receive from one another, sharing the hospitality of Christ

**Affirm and celebrate cultural diversity, and let that diversity be a resource for ministry
Overcome prejudice and racism and develop a spirituality of trust, respect and mutuality
Encourage all members to embark on a journey of cross-cultural learning**

L: As a community made up of people from many different backgrounds and cultures we will:

**P: Provide space for people from different cultural groups to maintain language and cultural patterns and traditions that are life giving
Reflect ethnic diversity in a visible way in our worship, life and leadership
Encourage people from different backgrounds to take up their place in the life of the church and contribute to its life
Seek to meet the needs of our diverse membership and develop policies and processes to assist the full participation of all members**

L: As a community at mission we will:

**P: Encourage the development of culturally diverse congregations
Form, develop and train people for ministry in cross-cultural settings
Ensure equality and partnership in the sharing of resources so that property is a resource for the ministry and mission of the whole people of God
Utilise the gifts of all of God's people
Be open to the transformation that the Spirit brings!**

Prayer – for 3 voices

1. God our Creator: You brought this Uniting Church into being. You have called us to be your diverse and multi-coloured people. Show us how to value one another as those made in your image
2. Christ Jesus: You reached out across the barriers that divided Jews, Samaritans and Romans; enable us to cross the barriers that separate us from one another.
3. Holy Spirit: You are the Giver of Unity, Unite your people in love that we may be a community of justice, love and reconciliation - A Church for all God's People. **Amen**

15. Commissioning

Go into Your world in good heart, celebrating God who is present in you and your neighbours, waiting to meet you, to surprise you and fill you with love. Leave this place to do the works of Jesus as guest and host in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

16. Blessing

May the glory of God rest upon us
May the love of Christ be within us
May the power of the Spirit keep us strong. **Amen!**

OR – Alternate Blessing

We go as people who have experienced the God's hospitality in creation and witnessed to by the Son as guest among us in His life on earth; and now called to live it in the power of God's spirit. The Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen!**

17. Final Hymn/song: Together in Song # 666 We are marching in the light of God [also a good opening song]

[This is one of those songs that definitely invites participation: march, dance, sing your way out of the Worship / Celebration space following the Bible and leaders]

OR TIS #672 Lord of earth and all creation

OR SIMILAR