

WELCOME TO THE 2025 NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF CHILDREN'S SABBATHS® CELEBRATION

Worship Resources

Creating Sacred Spaces with Children at the Center

Introduction

Children's Sabbath invites communities to worship not just about children but with children. Worship becomes a vital practice of lifting up children's dignity, voices, and hopes through prayer, music, storytelling, and ritual.

These outlines and creative resources are not prescriptive but inspirational. They help communities adapt their own traditions—whether Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Indigenous, interfaith, or beyond—into worship that embodies justice and celebrates children.

This section will guide your team through:

- Sample service outlines you can adapt to your tradition and context.
- Creative worship practices using art, music, drama, storytelling, and embodied prayer.
- Intergenerational tools that ensure children lead, not just participate.
- Sermon starters, psalms, and poems to inspire preaching and reflection.

Above all, these resources affirm that worship is not only spoken—it is lived. Through song, story, prayer, and blessing, communities embody the sacred truth that all children are beloved and deserving of a just and compassionate world.



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Activity 1

Full Service Order

A Complete Children's Sabbath Service

This outline provides a full worship service shaped entirely around Children's Sabbath, from gathering to sending.

Who this is activity for: Clergy, worship planners, intergenerational worship teams, organizers

Why we're doing it: To help communities dedicate an entire service to centering children, justice, and *Beloved Community*.

Steps (adapt as needed)

1. Gathering: Prelude, Call to Worship (include children), Hymn/Freedom Chant, Opening Prayer.
2. Word: Scripture, Responsive Litany, Sermon/Starter, Testimonies.
3. Response: Prayers of the People, Confession & Assurance, Offering, Music/Dance/Drama by children.
4. Sending: Closing Hymn, Blessing for Children, Benediction.

Facilitator Help:

- Give children visible leadership roles in each section.
- Encourage creativity in the "Response" (art, drama, dance).
- Use local languages, chants, or songs that reflect your community.



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Activity 1

Full Service Order

EXAMPLE

**CHILDREN'S SABBATH SERVICE
AT THE ATLANTA MOSQUE
ATLANTA, GA**

GATHERING

- PRELUDE OR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BY THE CHILDREN'S SABBATH CHOIR
- CALL TO WORSHIP BY KYLE (AGE 10)
- FREEDOM CHANT BY CHILDREN'S SABBATH CHOIR
- OPENING PRAYER BY DR. YVETTE

WORD

- READING OF SACRED TEXT BY CARLOS (AGE 12)
- RESPONSIVE LITANY BY TRAVIS (AGE 14)

RESPONSE

- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (INCLUDE PRAYERS WRITTEN FOR CHILDREN'S SABBATH)
- CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE
- OFFERING AND/OR SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COLLECTION
- MUSIC, DANCE, OR DRAMA BY THE CHILDREN'S SABBATH ARTS ENSEMBLE

SENDING

- CLOSING BLESSING LED BY HASAN JR. (AGE 6)
- BLESSING FOR THE CHILDREN AND CONGREGATION BY MIN. TAMARA
- POSTLUDE

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Activity 1

Full Service Order

workbook Space

Use this template to plan a complete Children's Sabbath service, from gathering to sending, with children in visible leadership roles.

WORSHIP ELEMENT	NOTES	LEADER(S)
GATHERING	OPENING SONG; "THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"	CHILDREN'S SABBATH KIDS CHOIR
WORD	SCRIPTURE; MATTHEW 19:14; ADD A YOUTH TESTIMONY	COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP
RESPONSE	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
SENDING	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Reflection question: Where did children's voices shine? What could we strengthen next time?

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Activity **2**

Interwoven Worship

Children's Sabbath in Your Regular Liturgy

Not every community can replace its whole liturgy. This approach offers ways to interweave Children's Sabbath elements into your regular service.

Who this is activity for: Congregations that want to keep their usual order but honor Children's Sabbath

Why we're doing it: To honor Children's Sabbath while maintaining familiar worship flow.

Steps

1. Use a Children's Sabbath Call to Worship.
2. Insert a Children's Sabbath Litany in Prayers of the People.
3. Add a Poem/Prayer for Children during reflection.
4. Invite a child/youth to read scripture.
5. Offer a Sermon Starter or testimony alongside the sermon.
6. End with a Blessing for Children.

Facilitator Help:

- Choose 1–3 elements to highlight rather than trying to do everything.
- Let children's voices appear at more than one moment.
- Ensure additions flow naturally within your liturgy.

Activity 2

Interwoven Worship

This worksheet helps you adapt your regular service by weaving in Children's Sabbath elements like litanies, prayers, or children's voices.

Which 3 parts of our service can we adapt?

- ☐ Call to Worship
- ☐ Litany
- ☐ Scripture Reading
- ☐ Poem/Prayer
- ☐ Blessing

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.

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Activity **3**

Intergenerational Service

Worshiping With Children, Not For Them

This participatory service engages children, youth, and adults together as leaders.

Who this is activity for: Organizers, clergy, worship planners, intergenerational choirs

Why we're doing it: To show that children are full participants in shaping and leading worship.

Steps

1. Gathering: Intergenerational choir; children lead Call to Worship; children write/open with prayer.
2. Word: Shared scripture readings (child/youth/adult/elder); dramatic presentation or storytelling; Responsive Litany led by children.
3. Response: Bless children's artwork; Prayers of the People led by children + adults; Offering collected by children.
4. Sending: Freedom Chant; Benediction.

Facilitator Help:

- Balance leadership across ages.
- Rehearse with children so they feel prepared.
- Use symbolic gestures (children blessing adults, adults blessing children).

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Activity 3

Intergenerational Service

Workbook Space

Use this planning chart to assign worship roles across ages—children, youth, adults, and elders—so everyone leads together.

Worship Part	Child	Youth	Adult	Elder
Gathering	LEAD CALL TO WORSHIP	SING WITH CHOIR	PLAY PIANO	OFFER WELCOME
Word	READ PSALMS	SHARE TESTIMONY	READ SACRED TEXT	REFLECT ON SACRED TEXT
Response	COLLECT OFFERING	READ PRAYER	OFFER BLESSING	BLESS ARTWORK
Sending	FREEDOM CHANT	LEAD DANCE	JOIN CHORUS	BENEDICTION

Worship Part	Child	Youth	Adult	Elder
Gathering				
Word				
Response				
Sending				

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Creative Worship Resources

Worship Beyond Words

Worship takes many forms across traditions—song, movement, art, storytelling, silence. Children's Sabbath is a time to expand creativity in worship.

Who this is activity for: Worship leaders, artists, musicians, children's ministry

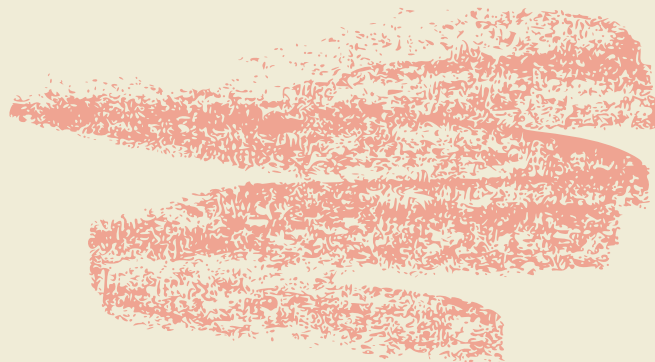
Why we're doing it: To engage multiple senses and lift up children's voices through creative expression.

Categories

1. Art: Visual prayers, murals, banners, tradition-specific symbols.
2. Music: Justice songs, intergenerational choirs, drumming, call-and-response.
3. Drama/Storytelling: Sacred stories, testimonies, spoken word.
4. Embodied Practices: Processions, dance, meditation, collective blessing.

Facilitator Help:

- Choose practices that reflect your tradition.
- Provide art/music supplies in advance.
- Highlight children's contributions visibly.



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Activity 4

Art Activity

Building Beloved Community Mural

Goal

Invite children, youth, and adults to create a shared mural that reflects what Beloved Community looks and feels like. This mural becomes both art and prayer — a visual witness of hope, justice, and joy for children.

Time Needed: 30–40 minutes

Materials

- Large roll of butcher paper or several poster boards taped together
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, paints
- Tape to hang the mural in a visible place
- Optional: fabric scraps, collage magazines, stickers, stencils
- A large header across the top: *Building Beloved Community*

Organizer's Intro Script (adapt to your faith tradition)

Today we are building Beloved Community on paper. Think of what it means for children to be safe, loved, and free. What does it look like when every child has enough food, joy, and protection? Draw or write your vision here. Together, our art will show what Beloved Community looks like in our congregation and in our world.

Step-by-Step

1. Place the mural paper where everyone can reach. Write the theme at the top.
2. Invite participants of all ages to add drawings, words, or symbols.
3. After 25 minutes, gather around the mural. Ask 2–3 participants to share what they added.

Accessibility Adaptations

- Provide clipboards, table space, or small canvases that can be taped to the larger mural later.
- Offer verbal prompts or stickers for those who prefer not to draw.
- Use adaptive grips or thicker markers for children with motor challenges.
- Invite written or spoken contributions from those who may not want to illustrate.

Reflection Question

**Choose a part of the mural that is not yours. How
does it remind you of Beloved Community?**

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More

Art Activities

1. Prayer Postcards for Beloved Community

A message of hope, one card at a time.

Kids and adults decorate and write postcards naming one way they imagine Beloved Community.

Postcards can be mailed to policymakers, children's orgs, or displayed in worship.

2. Symbols of Our Tradition Collage

Every symbol tells a story of belonging.

Participants draw or cut/paste symbols from their tradition that embody *Beloved Community* (candles, water, circles, flowers).

Each person contributes to a collective collage.



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Activity **5**

Music Activity

Freedom Chant: "Together We Shine"

written by: Ash Love, MSW, MDiv

Who this activity is for: Organizers, children, youth, elders, and the full congregation.

Why we're doing it: To give children a joyful, empowering way to lead worship and to embody the truth of Gwendolyn Brooks' words: *"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."*

The Chant:
Together We Shine
(Led by children & youth, answered by the congregation/
group)

Children & Youth:
All together
That's how we work.

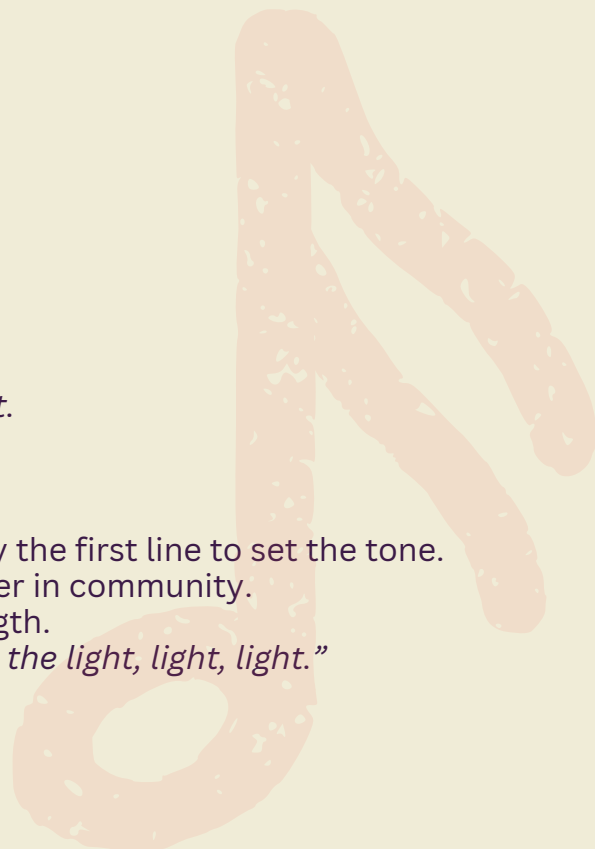
Everyone:
All together
That's how we love.

Children & Youth:
All together
That's right right right.

All Together:
All together
We are the light light light.

Steps

1. Children & youth begin the chant. Their voices carry the first line to set the tone.
2. Adults respond, affirming children's place and power in community.
3. Elders add their voices, giving resonance and strength.
4. Everyone joins together on the last refrain: *"We are the light, light, light."*



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Freedom Chant Collection

Turn on the Light

written by: Ash Love, MSW, MDiv



Inspired by:

*The way to right wrongs is to turn
the light of truth upon them.*

Ida B. Wells



Turn on the Light

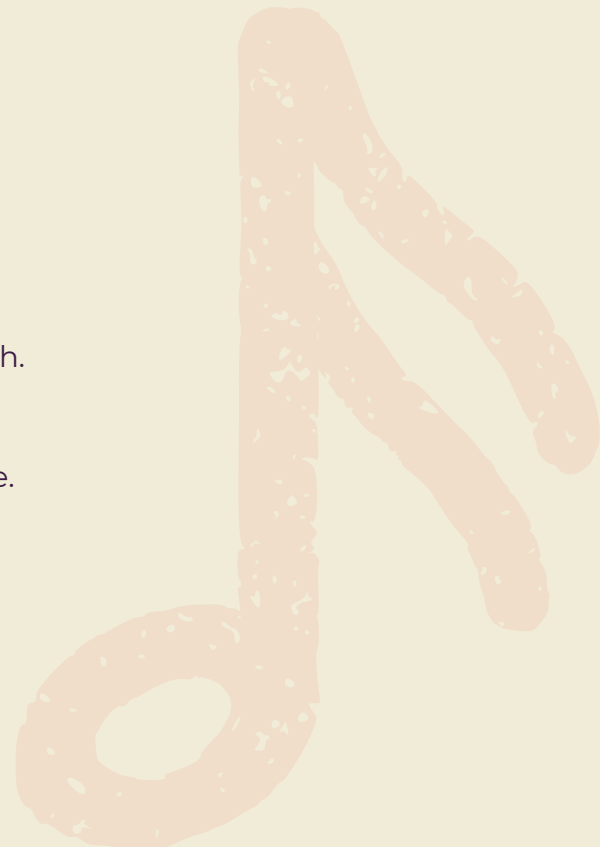
For Kids

Turn on the light
It looks a little dark.

Turn on the light
see my heart
heart heart.

Turn on the light
tell the truth, truth, truth.

Turn on the light
let's move, move, move.



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Freedom Chant Collection

We Belong

written by: Ash Love, MSW, MDiv



Inspired by:

*Each child belongs to all of us and
they will bring us a tomorrow in
direct relation to the responsibility
we have shown to them.*



Maya Angelou

We Belong

For Kids (children and youth)

We belong
Yes, we do!

We are the future
the future
our voices matter too!

(elders to children and youth)

You belong
Yes, you do!

All the children and the
youth!

You are the future
the future
your voices matter too.

For Adults (adults to children and youth)

You belong,
Yes, you do!

All the children and the
youth.

You are the future
the future
your voices matter too!

(everyone)

We belong
Yes, we do!

We are the future
the future
our voices matter too!



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Freedom Chant Collection

We Take Action

written by: Ash Love, MSW, MDiv



Inspired by:

*Action, like a sacrament, is the
visible form of an invisible spirit, an
outward manifestation of an inward
power.*

bell hooks



We Take Action

For Kids

ACT!
We take action.
ACT!
We take action.

*For our friends
and our family.*

ACT!
We take action.
ACT!
We take action.

*For freedom and
for justice.*

ACT!
We take action.
ACT!
We take action.

*Because of love
love love.*



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Freedom Chant Collection

For Liberation

written by: Ash Love, MSW, MDiv



Inspired by:

*When I liberate myself, I liberate
others. If you don't speak out ain't
nobody going to speak out for you.*

Fannie Lou Hamer



For Liberation

All across the nation
We gotta speak against
hatred.

All across the nation
We gotta fight for
liberation.

All across the nation
We speak out
Stand tall
and fight for liberation.



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More

Music Activities

1. Intergenerational Choir of Beloved Community

All ages, one choir.

Children, youth, and adults rehearse together. Kids can lead a verse or rhythm to show that Beloved Community sings with every voice.

2. Freedom Chant Cards

Short songs, big voices.

Create and use simple chants (love, justice, peace, joy) with matching motions. Kids lead; all join.



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Activity 6 Drama & Storytelling Activity

Reader's Theater: Telling the Story of Beloved Community

Reader's Theater is a simple way to let sacred stories, poems, or testimonies come alive. When children, youth, and adults each take a part, the whole community experiences Beloved Community spoken through many voices.

Who this is activity for: Children, youth, adults, elders — a mix of voices across generations.

Why we're doing it: To bring the vision of Beloved Community to life through intergenerational storytelling.

Time Needed: 30–40 minutes

Materials

- Short text (poem, psalm, testimony) printed in large font
- Role sheets labeled clearly (Child, Youth, Adult, Elder, Chorus)
- Optional: microphones, scarves, candles, or simple props

Steps

1. Select a short text (one of the poems, a psalm, or a child's testimony).
2. Assign roles: Child, Youth, Adult, Elder, and Chorus (congregation or small group).
3. Each role reads one part of the text. The Chorus joins on a repeated line, such as:
4. "This is Beloved Community."
5. Encourage expressive reading, gestures, or simple movements.
6. Close with all voices reading together the final line.

Facilitator Help

- Print scripts with role names in bold.
- Rehearse so children feel confident.
- Use simple props (candles, scarves) if desired.
- Invite gestures or motions (hands raised, clapping, walking forward).

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Drama & Storytelling Activities

1. My 90-Second Story

Children's voices, unfiltered.

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Materials: Index cards, pens, optional microphone
Invite children and youth to share a very short story:
"Once I felt safe when..." or "Beloved Community looks
like..." Their testimonies can be read aloud, recorded, or
acted out by peers.

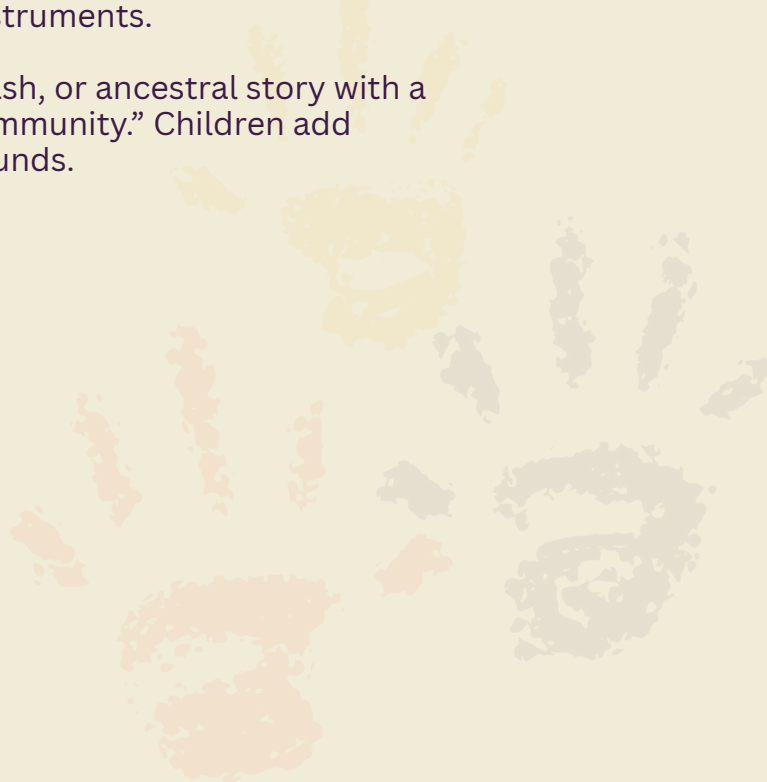
2. Story Traditions Re-Imagined

Ancient stories, new voices.

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Materials: A simple story text, slips of paper with repeated
refrain, optional percussion instruments.

Retell a folktale, parable, midrash, or ancestral story with a
refrain like "This is Beloved Community." Children add
their own lines, gestures, or sounds.



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Activity 7

Embodied Practice Activity

Procession & Blessing of Beloved Community

Processions are practices across many traditions. This one centers children by letting them lead and then exchanging blessings across generations.

Who this is activity for: Children, youth, adults, elders — a mix of voices across generations.

Why we're doing it: To move together as one body and bless each other across generations, showing that Beloved Community is something we enact, not just imagine.

Time Needed: 15–30 minutes

Materials

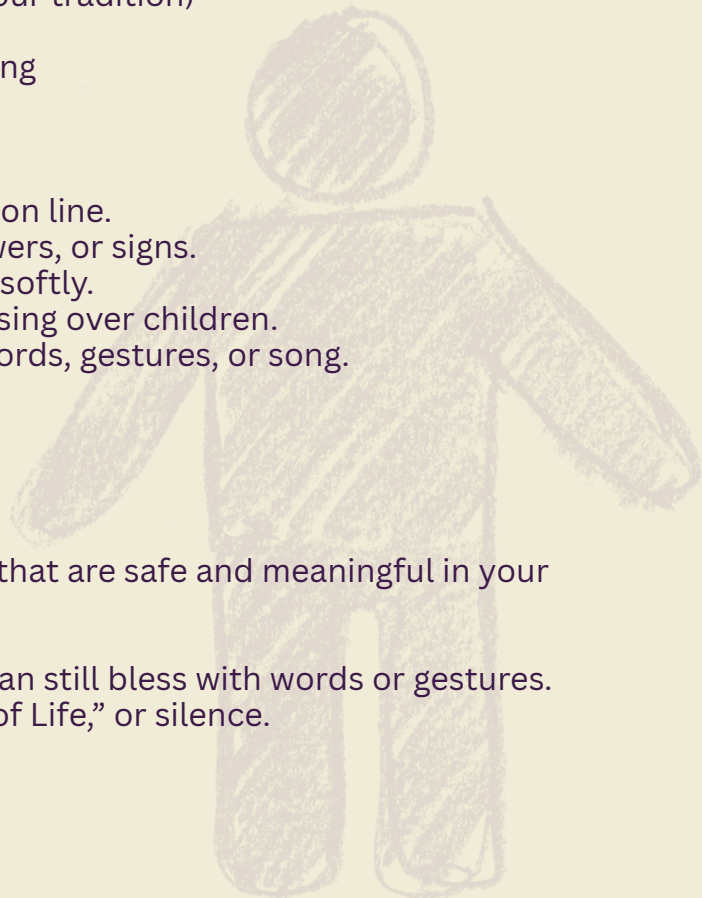
- Candles, flowers, or banners (adaptable to your tradition)
- Drums or soft background music (optional)
- Accessible space for walking or seated blessing

Steps

1. Form the community into a circle or procession line.
2. Children lead the walk, carrying candles, flowers, or signs.
3. Adults and elders follow, singing or chanting softly.
4. Gather together: adults extend hands in blessing over children.
5. Children return the blessing to adults with words, gestures, or song.
6. End with all saying together:
7. “This is Beloved Community. Amen.”

Facilitator Help

- Provide symbols (candles, flowers, banners) that are safe and meaningful in your context.
- Use music or drumming to guide the pace.
- Adapt for accessibility: seated participants can still bless with words or gestures.
- Use inclusive language: “Holy One,” “Source of Life,” or silence.



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Embodied Practices

1. Breath & Stillness Practices

The body at rest is still a prayer.

Teach simple breath or stretch practices (star breath, box breath, hand-on-heart). Invite all to participate or sit quietly.

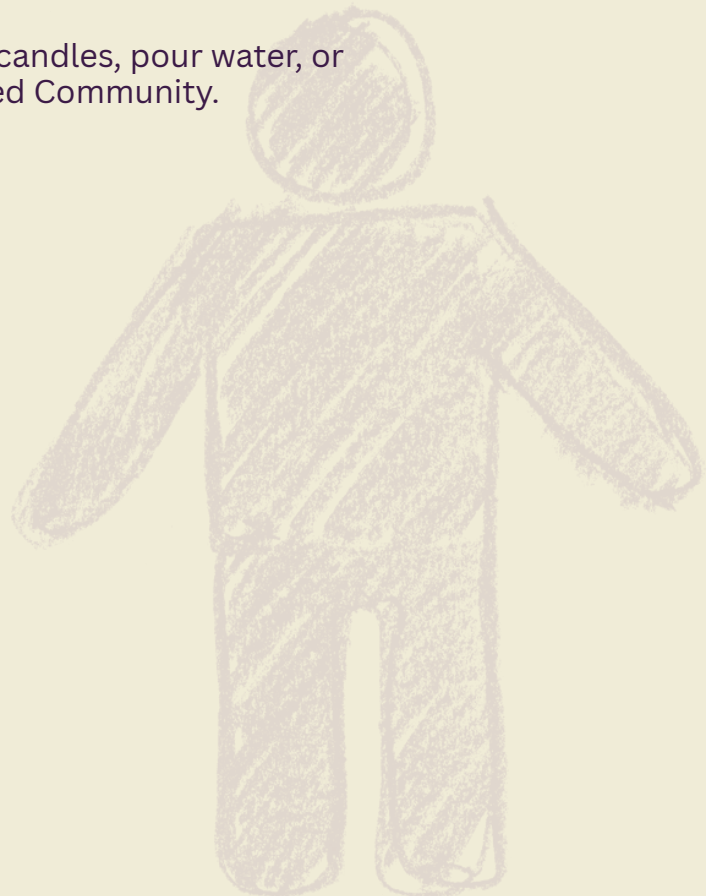
2. Elements of Prayer: Water, Light, Flowers

Sacred symbols, shared care.

Time Needed: 10-15 minutes

Bowls of water, candles, flowers, or symbolic objects from your tradition.

Children and adults together light candles, pour water, or place flowers as prayers for Beloved Community.



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Sermon Starters, Psalms, and Poems

Preaching and Prayer for Children's Sabbath

Sometimes all you need is a spark. Sermon starters, psalms, and poems provide fresh entry points for worship and reflection.

Who this is activity for: Preachers, worship leaders, small group leaders

Why we're doing it: To give leaders flexible, creative resources for sermons, devotionals, and prayers.

1. Online Resources

- Sermon Starters by Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais are [available online](#).
- Poetry by Ash Love, MSW, MDiv is also [available online](#).

FULL SERMON STARTERS AND POEMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE. THESE ARE DESIGNED TO SERVE AS FULL SERMONS, SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS, OR PRAYER REFLECTIONS.

2. Workbook Activities

- This workbook will include:
 - Two complete psalms by Rev. Vahisha Hasan.
- Guided psalm-writing activities inspired by her psalm format.

3. Facilitator Help

- Invite youth or lay leaders to read psalms aloud.
- Encourage communities to adapt the language to reflect their context.
- Consider using written psalms as part of worship, devotionals, or small group gatherings.
- Always cite the authors of the poems, sermon starters, and psalm activities Ash Love, MSW, MDiv, Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais, and Rev. Vahisha Hasan.

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Activity 8 Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity

For Congregations and Faith Communities

This activity invites children and youth to step into the ancient practice of psalm-making by adding their own voices, experiences, and imagination. The templates provided give a structure for prayer, but the power comes from the words that children bring.

How to Use

- In Worship: Provide printed psalm templates in bulletins or worship packets. Invite children (and adults) to fill them in during a quiet moment. Completed psalms may be read aloud, displayed, or woven into the service.
- In Classes or Small Groups: Gather children in circles or classrooms. Read the psalm aloud and pause for the group to suggest words together, creating a shared psalm of the day.
- Intergenerational Settings: Pair children with adults to complete the psalms side by side. Invite each generation to learn from the other's perspective.
- Community Displays: Collect the finished psalms and place them on a wall, altar table, or digital slideshow so that the whole community sees the children's prayers as central to worship.

Facilitator Help

- Encourage children to answer with feelings, pictures in their minds, or everyday experiences.
- Remind the community that there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. Each psalm is a sacred expression of a child's truth.
- Adapt the activity to your faith tradition—whether sung aloud, spoken in call-and-response, chanted, or shared in silence.

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Activity **8** Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity

For Congregations and Faith Communities

Psalm 1
EXAMPLE

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

1 God blesses people who love all the animals

And blesses people who won't say mean things

And has friends that share their dinosaur toys

2 but God's goodness makes us feel happy

and we hold that in our heart all day and all night.

3 We feel special like it's our birthday

Then we can have ice cream and cake

And we will be great everyday.



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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**

For Congregations and Faith Communities

Psalm 1: 1-3
The Way to
Happiness

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

1 God blesses people who _____

And blesses people who won't _____

And has friends that _____

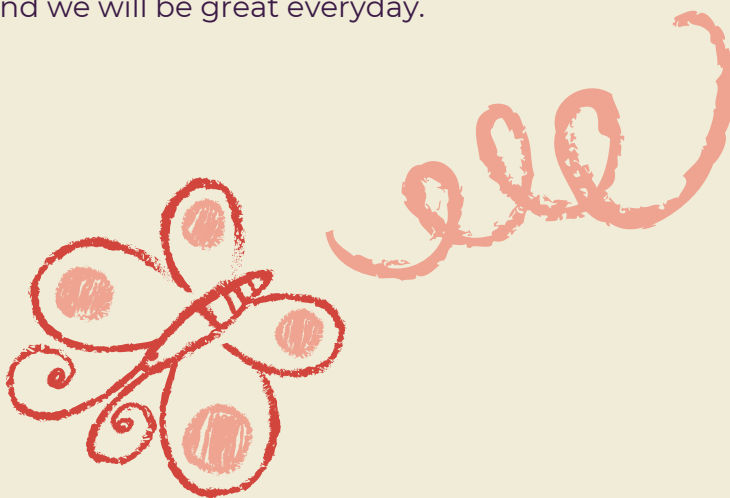
2 but God's goodness makes us feel _____

and we hold that in our heart all day and all night.

3 We feel special like _____

Then we can have _____

And we will be great everyday.



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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**

For Congregations and Faith Communities

Psalm 3: 1-6
A Morning Prayer

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

1 There are a lot of mean people God.

Many of them tease

2 me and say _____

And say "God cannot rescue you"

3 but God wants me to be safe and _____

and gives me achievement and

and great esteem.

4 I pray to God, and God hears me

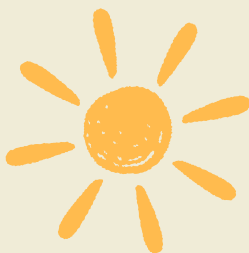
from God's sacred space.

5 I sleep and wake up feeling _____

because God protects me.

6 So many people are not kind or

but I am not afraid.



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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**

For Congregations and Faith Communities

Psalm 4: 1-8
An Evening Prayer

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

1 You are my God and my protector
Please answer my prayer

I had a rough day because

but you are with me.

Now be kind and hear me
as I pray.

8 I can lie down
and sleep soundly
Because you, God,
will keep me safe.



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Crafting Your Sermon

Help from Sermon Starters

written by: Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais



Being a black woman writer is not a shallow place but a rich place to write from. It doesn't limit my imagination; it expands it.



Toni Morrison

Sermon starters are seeds, not full sermons. They weave together story, scripture, analysis, and a call to action — just enough to spark the imagination of preachers and communities. In this activity, participants will study an example, name its parts, and then practice sketching their own sermon starter.

Who this is for: Preachers, worship leaders, educators, and small group leaders.

Why we're doing it: To give leaders tools to preach or teach in ways that center children's realities and Beloved Community.

Time Needed: 60–90 minutes

Materials: Bible or sacred text, printed sermon starter example, notebook or workbook page, pens/markers, optional commentary/statistics handouts.



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Activity 9

Crafting Your Sermon

Help from Sermon Starters

written by: Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais



Being a black woman writer is not a shallow place but a rich place to write from. It doesn't limit my imagination; it expands it.



Toni Morrison

Steps

1. Read Together (15 min)
 - Read aloud Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais's sermon starter "When Will Things Get Better?" (Job 38:1-7).
 - Invite participants to listen for what moves them.
2. Break Down the Parts (15 min)
3. Highlight the "anatomy":
 - Opening Story/Illustration
 - Naming the Question
 - Scriptural Connection
 - Contemporary Connection
 - Theological Claim
 - Call to Action
4. Workbook Prompts (20 min)
 - In small groups or alone, use prompts to jot down:
 - What story would you open with?
 - What question are children asking in your community?
 - Which scripture speaks to that question?
 - What resource or stat grounds your message?
 - What good news do you want to declare?
 - What call to action could you invite?
5. Practice Writing (20–30 min)
 - Using the "Sermon Starter Template" worksheet, sketch your own mini-starter.
 - Keep it to a page or less — just the bones.
6. Share & Reflect (10–15 min)
 - Invite 1–2 participants to share what they wrote.
 - Reflect together: What did you notice about your process? How did focusing on children shift your sermon?



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Activity 9

Crafting Your Sermon

Help from Sermon Starters

written by: Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais



Being a black woman writer is not a shallow place but a rich place to write from. It doesn't limit my imagination; it expands it.



Toni Morrison

Facilitator Help

- Remind participants this is not about perfection but about process.
- Encourage voices from multiple traditions — there's no single way to do this.
- If participants are not preachers, frame it as devotional reflection or community teaching.
- Offer permission to write in everyday language — children's lives need honesty, not jargon.

Closing Reflection

End with a communal prayer. Example below:

God of the Word, bless our voices and our silences. May every story we tell lift up the children you love. May our sermons be not only words but acts of care, courage, and Beloved Community. Amen.

Resources

- [A link to this Year's Sermon Starters by Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair Lavallais \(2025\)](#)
- [A link to last Year's Sermon Starters by Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair Lavallais \(2024\)](#)



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Example

1. Opening Story or Illustration

What story, image, or everyday moment will draw people in?

ONE SUNDAY, I WATCHED A CHILD DRAW DURING WORSHIP. WHILE THE PREACHER SPOKE, SHE SKETCHED A HOUSE WITH A BIG SUN AND CHILDREN HOLDING HANDS. WHEN I ASKED WHAT IT WAS, SHE SAID, "IT'S CHURCH, BUT OUTSIDE." THAT PICTURE WAS IN ITSELF A SERMON — CHILDREN ALREADY KNOW WHAT BELOVED COMMUNITY LOOKS LIKE.

2. The Question

What question are children (or your community) asking?

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE BUILT THE KIND OF WORLD OUR CHILDREN KEEP DRAWING, SINGING, AND IMAGINING? WHEN WILL ADULTS STOP PUSHING THEM TO THE SIDE AND START LETTING THEM LEAD US?

3. Scripture Connection

What text grounds this message in your sacred tradition?

MATTHEW 19:14: "LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT STOP THEM; FOR IT IS TO SUCH AS THESE THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS." (NRSV). JESUS MAKES IT CLEAR — CHILDREN ARE NOT DISTRACTIONS FROM GOD'S VISION; THEY ARE THE DOORWAY INTO IT.

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Activity 9

Crafting Your Sermon

Example

4. Contemporary Connection

What present-day truth or resource helps illuminate this text?
(e.g., statistic, book, child's testimony, current event)

CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITIES FACE BARRIERS — FOOD INSECURITY, UNSAFE SCHOOLS, HOUSING INSTABILITY. AND YET, EVEN WITH ALL THIS, THEY CREATE JOY; IN SIDEWALK CHALK, IN TIKTOK DANCES, IN LAUGHTER BETWEEN FRIENDS. TRAUMA IS REAL, BUT SO IS THEIR RESILIENCE AND THEIR VISION. OUR TASK IS NOT TO SILENCE OR SIDELINE THEM, BUT TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW.

5. Theological Claim / Good News

What truth about God / Spirit / Love do you want to proclaim?

GOD IS NOT WAITING IN THE CLOUDS. GOD REJOICES, RIGHT HERE, WHENEVER CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED, HONORED, AND PROTECTED. THE GOOD NEWS IS THIS: GOD HAS ALREADY PLACED THE BLUEPRINT IN OUR CARE. IF WE LET THE CHILDREN COME — INTO OUR DECISION-MAKING, OUR LEADERSHIP, OUR JUSTICE WORK — THEN WE WILL GLIMPSE LIBERATION IN REAL TIME. BECAUSE CHILDREN, ARE THE CLOSEST THING TO GOD.

6. Call to Action

What is the one step the community can take this week for children?

THIS WEEK;

- INVITE CHILDREN TO SPEAK OR LEAD PART OF WORSHIP.
- LISTEN TO THEIR HOPES AND FEARS IN SMALL GROUPS.
- TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR POLICIES THAT PROTECT CHILDREN'S HOUSING, HEALTH, AND SAFETY.

BELOVED COMMUNITY BELONGS TO THE CHILDREN. OUR CALLING IS TO MAKE SPACE, AND WALK ALONGSIDE THEM.

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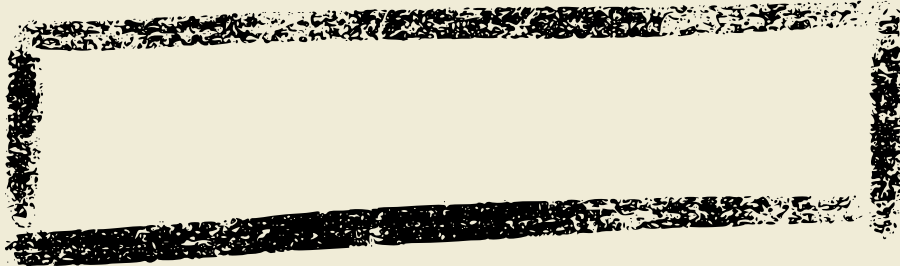
Activity 9

Crafting Your Sermon

Workbook Space

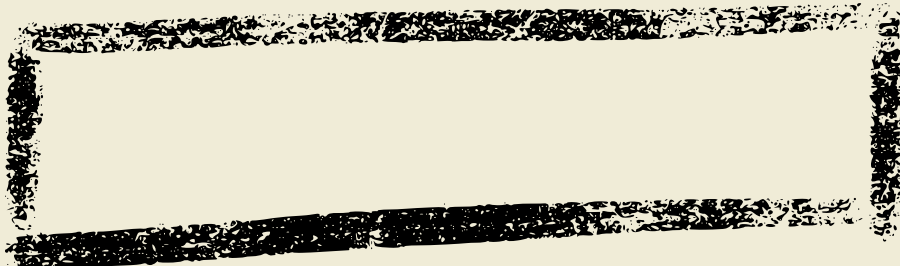
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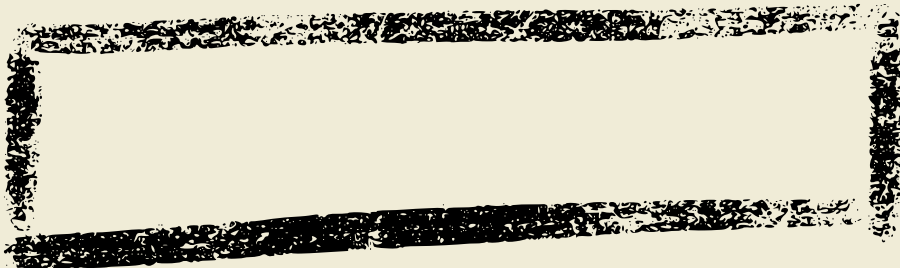
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What text grounds this message in your sacred tradition?



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6. Call to Action

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