

## Ideas to Connect to Worship and the Congregation

Use the liturgy from the Opening of the Ordination and Installation service as the call to worship. Ask one or more of the children to lead the call to worship.

**One:** There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**Many:** **There are various ways to serve God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

**One:** God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**Many:** **To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

**All:** **Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.**

Provide opportunities for children and their families to serve in church.

- Greeters
- Ushers
- Acolytes
- Liturgists

### Hold a “Noisy Offering” Sunday

Ask the children to walk among the members of the congregation to collect coins from them. They can use empty cans (decorated or not), baskets or fish banks (empty cans make the best noise when coins are dropped in). This works well after a children's message although it does take a little time. It is more effective as an offering when the congregation has been notified ahead of time. People usually enjoy giving coins to the children.

Ask a variety of children to compose their own Minute for Mission during Lent.

#### Lent 1

Romans 10:12—“The same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.”

God is generous and calls us to be generous too. The Presbyterian Catalog is one way that those who have a lot can give to others. Animals can help provide income for a family, water wells help whole communities have fresh water, seeds provide much needed food. In addition, refugee children can continue to learn and people can be helped to be leaders in their communities. What gifts can you give?

#### Lent 2

Psalm 27:7—“Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me.”

(Fits with the Presbyterian Hunger Program—Minute for Mission *Seed of Sustainability*)

## Ideas to Connect to Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

People around the world cry out to God because they do not have what they need. The Presbyterian Hunger Program helps people secure sustainable food and works with other groups around the world to promote sustainable farming practices. Together, we can use our gifts to help answer the cries of those who are hungry by giving to One Great Hour of Sharing.

### Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1—“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!”

(Fits with the Presbyterian Hunger Program—Minute for Mission *Seed of Sustainability*)

Many people around the world are hungry and thirsty. The Presbyterian Hunger Program, one of the agencies that receives money from One Great Hour of Sharing, works to help people have sustainable food sources. Some of the items in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog help families with hunger and communities with water. Can you help those who hunger and thirst find food and water?

### Lent 4

2 Corinthians 5:20—“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.

(Fits with Self-Development of People—Minute for Mission *New Mexico*)

If we are ambassadors for Christ and God is making God’s appeal through us, we must help those who have been brushed aside. Whether working to clean up the environment and provide basic sanitation and running water to communities, or working to fight injustice, Self-Development of People works to stand with those who are oppressed, poor or disadvantaged. Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing helps fund this important work.

### Lent 5

Psalms 126:3—“The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.”

(Fits with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—*Rebuilding Lives from the Ground Up*)

After floods, earthquakes and hurricanes, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) goes into communities to help provide shelter and work to rebuild. To work with PDA and see the way people respond after receiving help they desperately need, they rejoice.

### Palm Sunday

Psalms 118:29—“O Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

God has given us many gifts to use in serving God and others. God is generous and loving, and through One Great Hour of Sharing we can be, too. Let us show God’s steadfast love toward others and let us give thanks to God, for God is good.

## Ideas to Connect to Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

### Presbyterian Giving Catalog Congregational Challenge—

<b>Fishing Challenge</b>	Each child collects \$15 for tilapia fingerlings. Adults collect \$1,200 for a fishing boat and accessories.		
<b>Garden Challenge</b>	Each child collects \$10 for farming tools <i>or</i> \$30 for either moringa seeds or a bag of seeds. Adults collect \$1,250 for a garden well and \$200 for a community garden.		
<b>Ark Challenge (Congregational)</b>	Purchase two of each animal: 2 pairs of goats, 2 mules, 2 tilapia fingerlings, 2 families of chickens, and 2 piglets		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,516</b>
<b>Water Challenge (Congregational)</b>	Sand Dam		\$ 500
	Rainwater Catchment System		\$ 75
	Treadle Pump		\$ 65
	Spigot for Clean Drinking Water		\$ 70
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 710</b>
<b>Refugee Challenge</b>	Each child collects \$30 for displaced students. Adults purchase:		
	Emergency Life Pack	\$125/ea	\$ 500 for 4
	Kitchen Kit	\$25/ea	\$ 100 for 4
	Refugee Food Basket	\$50/ea	\$ 200 for 4
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 800</b>

## Ideas to Connect to Worship and the Congregation *(continued)*

### Young Adult Volunteer Challenge (Congregational)

Purchase one of each Young Adult Volunteer item: groceries, Spanish lesson, day of tutoring, lodging and weekly bus pass

**Total** **\$ 450**

### Children and Youth Challenge (Congregational)

Purchase one of each item for Children and Youth—Youth Triennium scholarship, rehabilitative course for juveniles, youth agriculture training, Peace Pals/House of Teens, peace camp, bunk beds, bed bug protective covers, linens and blankets

**Total** **\$2,340**

*Written by the Rev. Karen Wagner, Southminster Presbyterian, Prairie Village, Kansas*