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Windows on Easter

2021 Lent Worship Series

Inspired by

***Moments with the Savior*** and ***Windows of the Soul*** by Ken Gire

***Windows on Easter*** by Bill Crowder

Collaboratively produced by

***Corps and Community Mission Department***

and ***Music and Creative Arts Ministries***

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**The Salvation Army | USA Central Territory**

**Commissioner Brad Bailey, *Territorial Commander***

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| Windows on Easter  2021 Lent Worship Series  **FOREWORD** |

“Windows on Easter” provides a fresh perspective on the Easter story looking through the “windows” of some of the people who were there, helping us to see what they saw and feel what they felt—that we might be able to learn what they learned.

The seven-week series includes worship service materials for the five Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter services. Available in English and Spanish, the series includes music options, dramas, readings, videos and other Easter resources.

This series is inspired by the following books:

***Moments with the Savior*** by Ken Gire

***Windows of the Soul*** by Ken Gire

***Windows on Easter*** by Bill Crowder

The worship resources are available on the Music and Creative Arts website: <https://www.samusiccentral.org/lent-2021>

Video components are available on the Visual Communications website: <http://wsvr.viscomapps.com/>

**Weekly themes for the series are as follows:**

Week One (February 21, 2021): **Window of Love** – *The Good Samaritan*

Week Two (February 28, 2021): **Window of Worship** – *Mary and Martha*

Week Three (March 7, 2021): **Window of Prayer** – *The Lord’s Prayer*

Week Four (March 14, 2021): **Window of Mercy** – *Blind Man/Bartimaeus*

Week Five (March 21, 2021): **Window of Forgiveness** – *A Woman of the Night*

Palm Sunday (March 28, 2021): **Window of Tears** – *Jesus*

Good Friday (April 2, 2021): **Window of Sorrow**

Easter SonRise (April 4, 2021): **Window of Hope (Strength)** – *The Women*

Easter Celebration (April 4, 2021): **Window of Belief (Scripture)** – *The Emmaus Road Travelers*

**Services contain:**

* Song Options
* Calls to Worship/Scripture/Responsive Readings
* Dramas/Children’s Moments
* Sample Sermon Outlines

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a ***suggestion***. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The meeting outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

**APPRECIATION**

In producing this series, the Corps and Community Mission Department expresses its indebtedness to Peggy Thomas (Norridge Citadel, Illinois) and Martyn Thomas (THQ, Music and Creative Arts Ministries), and Mark Bender (THQ, Corps and Community Mission Department) for their creativity, editing, and hard work. Special thanks to Captain Karen M. Pitter-Holness (St. Louis Euclid Ave., Missouri), Major Caleb Senn (Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois), and Major William DeJesús (THQ, Corps and Community Mission Department), for their creation of the sermon outlines and video sermons. Translation into Spanish has been expertly provided through Alfredo Martinez (THQ, Intercultural Ministries).

With grateful appreciation for the inspirational writings of:

Crowder, Bill. *Windows on Easter.* Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 2010.

Gire, Ken. *Moments with the Savior.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Gire, Ken. *Windows of the Soul.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

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**Week 2 – Window of Worship** – *Mary and Martha*

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| Windows on Easter  2021 Lent Worship Series  **EXPLANATORY NOTES** |

**This worship series has an abundance of content. Please feel free to select what you want to use, rearrange items, or add your own ideas to the services.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES**

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. To better accommodate changes, these worship service outlines are provided on the Music and Creative Arts website: <https://www.samusiccentral.org/worship-series>

If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.

**VIDEO**

The Music and Creative Arts and Visual Communications Departments have produced videos of many of the worship service components, which can be used for both in-person or online worship. Please access them through the Visual Communications website: <http://wsvr.viscomapps.com/>

**MUSIC**

Music is an essential component of any worship service. It is a signal to unite and begin. It establishes the setting for praise and meditation. It adds variety, vitality and focus to worship. It can also be a means of learning and retaining spiritual truth, as well as expressing and sharing our faith.

These worship outlines are designed with the smallest to the largest congregation in mind, allowing for live (piano, ensemble, band, etc.) and recorded (compact discs) accompaniment.

All CD accompaniment songs/choruses have been chosen from the **Hymn Tune Accompaniment (HT)** and **Hallelujah Choruses (HC)** series. Very often an optional song or chorus is given which would fit at that point in the service in place of the original choice. You may wish to sing several of these songs as an additional worship time.

The information for each service component is listed in a grid format as in the following example.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Song# – Title (HC) or First Line (SB)** | **Tune# – Title** | **CD#-Track# (#verses on CD)** |
| **HC#179 – Come to Jesus** | HC-179 | HCD16-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#917 – Christ for the world, we sing** | TB-198 – Moscow | HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |

Accompaniment abbreviations/examples:

**SB** Salvation Army Song Book – words

**TB** Salvation Army Tune Book – tunes

**CF** Carolers Favorites

**HC** Hallelujah Choruses

**HTD2-T2** Hymn Tune Accompaniment Disc #2, Track #2

**HC-179** Hallelujah Choruses #179

**HCD3-T13** Hallelujah Choruses, Disc #3, Track #13

Careful attention is needed when singing songs in a medley. When planning and selecting songs it is important to understand the difference between songs about God (a horizontal perspective) and songs sung to God (a vertical perspective). There is a generally held principle that these perspectives should not shift back and forth. For instance, if you were to sing “O Worship the King” (horizontal song) and “Shout to the Lord” (vertical song) consecutively, it is more conducive to worship to sing “O Worship the King” first and then “Shout to the Lord”, rather than the reverse. Once a vertical song is sung, it needs some type of resolution, whether it be a prayer or another vertical song. Worship “moments” can lose their impact if care is not taken in this area. Also, try to avoid mixing songs with radically different tempos or styles.

Vocal benediction options have been included for each service which can be an effective way to end each service.

**CALLS TO WORSHIP, READINGS and CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS**

Services usually begin with a Call to Worship which introduces the theme of the service.

A choric reading has been included in each service. The choric reading is usually for 2-3 readers and is the scripture reading for the service, taken from *The Voice* paraphrase. It can be replaced by one person reading the scripture passage.

Where possible, print the Congregational Prayer in the bulletin. It serves as a point of reflection throughout the week.

**MISSIONARY MOMENT FOR WORLD SERVICES/SELF-DENIAL**

Included each week is an opportunity to focus on World Services/Self-Denial. For ideas on how to observe this, see the “Goals for a Brighter Future” resources produced by the World Missions Department: <https://centralmissions.org/mstoolkit/>

**DRAMAS and CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

Drama sketches and Children’s Moments have been included in the series to add variety and depth to worship. The experience of *seeing* the Word portrayed, in addition to *hearing* the Word proclaimed, can provide worshipers with increased understanding and perspective. Focusing a special moment in the service for children brings all ages into worship with new perspectives (as well as some laughter!).

While it is not always necessary to memorize a script, memorization enhances any dramatic presentation when time and proficiency permit. Props are kept to a minimum. It is important to take time to read through the script before using this series to know what preparations will be needed.

**SOURCE MATERIAL FOR SERMONS**

Source material for the sermons are provided as a guide in preparation for a total worship experience. *Each sermon included should be viewed as a catalyst for preaching,* ***not a verbatim reading****.* These will be most effective if they are adapted, using personalized illustrations that relate to your specific congregation. Original illustrations have been left in but should only be used as a guideline.

**SUPPORT RESOURCES USED IN THIS SERIES**

The following support resources may be purchased through Trade Central: <http://satradecentral.org/>

Keyboard/Instrumental Accompaniment

The Salvation Army Song Book (2015) – vocal

The Salvation Army Tune Books (2015) – piano/band

Carolers Favorites – vocal/piano/band

Hallelujah Choruses Songbooks 1-26 (#1-280)

Hallelujah Choruses Instrumental Series 1-26 or

Hallelujah Choruses Piano/Rhythm Book (#1-280)

CD Accompaniment

*Hymn Tune Accompaniments* compact discs (12 total)

*Hallelujah Choruses* accompaniment compact discs 1-26

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MacArthur, John. 1998. *The Only Way to Happiness: The Beatitudes*. Chicago: Moody Press.

Schmidt, Kristin. 2019. “Jesus Anointed at Bethany (John 12:1-8) Children’s Sermon.” Ministry-To-Children. April 1, 2019. <https://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-anointed-childrens-sermon/>.

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**Music Sources:**

*Hallelujah Choruses*. 1992-2020. Vol. 1–26. Hoffman Estates, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory.

*The Song Book of The Salvation Army*. 2015. North American Edition. Alexandria, VA: The Salvation Army National Headquarters.