

“Pride Sunday” Resources

Discussion held on Zoom, May 12, 2021

hosted by the Open and Affirming mission team of Phoenix Community Church UCC, Kalamazoo, MI

Here is the recording of the discussion: <https://youtu.be/jXqwE15litk>. The discussion included a wide range of topics such as: why have a pride worship service, scriptures to use, liturgy sources, sharing personal stories, affirming the church’s ONA statement, decorating the altar and worship space, sermons and music. Below are a few of the specific resources mentioned.

A link with interesting dates related to the LGBTQ community:

https://www.lgbtlifewestchester.org/important_lgbt_dates

Scriptures that might make an interesting basis for a Pride Sunday worship:

- Acts 10 (Peter’s vision)
- Galatians 3:26-29 (we are all God’s children)
- Colossians 3:11-14 (we are all God’s children)
- Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Eunuch)
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (one body with many parts)
- Mark 3:31-35 (who are my family?)
- Isaiah 56:3-5 (acceptance of Eunuchs)
- stories about Ruth and Naomi and/or David and Jonathan

Two interesting books related to LGBTQ visibility in the Bible:

- Jacob's Wound: Homoerotic Narrative In The Literature Of Ancient Israel, by Ted Jennings
- The Man Jesus Loved: Homoerotic Narratives from the New Testament, by Ted Jennings

Possible Liturgy Resources (there are also many others... try searching with google or your favorite search engine):

- Rainbow Prayer: <https://qspirit.net/rainbow-christ-prayer-lgbt-flag-reveals-queer-christ/>
- For Pride by Lois Van Leer: <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/pride>
- Manyvoices.org
- from the Open and Affirming Coalition: <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/>
- The Body Electric, Stanza 9 by Walt Whitman – <https://poets.org/poem/i-sing-body-electric>
- Shaping Sanctuary, ed. Kelly Turney (published 2000; can be found on used book market)
- Equal Rites, ed. Kittredge Cherry & Zalmon Sherwood (pub. 1995; <https://www.amazon.com/Equal-Rites-Lesbian-Ceremonies-Celebrations/dp/0664255353/>)
- A Book of Prayer for Gay and Lesbian Christians, by William George Story, (pub. 1995; <https://www.amazon.com/Book-Prayer-Gay-Lesbian-Christians/dp/082451937X>)

Possible Music:

- see the Convergence Music Project at <https://convergencecmp.com>. Audio files and/or lyric sheet music is available for purchase - \$1.99 - \$3.99. One suggested song is “All Belong Here” by a trio that calls itself “The Many.”
- see the Shaping Sanctuary book listed above
- see the Open and Affirming Coalition website listed above
- songs about justice, community, diversity, acceptance, etc. are in general good ones
- Possible appropriate hymns from the New Century Hymnal
 - #575 O for a World,

- #581 Lead Us from Death to Life
- #586 Come to Tend God's Garden
- #590 Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor
- Regarding all music and other materials, don't forget to determine whether or not permission to use it is required by artists or publishers.

Sharing Personal Stories:

- Stories bring faces to nameless "they" & touch hearts. "Not so different from me or my kids or grandkids."
- Pastor/guide could help LGBTQ story-teller to organize and draft their story: discovering one's identity/orientation; journey to come out; responses of family/friends/church; journey to healing & pride - including who and what helped person get there. A draft helps story-teller to stay on track (audience gets lost/bored with wandering and side tales).
- Give it a time limit, again to help keep audience engaged. This is especially important if more than one person is speaking.
- Having a corporate response to the story & teller affirms the teller who is making self vulnerable.