

Draft Worship Outline

January 1, 2021 - July 8, 2021, Year B
The Rush United Methodist Church
<https://www.rushumc.com/>
The Rev. Todd R. Goddard, Pastor

Prayer, reading, and reflection has led to this bare-bones preliminary draft worship plan for January through mid-July, 2021. It is an insight to where God is leading us.

Allow this draft serve as a foundation for a collaborative effort to organize and lead every worship service to creative excellence. Review, make notes, edit, and use as you see fit with my thanks.

Listen for God to speak. Discern God's will. Share the Spirit's direction.

A Worship Team planning meeting will be set for early January. Please extend an invitation to anyone who can constructively contribute to this process. I hope you can attend and participate, using your unique God given skills and talents.

Though the pandemic is raging in December, the start of vaccinations gives light at the end of the tunnel. Is mid-May too early to plan to celebrate the end of Covid? We have a unique opportunity to lead the community, partner with neighbors, and mark the end of this calamitous year.

Thanks to Alethea for arranging for families to provide the Gospel readings!

Thank you for your faithful service!

Year B

(Liturgical Year B - Mark is the Dominate Gospel, supported throughout the year by the Gospel of John)

January 3, 2021

Tenth Day of Christmas - White

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12, Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18

The Gospel from John is a report of creation, the Word and God being one, the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. John masterfully describes the Word being the light of life and all people that overcomes the darkness. John is introduced as the one sent by God to testify to the light that all might believe.

The prophet Jeremiah tells the remnant of Israel that they will be freed from captivity and returned to the promised land.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

(Pastor Todd is on vacation and unavailable January 4-10, 2021)

January 6, 2021 (Wednesday)

Epiphany of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord - White

First Sunday After the Epiphany

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

The Gospel is the report of John the Baptist baptizing in the wilderness, leading to the baptism of Jesus. As Jesus emerges from the water, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, lands on Jesus, and the voice of God proclaims, "You are my Son , the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

We will celebrate baptisms (hopefully) and remind the congregation (splash) with water of their own baptisms!

Altar Arts: Pitcher and bowl, font and flowing water

Guest Preacher / Celebrant: Lida Merrill

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

January 14, 2021

Interracial Clergy Coalition for Henrietta and Rush Sponsored Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

7:00 pm premier on our Rush UMC YouTube and Facebook pages. Leaders from the Town of Rush, Town of Henrietta, the RHCSD address the community and the 1st Annual MLK award is made to a senior student in the RHCSD. Pastor Todd's keynote: <https://youtu.be/BJ67MzOeNUg>

January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday After the Epiphany - Green

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

After Jesus first calls Andrew and Simon to leave John and be his disciples, Jesus goes to Galilee and calls Philip and Nathanael.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday After the Epiphany - Green

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, informing people the kingdom of God is near, calling for repentance, and telling all to believe. He then calls brothers Simon and Andrew, James and John, to become his disciples. Jesus promises them "I will make you fish for people."

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Musa weNkosi Orphanage Support Offering

January 31, 2021

4th Sunday After the Epiphany - Green

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

Jesus is teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum when a man with an unclean spirit challenges him. Jesus casts out the unclean spirit. His fame began to spread throughout Galilee.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

February 7, 2021

5th Sunday After the Epiphany - Green

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law who was in bed with a fever. When word got out, crowds swelled at their door. Jesus healed many, cast out demons, and shushed demons (because they knew him). The next morning, Jesus goes to a quiet place to pray. When Simon and his companions find him they leave Capernaum and begin proclaiming the message and casting out demons in neighboring towns.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of the Lord - White

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where his face and figure are transfigured before their eyes. They were terrified. A cloud overshadows them and the voice of God proclaims and commands "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday - Black

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Palm branches from Palm Sunday 2020 will be burned prior to the service. Ashes will be used to impose ashes.

Jesus instructs the crowds to anonymously give alms to the poor, and how to do so, promising them that his Heavenly Father will see it and grant a reward. Jesus likewise instructs the crowds to fast, and how to do so.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

February 20, 2021

Mardi Gras

Party like there is no tomorrow! Drive by / take out pancake dinner? King cake? Beads galore! Proceeds to new PromiseLand playground?

February 21, 2021

1st Sunday of Lent - Purple

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River. The voice of God identifies Jesus with “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Immediately after his baptism the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days where he is tempted by Satan. Angels wait on him.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

February 28, 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent - Purple

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:27-38

Jesus asks his disciples on the road to Caesarea Philippi who people say he is. Peter correctly identifies Jesus as Messiah. Jesus tells them not to tell anyone. Jesus teaches the secret-holding disciples that he will suffer, die, and after three day, rise from the dead. Peter rebukes Jesus, to which Jesus says “Get behind me, Satan!” Jesus then uses his harsh rebuke as a teaching moment about the sacrifices of discipleship.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Musa weNkosi Orphanage Support Offering

March 7, 2021

3rd Sunday of Lent - Purple

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

Following Jesus turning water into wine, he goes to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. He finds a marketplace. He overturns tables and pours out the coins of the money changers. He angrily commands them to take sacrificial doves out of the Temple and not to make it a marketplace.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

March 14, 2021

4th Sunday of Lent - Purple

(Daylight Saving Time Begins)

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:11-21

Jesus teaches Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, that the Son of Man must be lifted up that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For those who believe, condemnation is removed. Judgment is defined with a metaphor about light and darkness. Those who do what is true come to the light.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

March 21, 2021

5th Sunday of Lent - Purple

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Jesus speaks with a crowd introduced by fellow Greek, Philip. He uses the life and death of a grain of wheat to speak about his death. A voice from heaven speaks "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." Jesus

proclaims when he is lifted up from the earth, he will draw all people to himself.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

March 28 - April 3, 2021

Holy Week

March 28, 2021

Palm | Passion Sunday - White

Palm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark
14:1-15:47

Palm: Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Passion: The story of Jesus' suffering, judgment, and crucifixion is read for all to remember.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Musa weNkosi Orphanage Support Offering

April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday - Purple

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Jesus washes his disciple's feet during the Last Supper, as an act of service and love, encouraging them to wash one another's feet. The Gospel concludes with Jesus commanding his disciples to love one another. Love becomes the means to identify Christians apart from the rest of the world.

Paul reports in his first letter to the church in Corinth about celebrating Holy Communion.

Arts:

Worship: Holy Communion will be served in person and curbside.

Music:

April 2, 2021

Good Friday - Black

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16;
5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42

The Gospel reading is the Passion of Jesus Christ. It will serve as the message, without comment.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

April 4, 2021

Easter! Resurrection of the Lord - 1st Sunday of Easter - White

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts
10:34-43 John 20:1-18

The Gospel of John is the account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, reports it to Simon Peter and “the other disciple ... whom Jesus loved.” The three run back to the empty tomb, finding linen wrappings. The other disciple saw and believed Jesus rose from the dead, but didn’t understand. It is unknown if Peter believed. He didn’t understand, either. They both return to their homes.

Mary remains weeping at the tomb, where she has an encounter with two angels. “Woman, why are you weeping” is asked by the angels, then by Jesus. Mary mistakes Jesus for the gardener, only coming to recognize him when he speaks. Jesus returns and announces to the disciples that she had seen the resurrected Lord.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

April 11, 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31

On the evening of his resurrection from the dead, Jesus appears to all the disciples except for Thomas who is absent. He grants them peace, showed them his wounds. They recognize Jesus and experienced his return to life. They rejoice in this revelation. As his Father sent Jesus, so he sends his disciples. He breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Spirit, to forgive and be forgiven. Thomas wouldn't believe their witness until a week later when Jesus returned and showed him the evidence.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

April 18, 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

The Gospel of Luke reports the fourth and fifth appearance of the resurrected Jesus in three weeks. This time Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus and is identified by his disciples when he breaks bread with them. He disappears. They return to Jerusalem and report Jesus' appearance to others when Jesus makes a fifth appearance. He shows them his wounds and eats fish in their presence; pretty hard for a ghost to do. He commands them to witness in his name to all the nations and proclaim what had happened ... suffering, death, and resurrection. Furthermore, they are charged with calling the nations to repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Jesus holds them primed at the start line, promising them he would clothe them with power from on high, before he would set them loose.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

Jesus teaches that he is the good shepherd, who is willing to sacrifice his life for his sheep. His sheep know him. He protects his sheep. He loves his sheep, just as his heavenly Father loves him.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Musa weNkosi Orphanage Support Offering

May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

Jesus uses a metaphor to teach about his expectations regarding the relationship he keeps with his disciples. Jesus teaches that he is the true vine, his Heavenly Father is the vinegrower who prunes to bear more fruit, we are the branches. He invites us to abide in him.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

May 9, 2021

6th Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day - White

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

Jesus continues from the prior Sunday, using the metaphor of the vine, branches, and vinegrower. He invites his disciples to abide in his love, that his joy might be in us and that it may be complete. Jesus commands disciples to love one another as he has loved us.

Over COVID - When it is safe to do so, resumption of Holy Communion at every service of worship.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

May 10-15, 2021

Over COVID Community Celebration!

Can we collaborate with the Town, School District, Fire Department to celebrate the end of the pandemic? If the timing is off, perhaps it could be delayed to Father's Day weekend or in the summer. Outdoor games for kids all week long.

- Monday, May 10, 7:00 pm: Unmasking! Removal and burning of masks! Community party in the pavilion.
- Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 pm: Remembering with Thanks - Those Who Died and Those Who Mourn, service in the sanctuary. Signing a community tribute wall in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday, May 12, 6:00pm: Community Picnic, followed by a recognition of local front-line workers and first responders.
- Thursday, May 13, 7:00 pm: Service of Thanksgiving in the sanctuary.
- Friday, May 14, 6:00 pm: Celebrate Education Picnic - Recognizing the efforts of students, teachers, and support staff.

May 16, 2021

7th Sunday of Easter - White

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

Prior to his arrest, Jesus prays for his disciples who follow him. His intimate conversation with his Heavenly Father desires unity, asking for protection from the evil one. He asks for God to sanctify his disciples in the truth.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

May 23, 2021

Pentecost - Red (think flames!)

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

The Gospel tells about Christ's promise to send the Advocate - the Holy Spirit - from God to his disciples, to remain present with them after Christ's departure.

The passage from Acts is the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit, with tongues as of fire resting on each disciple.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Musa weNkosi Orphanage Support Offering

May 26, 2021

4th Wednesday Community Picnic in the Pavilion
Provided it is safe to do so.

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday - Memorial Day Weekend - White
Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

We return to the Pharisee named Nicodemus first visit to Jesus under cover of darkness. Verses 16 and 17 reveals God's purpose for sending us Jesus.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

June 6, 2021

2nd Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 5 - Green

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138 Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35

Jesus is accused by a scribe from Jerusalem as being Satan. He warns that whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven. Jesus teaches the crowd that whoever does the will of God is his brother and sister and mother. Doing the will of God is thicker than blood!

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

June 13, 2021

3rd Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 6 - Green

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 Psalm 20 Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 4:26-34

Jesus uses seeds as a simile to teach about being productive and as a comparison for the kingdom of God. Jesus taught in parables in public, but explained everything in private to his disciples.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

June 20, 2021

4th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 7 - Father's Day - Green
1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16 Psalm 133 Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41

Why, yes. The wind and sea obey Jesus! Fearful disciples wake Jesus thinking they are at risk of perishing. He commands the winds and sea "Peace! Be still!" The weather immediately calms and clears. Jesus ask his disciples why they were afraid?

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

June 23, 2021

4th Wednesday Community Picnic in the Pavilion
Provided it is safe to do so.

June 27, 2021

5th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 8 - Green
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130 Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or
Lamentations 3:22-33 Psalm 30 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

The miracle narrative of Jesus healing a hemorrhaging woman is embedded in the miracle narrative of Jesus raising Jairus daughter from the dead.

Arts:

Worship:

Music: Retirement Party for Judy!

Musa weNkosi Orphanage Support Offering

July 4, 2021

6th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 9 - Independence Day - Green
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians
12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13

Jesus returns to his hometown to teach in the synagogue, where he is derided by family and neighbors, leaving him powerless to do much. Jesus is amazed at their unbelief.

One Service at 10:00 am

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

July 11, 2021

7th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 10 - Green
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13 Ephesians
1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

The Gospel narrative describes the events leading to the beheading of John the Baptist. Herod hoped a headless man would put to rest any resurrection rumors. Lust and power make for violent outcomes.

Arts:

Worship:

Music:

Second Sunday Lunch - When it is Safe!

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Notes:

1. Pastor Todd on Vacation: January 7 - 17, 2022 - Covid Tentative!

References:

Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt Divinity School
lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu