



Design a Men's Worship Service!

RESOURCES & IDEAS

A BEGINNING LIST – FIRST DRAFT, 2003

Good calendar dates:

Super Bowl Sunday; Father's Day; NOT Father's Day

Consider these elements:

Rituals, relevant music, readings, opening/closing words, images, skits, testimonials, UU Principle connections, sharing topics, general or specific themes, etc. (Sermons can also be directed to our UUMeN Sermon Contest.)

Especially good for a service about

Fathers:

Tell true myths: "Once there was a father who..." (about yourself or your father)

"Show and Tell" – Display and explain large objects that have meaning to fatherhood

Naming: "I am [your name], son of [father's name]."

Explore various types of fathering practices

Share personal experiences of fatherhood or son-hood

Invite all the men present to stand and encircle the seated group

Prepare and circulate a questionnaire about fathering and weave responses into a sermon

Music:

- Songs by Fred Small, especially "Father's Song," "Willie's Song," "No Limit" & "Everything Possible."
- "The Living Years" by Mike and the Mechanics
- "Stout-Hearted Men" by Oscar Hammerstein
- "Songs of Travel" by Ralph Vaughan William: (texts by Robert Louis Stevenson) (available set for baritone & tenor)
- "Six Songs from a Shropshire Lad" by George Butterworth: (text by A. E. Houseman), especially "The Lads In Their Hundreds" (baritone)

These last two are found in a collection called "The Vagabond and Other Songs," recorded by Welsh bass baritone Bryn Terfel.

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Other Ideas:

- Focus on the theme of Scouting, including the inclusion of gay men & boys.
- Naming ritual in a relatively small service: A talking stone or some other symbolic object is passed hand to hand to all those present. When holding the stone, each is invited to name a male person who had a very positive impact on their life.

Readings:

Rag and Bone Shop of the Heart, a collection by Robert Bly

"my father moved through dooms of love" by e.e. cummings

Fathering story in "The Miracle of Mindfulness" by Thich Nhat Hanh

Also visit **WorshipWeb**, a web site offering a variety of worship resources online from the UUA. The site can be accessed off the main page of the UUA web site (www.uua.org) or reached directly at <<<http://www.uua.org/worshipweb/worshipweb.html>>>.

You'll find words to open a service, meditations and prayers, information to help construct services, readings, closing words, and more.

This is an ideal resource for lay and professional worship leaders alike.

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...**AND YOU**— for the next edition of this resource!

TELL WOMEN

...about a Men's Worship Service you've experienced in any context — congregation, conference, group, etc.

We prefer materials via e-mail attachment as Microsoft Word documents or saved in Rich Text Format.

—**THANKS!**

Please e-mail your input to
info@uumen.org

The Unitarian Universalist Men's Network (UUMeN) supports a mature, liberal religious masculinity with resources and leadership, and can also be contacted at ourWeb site: <<www.uumen.org>>