

Reading the scripture story with current images

We need to hear the story from scripture. How can we hear it again with the power of the old words, but with new images to make it current to our lives and not just another sentimental journey?

For congregations that have projection capabilities, current images accompanying familiar words may help to bring this to life. Those who find images distracting can simply disregard them, but others may find it a means of connecting familiar words with a new perspective.

We have made available on our website a slide show (powerpoint and pdf) and a document that will allow congregations to incorporate the old reading with images. The King James Version has been used because of the juxtaposition of the familiar ancient words and current images, but it may be more appropriate in your context to use another version. Simply add the slide hints into a more current translation.

Slide show:

PowerPoint: <http://hamconf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Encountering-the-Story.pptm>

PDF: <http://hamconf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Encountering-the-Story-pdf.pdf>

Scripture: <http://hamconf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Christmas-Reading-KJV.pdf>

It is important that this presentation be rehearsed by the reader and the technician together. Timing will occasionally be challenging especially if your projector takes a few moments to load images.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the images used in this slide show are public domain or creative commons images. If you choose to alter this slide show and use other images, please make every effort to respect the photographers who have provided your images while also protecting yourselves from copyright infringement.

youtube videos

Dramatic telling of the Traditional Story

It is Time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s29gdBS8eEQ>

Black Nativity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsl2xlla-Vs>

International Homespun Blues

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXTAI438r3s>

Joseph

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhudjMTrbds>

The SMS Christmas Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HChPWxGOcKq>

Donkey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So7B4llvDxM>

A North London Nativity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b14J2mbev0Y>

Boy in a Billion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-looZqCY2g>

Three Not so wise Men:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOR_LRpwTA0

The Captive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z9zCU6arTY>

Children Tell the Story

An Unexpected Story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM1XusYVqNY>

Small Children

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzv4kAHg_7Q

Children tell it

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWq60oyrHVQ>

Dancivity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FRboBv0wAs>

Toward Daring Discipleship

November 2015

ADVENT

Encountering The Story

The Story of the Incarnation,
of
God with us,
is news that is worth deep hearing.

Hearing again as if for the first time.

Hearing in such a way it becomes part of us.

Sometimes it is helpful to seek new ways to enable our encounter personally and communally with the Good News of the birth of Jesus.



Lorna MacQueen
Hamilton Conference Minister
Faith Formation for Discipleship

SLOW PRAYER: St. Teresa of Avila recommended this technique. To pray a Christmas hymn, prayer or poem, but take an hour to do so. Spend a few minutes on each individual phrase until it is internalized. If music is powerful to you using a hymn may be helpful, (though you may need to be flexible around theology and images.)

Suggested Hymns: VU 17 O Ancient Love, VU 61 Of The Father's Love (Of God's Very Heart).

For spoken prayer: Bruce Sanguin's If Darwin Prayed has Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Prayers that might be very powerful prayed in 'slow prayer'.

Read the hymn/prayer through first, to make sure that the words reflect what you wish to pray!

Sitting with sound: Begin by sitting with breath.

<http://kellymcgonigal.com/2012/09/12/mindfulness-of-breathing/>

Turn your attention from the breath to sound. Using a hymn such as one of the below, you allow yourself to hear the silence and the absence of sound as well as the presence. Without examination or judgment, the sound unfolds moment by moment and the silence and sound is heard in its purity. Attention may be focused on breath and the sound at the same time. This allows the sounds to be 'breathed into our body' and flow out again on the out breath. Imagine that your body is transparent to sound, and that sound can move in and out of your body through the pores in your skin.

Possible Hymns:

Of the Father's Love-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzlgBDZHD5U>

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wl4u8lnDQs>

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO7ySn-Swwc&index=14&list=RDke_bZlcXlsM



Encountering the Story through Compassion and seeking Justice

Remember that the stories of Jesus' nativity (Matthew 1 & 2) locate Jesus and his family as marginalized people in danger from corrupt power and forced into refugee status. At least temporarily they are homeless, and far from their home of choice. Our understanding of the story can be located in the stories of others who at this time are marginalized, in danger from corrupt power, and/or fleeing situations of danger. We are invited to encounter the Word Made Flesh in the struggle of those who likewise are in need. Worship is not only a place of gathered people but a way of life and we worship as we seek also to "bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives... and let the oppressed go free..." (Luke 4:18)

Kairos offers opportunities to engage in seeking Justice. They also link Advent Worship Resources to a justice focus when we need help with the link between spiritual practice and the practice of justice. <http://www.kairoscanada.org/>

Our National United Church is often ahead of the media in terms of recognizing and responding to spots of particular need in the world. <http://www.united-church.ca/> Accompanying prayer and worship resources are included with practical suggestions for action to respond with compassion in the way of Christ.

Kairos, United Church GC and Hamilton Conference websites have resources to help congregations interested in responding to the needs of refugees.

Local justice initiatives relevant to your community may be the area in which your church feels called to respond. Seek local partnerships to enrich this journey.

Using images for meditation to encounter the Christmas story:

Use a slide show or individual printed images (without breaking copyright) taken from newspapers, magazines or online (such as the images offered below) to invite people to encounter the story of the Incarnation as their own story and a story relevant in the world. Current images in the media are powerful avenues to remind us what the gospel writers wished to share with us who this radical refugee Jesus was/is to the world. Invite people into silence and prayerful watching of a slow slide show, or use a form of **Visio Divina**: http://www.kilerphoto.com/PDF_Files/Visio_Divina_Introduction.pdf

Images



<http://www.incredibleart.org/gallery/M/>

[Mother-and-Child-by-Pablo-Picasso-\(inspired-by\).html](http://www.freeimages.com/photo/kamihaze-1542264)

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/man-and-child-1434190>

<http://www.incredibleart.org/gallery/M/Man-Leading-A-Camel-by-Edwin-Lord-Weeks.html>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/struggle-1390502>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/shepherd-at-the-top-of-wadi-bi-1522882>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/christmas-1196173>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/hippie-jesus-1520659>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/jesus-on-the-cross-1442568>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/poverty-5-1504898>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/beggar-poverty-1-1170417>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/journey-1525428>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/journey-1544229>

<http://www.freeimages.com/photo/mother-and-child-1578427>

<http://www.incredibleart.org/gallery/M/Mother-of-God-by-Unknown-Painter.html>