

Sanctuary First

April 2012

Theme Summary - The Cross Shaped Space

This service is about dying to self and into a new life in Christ.

Setting the Scene

As people enter the church they discover various cross shaped spaces on the carpet. These cross shaped spaces could be made by lights or just chalk marks on the carpet.

The Church is divided using white material. A cross shape has been cut out of the material, big enough that people can walk through. This will be the entrance to a “sacred” space.

Item	Notes
READING	THE SPACE - see attached sheet
LEADER	<p>The Bible tells us the cross was always part of God’s Grand Design within creation. (An example of this is to cut a banana and see the cross) As we all share in the service together we’d like all of us to reflect upon three things about the cross of Christ.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 The cross invites us to be selfless2 The cross invites us to use our time talent and wealth to pursue justice3 The cross asks why is suffering part of redemption <p>We may not find all the answers here today but we will perhaps find some light shed on these topics as we reflect together.</p>
SONG	O To See the dawn

Item	Notes
LEADER	There are just so many distractions that prevent us from understanding or even recognizing the significance of the cross. We live in a noisy world of violence where we are so easily deceived. We have blocked out the voice of God often putting up our own barriers.
VIDEO	BARRIERS TO BELIEF
VIDEO	SEVEN CROSS WORDS
SONG	Jesus Christ I think upon the sacrifice
LEADER	<p>To enter into the suffering of Christ is to embrace his story of salvation. We would like all of us to think of our own sadness and suffering tonight. Our disappointments and hurts. Come and stand in the place of the cross. This idea of sharing in Christ's sufferings is mentioned in Philippians 3:10. "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."</p> <p>If we die to self we arise to a new life and a new place. Ask yourself am I the prayer or the answer to prayer.</p>
VIDEO	CROSS SHAPED
	Congregation move through the cross shaped space.
SONG	<p>All I once held dear</p> <p>As people sing this song invite them to make their initials on the white material which acts as a graffiti wall. Then they score them out using a cross sign as a symbol that they want to die to self and live to Christ and engage in the whole pain and suffering of the world.</p>
	They leave through the cross shaped space into the open space and into the world and find the following areas:
AREA 1	In this area is a big clock. This can be made using cardboard. The question "How much time do I give in service pursuing justice and truth?" is written under the clock. As they reflect on this question people can write on the clock face the names of people, places and situations in the world that they want to pray for.

Item	Notes
AREA 2	In this area is a still life with a musical instrument, baking bowl, a painting, a cleaning mop, etc. The question “How much do I give in talent and service?” is written below the still life. As they reflect on this question people can write on bits of paper the talents that they are using in Service to God. They can then place the paper in the baking bowl.
AREA 3	In this area are things representing money and possessions, eg. coins, money bags, collection plates, keys, photos of cars, phones, etc. The question “How am I resourcing the work of the kingdom?” is written below this. People can pick up a coin as they reflect on this question and place the coin in the collection plate.
	The group is then brought back together and share what they have experienced
LEADER	Blessing to go out to the world and serve.

THE SPACE

Lord, Here I am,
I've just arrived
Out of breath feeling guilty,
with a thousand and one things still to do:
letters still to write,
decisions still to be made,
relationships still to mend,
deadlines to be met,
expectations to be fulfilled.
But I'm standing here,
thinking about the cross shaped space.
I'm thinking about the way I walked to the space.
I want to stay a while,
not move,
just stand here in the space,
living in the space,
working in the space,
praying in the space,
receiving your 'Spirit breath'.
I guess this is my time to reflect,
My prayer time.

Lord, I'm struggling to live in the cross shaped space.
Help me clear a space in my life to spend with You,
to live in Your space,
Your space that allows me to receive forgiveness,
Your space that gives me grace to forgive others,
Your space that helps me become a servant.

Lord,
I want to stay in this space,
soak in this space,
laugh in this space,
dance in this space,
die in this space.
Lord thank you for the gift of faith giving me courage to believe,
to know this is the right space in which to be.