

Come Together

All-Ages Gatherings for the Liturgical Year



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Come Together: All-Ages Gatherings for the Liturgical Year
November 2021

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This e-book has been designed in Canada by Valerie Taylor and Jessica Stilwell, and is published by:

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Welcome



Introduction to All-Ages Gatherings

Welcome to “Come Together”, we are glad you decided to purchase this e-book and hope you will find it a valuable resource for your Church community.

There are two distinct threads in my own life that have caused me to compile this book. The first comes from my experiences as Director of Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps where it has always been a priority to include an inclusive closing worship gathering as part of our programs. Each day the Campers participate in the Creative Connection component where they have opportunities to explore drama, dance, creative writing and fine arts, all of which are brought together in the Closing Gathering. Over the years I have been privileged to visit many communities for these Gatherings and have always found them to be extremely moving. Observing the response of adults to the worship offerings made by children has caused me to advocate for greater inclusivity of the whole church family in at least some of its regular acts of worship.

The second thread is my own hands-on work in several diverse churches where, as coordinator of children’s ministry and part of the worship planning team I have been given many opportunities to build All Ages Gatherings that reflect the context in which they take place while frequently stretching some members of the church family who might be less open to the concept.

Yes there have been epic failures, and as you head out on this adventure, you may have some too! but the successes far outweigh the failures. Watching a senior helping a small child in crafting a candle holder, seeing a small group of adults and children joining in liturgical dance, standing in a circle on Ash Wednesday as a young girl imposes ashes on the forehead of her Pastor all of these vignettes, and so many more, make all the planning and work totally worthwhile.

I encourage you to jump in with both feet and may you also see the Fruits of the Spirit exemplified in your community as you “Come Together”.