

Call to Worship

Year B, Pentecost 20-26

By Beth Barnett

This is the Call to Worship for use with Hebrews readings for Pentecost 20-26.

You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words• Simple 'Holiness and Humanness' actions led by small team• 'Curtains' of Holiness and Humanness, revealing God (simple props made from cardboard, fabric and poles)• Actors with simple costume/props forming a tableau• Household take-home card
Time required:	2 minutes

Description:

This call to worship provides plenty of options for you to scale up or down the levels of participation and creativity and complexity in your context.

You could begin simply with the **words only**, presented by different voice as described in the first week, then add other elements week by week.

You might add the simple **action group** for Holiness and Humanness the second week.

Then the third week present the '**curtains**' visuals with the liturgy.

Perhaps in the fourth week, combine the **actions and the curtains**.

In the fifth week, just present the **Tableau**.

In the sixth week, combine all of the visual and participatory elements.

You will need:

- Call to worship Liturgy with coloured lines displayed on screen or hard copies distributed among your gathering.
- Readers
- Leaders for actions (a small team of different ages and personalities works best)
- 'Curtains' on poles
- Actors for Tableau (see below)

Instructions

To present the call to worship – divide your gathering into two sections – group 1 'Holiness' and group 2 'Humanness'. Practice their lines once or twice, then practice the response 'God of all things' with both groups together.

You will need two other solo readers, but you could use more solo readers, changing each 'verse' of the liturgy, if you have plenty of volunteers. However many readers you have, make sure they declare their lines slowly and expressively and clearly – knowing that this is for the sake of everyone.

Call to worship

Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

Reader 1: God of our ancestors

Reader 2: God of the prophets (if using the Tableau, 'ancestor' makes pose in the Tableau space)

All: God of speaking

Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

Reader 1: God of the coming world

Reader 2: God of all worlds (if using the Tableau, 'astronomer' makes pose in the Tableau space)

All: God of creating

Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

Reader 1: God of the powerful word

Reader 2: God of majesty on high ('judge' enters and freezes in Tableau space)

All: God of right-making



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Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

Reader 1: God of angels

Reader 2: God of humans ('Angel' and 'ordinary person' enter and freeze in the Tableau space)

All: God of sustaining

Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

Reader 1: God of Grace

Reader 2: God through whom all things exist ('Potter' enters and freezes in the Tableau space)

All: God of suffering

Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

Reader 1: God our one Father

Reader 2: God of us all – sisters and brothers ('Family' enters and freezes in the Tableau space)

All: God of home-bringing

Group 1: God of Holiness

Group 2: God of humanness

All: God of all things

All: In the midst of the gathering we will praise you

Visual Enhancement options:

Holiness and Humanness Curtains

Use a meter square of sturdy packaging cardboard to create a solid backing. Write the word 'God' clearly in the middle.

Attach a 1.5 m width of gold fabric across the top of the card, stapling it in place, gathering it evenly along the way.

Cut the fabric up the centre from bottom to just short of the staple line, creating two sides of curtains that can be drawn apart to reveal the word 'God' written on the cardboard backing.

Firmly tape the card to a pole (dowel or broom stick) at the back with duct tape.

Use a meter square of sturdy packaging cardboard to create a solid backing. Write the word 'God' clearly in the middle.

Attach a 1.5m width of hessian or brown fabric across the top of the card, stapling it in place, gathering it evenly along the way. Using thick permanent marker or oil pastel, draw an assortment of body shapes randomly on the fabric/hessian.



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Cut the fabric up the centre from bottom to just short of the staple line, creating two sides of curtains that can be drawn apart to reveal the word 'God' written on the cardboard backing.

Firmly tape the card to a pole (dowel or broom stick) at the back with duct tape.

During the Call to Worship liturgy, two pairs of assistants present the curtains.

One person in each pair hold the pole securely, while the other pulls the curtains aside on cue of the phrase

Group 1: God of Holiness (Gold curtain)

Group 2: God of humanness (Brown/Hessian curtain)

Tableau

Recruit beforehand 7 people to be dressed as the following characters

Ancestor (dressed in any kind of historical costume – any era)

Astronomer (looking out through a telescope at space)

Judge (black robe, open book being studied)

Angel & Ordinary human (any ages) wrestling/embracing pose

Potter (Working clay/half formed item – could be multicoloured plasticine)

Family (i.e. man nursing baby; two twins dressed alike)

At the cue of each corresponding line one character takes their place in the tableau and remains still for the duration of the call to worship.

Tableau arrangement suggestion:



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