



Experiencing Beauty

About this Faith Practice

Experiencing beauty as a faith practice enables us to encounter God through our senses and through the mysterious workings of God's Spirit. When we awaken to the diverse expressions of beauty, we deepen our connection to God, others, and ourselves. Through the beauty around us—in the universe and relationships, amid moments of both delight and brokenness—God communicates grace, healing, and comfort to us. We see anew, and we are moved to worship.

Let's Begin...

Now that you've downloaded the files for your faith practice and age group or setting, you can get started planning one or multiple sessions:

1 Open the .pdf file for your age group or setting. Choose an Exploration, the approach you think will help your group to best experience the faith practice. Choose any one of the following Explorations to use for one session:



Discovery



Scripture



Discipleship



Christian Tradition



Context and Mission



Future and Vision

Note: If you're planning multiple sessions, you can follow the order suggested above or feel free to use any order that fits the needs of your group. Some groups may choose to start with Scripture and then see where that leads them. Others may be more ready to act in their community and might want to start with Context and Mission.

2 Locate the Exploration you've chosen

3 Look through all 9 activities and select the ones you would like to do with your group.

- If you're planning a 30–45 minute session, choose 3 activities.
- It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving.
- For 45 minutes to 1 hour, choose 4 or 5 activities.
- For a 1½ to 2-hour session, you can use all 9 activities.

Tip: Look for this symbol  to find activities designed for Easy Preparation (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church).

4 Make copies of any handouts () related to your activities. Order posters () if using art (see “Ordering Posters,” below).

Use of Art, Music, and Scripture in Faith Practices

Faith Practices activities include many opportunities to grow in faith through the use of scripture, music, and art.

Ordering Posters

If you choose activities that use an art image, you or your church will need to purchase posters of the art by clicking on the link provided in the activity. If you wish to use art, you will need to plan ahead, since it takes 1 to 2 weeks for the posters to arrive after you place your order.

Art

Six posters are used with the faith practice Experiencing Beauty and may be ordered by clicking on the links provided.

From Imaging the Word Poster Sets

“Guatemala: Procession” by Betty LaDuke

https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Ecommerce/1004323110?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=15626&store_id=1401

“Caresse Maternelle (Mother and Child)” by Mary Stevenson Cassatt

https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Ecommerce/1004323110?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=37961&store_id=1401

“Journey of the Magi” by James Tissot

https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Ecommerce/1004323110?VIEW_PRODUCT=true&product_id=37962&store_id=1401

From Art.com

“Navaro Rapids” by Andro Hiroshigi

<http://www.art.com/products/p10023130-sa-i802528/ando-hiroshige-navaro-rapids-c1855.htm?sorig=cat&sorigid=0&dimvals=0&ui=ab4fda6b36f84ed3b285828650303e96&searchstring=navaro+rapids>

“Red Canna” by Georgia O’Keeffe

<http://www.art.com/products/p10032683-sa-i674918/georgia-okeeffe-red-canna.htm?sorig=cat&sorigid=0&ui=4FA2E7AB9F664A828CD2028E434AEDC4>

“Wind from the Sea” by Andrew Weyeth

<http://www.art.com/products/p15524076-sa-i3804653/andrew-wyeth-wind-from-the-sea.htm?sorig=cat&sorigid=0&dimvals=0&ui=dfff3132492f45b38c1f69b8ff1b86c1>

Music

Three music selections are used with Experiencing Beauty. We have selected music which is easily found in many hymnals. A web link is provided to give more information about each music selection.

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower” by Natalie Sleeth (tune: Promise)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkWYubdnc7o>

“For the Beauty of the Earth” by Folliot S. Pierpoint (tune: Dix)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHQMxiOKEDQ>

“Over My Head” African- American traditional (tune: Over My Head)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6GVc0rFTFw&feature=related>

Scripture

Twelve Bible passages are used with Experiencing Beauty, two with each Exploration.

Discovery	Genesis 28:10-19a	Matthew 6:24-34
Scripture	Luke 9:28-36	Nehemiah 8
Discipleship	Exodus 35:20-29	Acts 9:17-20
Christian Tradition	Psalm 8	Jeremiah 12:1-8
Context and Mission	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	2 Corinthians 5:16-20
Future and Vision	Job 38:1-11	Revelation 21:2-5

Writing Team for Experiencing Beauty

Lindsey Halpern Given	<i>Worship, Music, Arts, and Story</i>
Julie Olmstead	<i>Adults</i>
Barbara Rathbun	<i>Seekers and New Church Participants</i>
Alyson Huntly	<i>Young Adults</i>
Jenny Morgan	<i>Older Youth</i>
Thea Mozingo	<i>Youth</i>
Becky Johnston	<i>Older Children</i>
Bonnie Hardy	<i>Young Children</i>
Lorrie Kovell	<i>Multiage and Intergenerational</i>
Penny Stokes	<i>Living Practices in Daily Life</i>
Robin Brooks	<i>Workshop Rotation</i>
Donald Schmidt	<i>United Church of Christ Identity and History</i>
Aimee Reid	<i>Editor</i>
Patrice L. Rosner	<i>Managing Editor</i>