

AN EXPERIMENTAL MORNING SERVICE

Some years ago Liberton Kirk abandoned a small evening service which was largely a repeat of the 11 a.m. one and retimed the second service at 9.30 a.m. This service is much better attended, it coincides in part with the Sunday School whose pupils leave for the church hall at an appropriate point in the service, and has now come to be regarded as a less rigid service than the 11 a.m. one and gives opportunity for experiment in co-operation by the younger members of the congregation. An example is printed below.

In this case the opening poem, lesson and excerpts from papers relating to subjects of intercession were all read by teen-agers. Some younger children assisted in receiving the offering. Like the elders for the day they were equipped with name-badges which are made as required with a Dymo tape machine.

In Part I a discussion took place with the children, who are already familiar with a question and answer approach. The discussion in Part II was thrown open to the whole congregation. The response was quite good but might have been better if a warning announcement or a note on the printed order had indicated that this was intended. It might, of course, have had the opposite effect. The closing handshake was quite effective though again a word of instruction to the man at the end of the pew regarding his other neighbour might have been useful. As the church is on the old T-pattern with the pulpit set very high to be seen in the gallery (not used at 9.30 a.m.), the minister conducted the service from the Communion table, round which the various participants were also grouped.

(EDITOR)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Theme – Worship and Teaching

I. Worship

Introductory MUSIC

A POEM to set the mind thinking

The entry of the Bible

We sing HYMN 203 (R.C.H.), 'Look upon us blessed Lord'

Some words of introduction; some verses of Scripture, and a PRAYER in which we praise God and also ask his forgiveness, rejoicing to receive it.

LORD'S PRAYER

We sing PSALM 24, vv. 7-10, 'Ye gates, lift up your heads on high' (*tune*: St. George's, Edinburgh – 190)

DISCUSSION with the CHILDREN about WORSHIP

We sing a modern HYMN, 'The Lord of the Dance'

INTIMATIONS are given

The Children leave (for Sunday School)

MUSIC to listen to

II. Teaching

Bible passage for the day – LUKE 4, vv. 16-22

COMMENT on the Reading and DISCUSSION

III. Response to Worship and Teaching

Our Offerings symbolize our response and we dedicate them.

We pray for the whole World – our thoughts guided by the headlines of the day's papers

We ask God's guidance as we go forth singing HYMN 564, 'Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah', (*tune*: Cwm Rhonnda)

We share the BLESSING, saying together:

The Grace of the Lord Jesus
and the Love of God our Father
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, and all we love,
today and always.

Amen

We shake hands with the person on our right and on our left and say,

'PEACE BE WITH YOU'

and we leave the Church.

J. W. M. CAMERON