

Worship Suggestions:

You will have your own ideas about Bible passages which might be used to illustrate the theme Called to act justly.

In addition to the Micah 6 passage from which the theme is taken, here are a few suggestions from the examples quoted in the resource material prepared for guilds this session:

Amos 5: 18-27
Matthew 25: 31-46
Psalm 15
Isaiah 61

Suggested hymns :

Let us build a house CH4 198, CG 4
A new commandment SGP 2, MP 1
Christ's is the world in which we move CH4 724, CG 1, SGP 21
Jesus Christ is waiting CH4 360
God is working his purpose out MP 189, CH4 235,
CH3 303

(CH 3 & 4: Church Hymnary 3 & 4; MP: Mission Praise; SGP: Songs of God's People; CG: Common Ground)

In addition you might like to note the availability of an Order of Service for a Guild Dedication Service (free of charge).

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Church of Scotland Guild

Session 2009-10
Called to act justly
Notes on the Theme for Ministers, Worship Leaders and
Guest Speakers

The Guild's Aim

“The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.”

One way in which we seek to fulfil this aim is by focussing on particular themes and providing resource materials to help local groups in the exploration of the faith. You may have been invited to speak to a congregational guild or to a Presbyterial Council on the year's theme. This leaflet has been produced to help you understand the thinking behind the current theme and to let you know some of the related activities guilds are undertaking.

Since 1997 the Guild has followed a pattern of adopting an overall strategy of worship, study and project work for a three year period, with a focus on a different aspect of that strategy in each year.

During 2009-12 the overall theme will be What does the Lord require of you? The annual themes will explore aspects of the challenge contained in Micah 6: 8 : to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

This session's theme is, therefore, Called to act justly and guilds are being challenged to think about injustice, both locally and globally, and our response to it as individuals and as communities of faith.

The theme pack circulated to all guilds for this session contains Bible background notes, worship suggestions and ideas for programmes. In addition to what has been produced in-house there are excellent relevant resources available from organisations such as Church Action on Poverty, Just Church, the Fairtrade Foundation and Scottish Churches Housing Action. The Guild's ongoing concern for issues like human trafficking and domestic abuse is also relevant.

For the whole three year period 2009-12, the Guild is supporting the following Projects, each of which reflects some aspect of the challenge: What does the Lord require of you? Our partners are:

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CrossReach (Church of Scotland): On the other side - providing support for families of prisoners through visitor centres offering advice, information and practical support.
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HIV/AIDS project (Church of Scotland): A new hunger - tackling the global crisis in the provision of food through income generation schemes leading to greater food security for families affected by HIV.

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International Justice Mission: Terrify no more - rescuing people from slavery and forced prostitution in Cambodia and working through the criminal justice system to prosecute traffickers.

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Ministries Council (Church of Scotland): A place for hope - addressing conflict in the church and wider society. The project aims to establish a place for reconciliation and peacemaking in Scotland.

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Mission Aviation Fellowship: Mission Run - supporting the work of mission in isolated parts of Madagascar where, due to difficult terrain and lack of infrastructure, flying is the only quick and safe way to travel.

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World Mission Council (Church of Scotland): Interfaith Support - working in Israel/Palestine to support those of different faiths who refuse to accept the inevitability of conflict. The project, involving Christian, Jewish and Muslim initiatives, seeks to inform and support.

Material has been provided to help guilds discuss a particular related topic in greater depth. This session the Discussion Topic is Let's talk about justice: what we can do. It includes discussion starter questions, worship suggestions and practical initiatives to help members relate issues of injustice to their own life and individual choices.

