

The Order of Service

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary
as a signal for silence
 - II. Singing
 - III. The Apostles' Creed
 - IV. Prayer, closing with the
Lord's Prayer in concert
 - V. Singing
 - VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
 - VII. Responsive reading
of the lesson text by school
 - VIII. The Decalogue
-

The Lesson

- I. Organ interlude while
the classes are being arranged
 - II. Class study of the lesson
 - III. Warning bell — 5 minutes
 - IV. Closing bell — silence
-

The Closing

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application
of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

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— Lessons —

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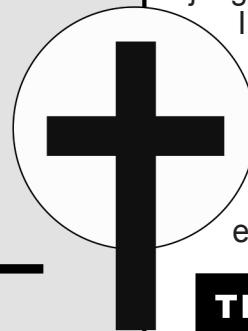
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Church School Creed

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.



David Worships God in Jerusalem

Lesson Scripture: 1 Chronicles 15

Focus Scripture: 1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29a (end with “dancing”)

Key Verse: So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres.

1 Chronicles 15:28 (NRSV)

1 CHRONICLES 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29A (END WITH “DANCING”)(NRSV)

1 Chronicles 15:1-3

1 David built houses for himself in the city of David, and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.

2 Then David commanded that no one but the Levites were to carry the ark of God, for the Lord had chosen them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever.

3 David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it.

14-16

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel.

15 And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.

16 David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy.

25-29a (end with “dancing”)

25 So David and the elders of Israel, and the commanders of the thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the house of Obed-edom with rejoicing.

26 And because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

27 David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as also were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the leader of the music of the singers; and David wore a

1 CHRONICLES 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29A (END WITH “DANCING”)(KJV)

1 Chronicles 15:1-3

1 And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

2 Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

3 And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place, which he had prepared for it.

14-16

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel.

15 And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the Lord.

16 And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.

25-29a (end with “playing”)

25 So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the house of Obededom with joy.

26 And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.

27 And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him

linen ephod.

28 So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres.

29 As the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing;...

an ephod of linen.

28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

29 And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing:...

Key Terms

- **Levite** – Descendants of Levi (the third son of the patriarch Jacob), who were set apart by God. If directly descended from Aaron, they served as priests (*Kohanim*) offering sacrifices and entering the holy place and the Holy of Holies. Other Levites were singers, musicians, and maintained and safeguarded the temple.
- **Ark of God** – A sacred golden chest placed in the Holy of Holies that contained the Ten Commandments written on two stone tablets. Hebrew noun *ahrohn* (ark) appears almost 200 times in the Old Testament, it means *chest* or *container*.
- **Ephod** – Sacred clothes worn by the priest.
- **Glory** (Shekhinah (*shuh-khee-nuh*)) – Indicates God's visible and felt presence, that is, God living with us.

INTRODUCTION

Most people enjoy celebrations: birthdays, showers, holidays, retirements, weddings, anniversaries. Laughter,

dancing, and singing make the party fun. *Kool and the Gang* described it, "Celebrate good times, come on! There's a party goin' on right here, A celebration to last throughout the years." (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_cS39FeKCA) King David hosted a celebration over 3,000 years ago. King David invited priests, Levites, singers, musicians, elders, and warriors to join the party. What were they celebrating? Why would the army, church, and government leaders party together? It was bringing the ark of the covenant to the city of David. Moving the ark was a visible sign of God's presence in Israel. God freed Israel from Egypt, led them through the wilderness, fed them manna and quail, divided the Red Sea and the Jordan River, fought their enemies and now lived among them. What an outstanding reason to celebrate! Maybe we should model our worship experiences after David's party. Maybe we should shout, dance, and sing because we are God's visible presence on earth.

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

Verses 1-3 – Good Intentions – Improper Method

Historically, the ark's presence visibly indicated God's pledge to always be with Israel. When Eli was the priest, the Philistines, after defeating Israel, had captured the ark. While the ark was in Philistia, disease and disaster spread through their land. They returned the ark to Israel, and Obed-Edom kept it at his house. King David understood the importance of the ark's location.

So, after moving the capital from Hebron to Jerusalem (also known as the city of David), David prepared a tent to house the ark. These verses record David's second attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem. The first time had ended in death. Instead of the priest and Levites, soldiers and officials moved it. When one of these men, Uzzah, touched the ark so it would not fall, God struck him dead. David had good intentions: he wanted to move the ark to Jerusalem – he wanted the people to worship God who had brought them out of Egypt – he wanted God to reside with Israel. But David did not follow God's command that only Levites could move the ark (Numbers 4:5-15). Now, David acknowledges that God chose Levites to move the ark. Note that David's intention

had not changed, but now he was following God's direction (verse 2).

- Share a time when you wanted to do the right thing, but you did not do it God's way.
- What symbols do we have in our cities/towns/counties to remind us that God is with us?

Verses 14-16 – Advanced Preparations – Assigned Responsibilities

Before touching the ark, before marching to Jerusalem, before singing, before playing instruments, priests and Levites had to be consecrated. Consecration meant purification by cleansing both body and clothes. After water cleansing, the Levites presented themselves to God (Numbers 8:5-22).

Once consecration was completed, the Levites could carry the ark by its poles. They were not to touch the ark with their hands, as this would result in death. Because moving the ark was a celebration, King David wanted the Levites to sing and play instruments. The Levites chose a conductor to harmonize the psalms (songs). Everything was in order so the ark could move.

- What preparations do your church's music ministry make before worship

Note that David's intention had not changed, but now he was following God's direction (verse 2).

services?

- How does the African Methodist Episcopal Church consecrate clergy?

Verses 25-29a – Enjoy Worship – Celebrate God’s Presence

God’s judgment seen during the first attempt to move the ark was probably on the Levites’ minds. How could they be sure that moving the ark to Jerusalem was what God wanted? They prepared sacrifices in advance. When they started out and were not struck down, the Levites knew God okayed the transfer of the ark to the city of David. So, after the Levites took six steps, they stopped and offered God a bull and fatted calf (2 Samuel 6:13). Then, the celebration moved to full force. David dressed like the priest in luxurious linen (it was customary during that time for heathen kings to dress like their priests). Priests blew the shofar (a ram’s horn) that called all Israel to celebrate. Cymbals clanged, trumpets sounded, singers sang, David danced, the people shouted. The ark represented God’s living with Israel. When Israel saw God’s visible presence, the ark, they had a loud, joyful party.



When Israel saw God’s visible presence, the ark, they had a loud, joyful party.

SANKOFA

Throughout American history pivotal events occurred, most not taught in our schools. In 1870, one such event was Hiram Revels’ election as the first black United States senator. An African Methodist Episcopal Church minister and Republican, Revels represented Mississippi. Not surprisingly, Revels’ election met opposition. Those against him challenged Revels’ citizenship. (History seems to repeat itself. The birther movement still denies President Barack Obama’s citizenship.)

God controls history. Revels voted in Ohio when he lived there, which made him a citizen. Most senators agreed with Revels’ supporters. Jubilation broke out when the Senate voted 48 to 8 to seat Revels. Successful elections often lead to celebration. David brought the ark to God’s chosen capital. Senator Revels brought the African American presence to America’s Capitol.

CASE STUDY

Worship celebrates God and may take a variety of forms. Joint worship can include cheering, bright lights, and large crowds. Pastor Ronald Edwards, like King David, discovered a way to make worship

inclusive. Edwards noticed that many church members attended the rodeo instead of worship service. So, Pastor Edwards started the Minnehulla Cowboy Fellowship (MCF), an African American Church. The church draws cowboys and others who enjoy cowboy culture. After Sunday's rodeo, worship services take place. During the rodeo, church members evangelize. Members also teach rodeo participants and observers about Jesus. Through their efforts, people give their lives to Christ – children learn about Jesus. MCF invites all to take part and makes worship exciting and joyful.

LIFE APPLICATION

God's told Moses to make the ark (with a mercy seat on top), and its poles of acacia wood covered with gold. Acacia wood, a hard-thick wood, along with gold made the ark heavy. Because of its weight, several Levites carried it. Gold and acacia wood have great value. So, the ark representing God's presence was priceless. No wonder King David led the people in a great celebration. Something that no one could afford to buy was moving to Jerusalem. But, it was not the expensive materials (acacia wood and gold) that made the ark priceless. The ark represented the visual presence of God and no one could put a price on that.

Today, Christians represent the presence of God to the world. The Holy Spirit living in us serves as light to a world needing to know God lives. It does not matter how the world labels Christians. On an economic scale, all Christians are rich in love, joy, peace, and have the grace and favor of God. For this reason, we should imitate King David. We should celebrate by dancing, singing, and praising the Lord for living among us.



We should celebrate
by dancing, singing,
and praising the Lord
for living among us

QUESTIONS

1. How do we celebrate God's presence during our worship, Bible studies, prayer services, revivals?
2. What holy things do we have in churches? Should certain people be chosen to touch these items? If so, who should touch them and why?
3. What can we see that lets us know God is living with us?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Sing a celebration praise song. (Talk about the words before singing the song and think about how these words bring joy.)

Imagine a dance that you think David did and volunteer to perform it in class using "When the Spirit of the Lord" by

Fred Hammond: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v4DBZW6RPM

Prayer: Lord, we thank you that you live in us. We want to celebrate, dance, and sing so you will know how much we love you. Allow us to worship you freely. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Courtesy: Shofar-16-Zachi-Evenor.jpg

Linen ephod worn by High Priest



HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

November 25–December 1

Monday	Deuteronomy 18:1-5 (Duties of the Levitical Priesthood)
Tuesday	1 Chronicles 13:5-8, 13-14 (David Delivers Ark to Obed-edom)
Wednesday	1 Chronicles 15:4-13 (Leader to Bring Ark to Jerusalem)
Thursday	1 Chronicles 16:1-6 (Ark Placed in Tent in Jerusalem)
Friday	1 Chronicles 16:37-43 (Regular Worship Services Resumed)
Saturday	Romans 12:1-8 (Engaging in Spiritual Worship)
Sunday	1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29a (end with "dancing") Rejoice in God's Faithfulness

A HEART FILLED WITH GRATITUDE

Lesson Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:7-36

Focus Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 19-27

Key Verse: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. 1 Chronicles 16:8 (NRSV)

1 CHRONICLES 16:8-12, 19-27 (NRSV)

1 Chronicles 16:8-12

8 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

9 Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works.

10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually.

12 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered...

19-27

19 When they were few in number, of little account, and strangers in the land,

20 wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,

21 he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account,

22 saying, "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."

23 Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day.

24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

25 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

27 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.

1 CHRONICLES 16:8-12, 19-27 (KJV)

1 Chronicles 16:8-12

8 Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

9 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

11 Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.

12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;...

19-27

19 When ye were but few, even a few, and strangers in it.

20 And when they went from nation to nation, and from one kingdom to another people;

21 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes,

22 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

23 Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.

24 Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.

25 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the people are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.

27 Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.

Key Terms

- **Give Thanks** (Hebrew *yadah* (yaw-daw)) – Worship the Lord, usually with extended hands.
- **Sing** – Give praise with voice and instruments.
- **Idols** (Hebrew *ělîyl* (el-ee)) – Good for nothing; anything/anybody other than God that is worshipped.

INTRODUCTION

Worship leaders play a vital part in worship. They set the tone, lead in song, and direct the music. For worship to keep going higher and higher, the worship leader must focus on God. King David takes on the role of worship leader. The ark, now settled in Jerusalem, shows that God lives among the Israelites. David, a composer, singer, and musician, appoints singers to break forth with the song (psalm) in today's lesson. This song celebrates a faithful God as holy, mighty, protector, creator, deliverer. Today's lesson provides a role model for our worship leaders. Worship leaders like David must lead music that tells about who God is, what God has done, and that only God deserves our praise. Worship leaders must give us more than a show.

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

Verses 8-12 – This song reminded Israel of God's might that protected the ark. When the ark was in Philistia,

God's power caused bodily tumors and destruction. Dagon, the Philistine idol, fell over in his temple. And when the Philistines stood him up the next day when they went to Dagon's temple, they found that Dagon had fallen again, and his head and hands were broken off. Scared by these signs, the Philistines sent the ark with golden sacrifices back to Israel. The Lord's name (Jehovah) used in this psalm is the one he gave to Moses. Jehovah (Lord) denotes might - power - strength. David says, "Give thanks." When the people sing about God's ark leading them through the wilderness, leading them into the promised land and leading them triumphantly in battle, their song shows their gratitude.

Verses 13-16 – The ark allowed Israel an opportunity to remember God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The promise that God made to be their God and for them to be God's people would never change. This covenant between God and Israel was one made between unequals. God promised Abraham that his descendants would live in Canaan. Until Moses, circumcision served as a sign of the covenant. After Israel became a nation, the ark (with rules on the inside and a mercy seat on top) became a sign of God's covenant. The ark contained laws and assured of God's continuing love even when the laws were not kept. Looking at the ark, Israel sang because they remembered

their rebellion, stubbornness, idolatry. And, they remembered that God led them to the promised land even though they disobeyed God often.

Verses 19-27 – Constant danger followed Israel throughout their journey. When we hear of their escape from Egypt, often we fail to realize the number of enemies Israel encountered as they marched toward Cana, the promised land. The Moabites and Ammonites (Lot's children) paid Balaam to curse Israel (Deut. 23:4-5). Though also related to Israel through Esau, the Edomites threatened to kill Israel (Numbers 20:18-19), if they entered Edom. Bashan King Og and Amorite King Sihon, engaged Israel in war. Upon entering the promised land there were at least seven other nations (Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites) ready for war. Even after Israel settled in Cana, warfare continued; frequent Philistine invasions plagued Israel. But God fought their battles. Shouting (Jericho), supernatural strength (Samson), broken pots and blown horns (Gideon), sling shots (David), revealed God's power in

battle. For these victories and any others, the Israelites could sing with confidence. These victories reminded Israel that God was faithful, even when they were not. Israel's history showed that God's warning "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm," guaranteed disaster. Nations choosing to battle Israel met defeat.

- Thinking over our history of colonization or slavery, what evidence do we have that God fought our battles?

- According to the Bible all people have a common origin. History seems to have divided us. How do ancestral ties affect modern day relationships between people of different colors, cultures, and countries?



According to the Bible all people have a common origin. History seems to have divided us.

SANKOFA

Miriam Makeba was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. Because of apartheid, Makeba's family experienced economic depression. To earn money, Makeba's mother sold beer. Imprisoned for this business, Miriam's mother took 18-day old Miriam to jail with her. Later, Miriam lived with her grandmother. She loved singing in church. Her musical

career allowed her to visit South Africa, Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), and the Congo. Miriam also appeared in movies. One movie, *Come Back Africa*, a documentary about South Africa, resulted in the South African government revoking her passport. During her exile from her homeland, Makeba lived in London, England. Able to migrate to the United States, Makeba experienced great success where she sang for President John F. Kennedy. In 1963, after speaking at the United Nations about apartheid, the South African government revoked her citizenship. In 1990, 37 years after her exile, at the urging of Nelson Mandela, Makeba returned to South Africa. Whatever trials Makeba encountered, she never stopped singing. Like King David, Makeba sang during her high and low times.

CASE STUDY

Rosie Mashale started a daycare after calling children together to sing rhymes. Her free daycare offered children drinks and some bread. Mashale considered retirement; however, someone put an abandoned child on her doorstep. Though she took the child to the police,

they did not help her. Instead the police told Mashale to care for the child. From that point forward Mashale opened an orphanage. During an interview with CNN Mashale said, "I made a deal with God, promising to look after these children if he promised to provide me with the resources to take care of these kids" (<http://cnn.com/2017/09/07/health/cnn-hero-rosie-mashale/index.html>). Every room in her home housed children (67

boys and girls) and God, true to God's promise, gave her a facility that now covers a whole block. Beginning with a few songs and a few children, Mama Rosie's ministry expanded to her caring for over 5,000 children. Through her songs, Mama Rosie can make known God's deeds among people.

LIFE APPLICATION

Black and brown people often experience racism. This is seen in the exploitation of African nations, racist policies in the United States, and discriminatory immigration policies targeting people from the Caribbean. Socio-economic policies promote poverty for most people of color. Yet, even with monetary lack, the fastest growing churches, the most



Whatever trials
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religious communities, and the greatest percentage of believers are black and brown people. What promise would make people hated because of their skin color sing? Who but God could give a promise that a church founded by a former slave would last over 200 years? Whenever we gather for worship, like Israel we should let our songs tell others about God and the many promises made and kept. Our liturgy, that is, what makes up our order of service, includes a song of praise. This song of praise allows us with one voice to sing and play music that tells of God's history among us, and the way God has been with us throughout history. Even when others tried and continue to try to harm us, keep us in poverty, like Israel we can sing and call on God. We should remember God always protects and keeps us. That's why we sing.

QUESTIONS

1. Thinking about your ancestors, what promises do you think God gave them?
2. When you call to God about injustice, what do you expect will happen?
3. When facing racism and economic

injustice, how can God's promise to fight our battles be applied to our lives?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Meditate on 1 Chronicles 16:19-21. Then, reflect on the current economic war between the United States, China, and the sanctions placed on several nations (South Korea, Iran). How will these affect African countries and people of the African diaspora? Pray for peoples of color that God will fight our battles.

Pray *The Hashkiveinu*, a Jewish prayer that asked for God's protection and usually recited at night.

Grant, O God, that we lie down in peace, and raise us up, our guardian, to life renewed. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Guide us with your good counsel; for your name's sake, be our help. Shield and shelter us beneath the shadow of your wings. Defend us against enemies, illness, war, famine, and sorrow. Distance us from wrongdoing. For you, God, watch over us and deliver us. For you, God, are gracious and merciful. Guard our going and coming, to life and to peace evermore.



We should remember
God always protects
and keeps us. That's
why we sing.

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[elohai-neshama-breathing-the-soul-alive](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/elohai-neshama-breathing-the-soul-alive))

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

December 2-December 8

Monday	Isaiah 45:20-25 (All Nations Invited to Worship God)
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (Response to God's Generosity)
Wednesday	Psalms 105:1-15 (God's Saving Deeds)
Thursday	Psalms 106:40-48 (God's Gracious Compassion)
Friday	1 Chronicles 16:14-18 (God's Forever Covenant)
Saturday	1 Chronicles 16:28-36 (God's Forever Steadfast Love)
Sunday	1 Chronicles 16:8-13, 19-27 (God's Wondrous Deeds for All People)