

Integrating Youth and Young Adults into Parish Liturgy

by Thomas Tomaszek

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS (spiritandsong.com)

Choose Christ is a new special music supplement that can be inserted into any hymnal or songbook (OCP 12204TL) or purchased as a stand-alone small volume of contemporary songs (OCP 12208TL). Here are some songs that are appropriate for the current liturgical seasons:

- “Our God Is Here” (Muglia) (1). This is a wonderful gathering or Communion song that blends a praise and worship style with essential Catholic eucharistic theology. I have sung this with many mixed-age groups very successfully.
- “God with Us” (Hart) (16). Sarah Hart is one of our most prolific young writers, and this song shows her ability to match melody with solid text. Use this song during the preparation rite or for Reconciliation Rite 2 (Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution) scheduled during Advent (see *The Rites, Volume 1* [OCP #7660TL]).
- “In Every Age” (Whitaker) (18). Janèt Sullivan Whitaker based this text on Psalm 90. It fits perfectly into the season of Advent when our holy longing is to know how Christ is being revealed to us daily.
- “We Ever Will Praise You” (McDonell) (21). Consider singing this contemporary setting of Psalm 146 at times you may have used “The King of Glory.” Your assembly will appreciate the change of pace and the melody that Angus McDonell has created.
- “Love Has Come” (Maher) (26). This is a powerful song perhaps best used later in the Christmas season after we have had the chance to sing the traditional carols. It will challenge your contemporary ensembles and the text and melodic energy will bring a blast of freshness when the season is waning.
- “With All Your Strength” (Muglia/Thomas) (33). Try this praise-and-worship styled song during the winter weeks of Ordinary Time, especially as a gathering or recessional.
- “The Lord Is My Shepherd” (Blakesley) (34). There are many settings of Psalm 23, but few are more alluring than this new setting by young composer Josh Blakesley.

- “Jesus, I Trust in You” (McDonnell/Hart) (37). Sarah Hart and Angus McDonnell cowrote this prayerful ballad that can be used well in Ordinary Time at the preparation rite or as a second Communion song with the assembly.
- “Your Grace Is Enough” (Maher) (38). This Matt Maher song is making its way into Christian music circles. It would work well liturgically in Advent and also in Ordinary Time as a song to send us forth.
- “Sweet Redeemer” (Angrisano/Hart) (42). We always need new songs for Reconciliation Rite 2 and this is a beautiful ballad that assemblies learn easily and sing in earnest. If you have gifted soloists, they will love singing this piece.
- “Just Like You” (Maher) (48). This song is, quite simply, fun to sing.

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