

Human Trafficking Awareness Day—January 11
Worship Service Outline
By Barbara Anderson

See also “Human Trafficking Day Resources and Ideas” on this website for additional worship resources.

Theme: Shine the Light in your Community

Consider using lighthouses and candles throughout the sanctuary, or perhaps in a special display visible upon entering the sanctuary. You could also have luminaries outside of your church.

You may also want to consider receiving a special offering designated towards an organization engaged in abolition of trafficking, preventative programs with at-risk populations, or outreach to survivors.

1. **Call to Worship** – (John 8:12)

Leader: I am the Light of the World.

People: Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness

All: But will have the Light of Life.

2. **Hymn Suggestions**

- a. “Send the Light”
- b. “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning”
- c. “This Little Light of Mine”
- d. “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

3. **Responsive Reading** – (From the program, “A Day Full of Light,” by the Women of the ELCA)

Leader: Gracious Creator, Jesus said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world.” We pray that you will lead us further into the light of your son that we may find your path of healing and restoration for all who have been made less by commercial sex exploitation.

People: Lord, shine the light on those in darkness and bring them into the light of your love.

Leader: Lord, give us courage to share the light of your love and compassion with others.

People: Grant us, O Lord, the courage to speak and act against the evil of commercial sexual exploitation that has taken women, teenagers, children, and men captive. May we shine the light of your love into the lives of those held in the darkness of oppression.

Leader: Gracious God, may the light of your presence empower us to become beacons that make a difference in this world. Grant us, O Lord, the joy of living as your people, each and every day in your light.

All: Amen

4. **Scripture Lesson** – Matthew 5:14-16

5. **Reflection** – Being a Keeper of the Light (see attached)

6. **Special Closing** – If you want to close in a special way, you could have individuals come up to the altar, light a candle, and make a circle around the sanctuary ending in a special prayer of commitment to being “Keepers of the Light.”