**Materials for Bulletin Insert**

(This is provided in Word Document form so that churches can use any of the below materials on the Sunday when the *Inspired, Transformed…American Baptist Churches* film is shown.  We are asking all our congregations to select one Sunday in November for this special worship service.)

**Suggested Film Introduction – *Please use this introduction as you see fit, or build on this idea and share your own excitement about this new film and the legacy of American Baptists!***

“I am excited to show you a short new film celebrating the work of ABC by some of today’s most important and tireless religious and social activists. At this important juncture in ABC’s history they reflect with pride on where we have come from, what we have accomplished, and note that there is a new movement of the Spirit which is leading us towards a vibrant future. Watch and be proud of yourselves as American Baptists.”

**Call to Worship**

Today is a day of Good News:

God is calling us out for justice and hope,

empowered for action by God’s grace and love.

 **We give thanks for ministries of peace,**

 **for ways of compassion,**

 **for gifts of service in Christ’s name.**

When we gather together in this place,

we are reminded of our identity as God’s people

who are called to transform the world with God’s love.

 **Today we come with hope**

 **to be ready and courageous partners in ministry.**

May God give us strength and inspiration!

 **May we worship and serve with joy!**

**Opening Hymn** *- God of Grace and God of Glory*

**Invocation** (End with The Lord’s Prayer)

**Hymn/Congregational Singing (Suggestions)**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*Shine Jesus Shine*

*As the Deer*

*Give Thanks*

*Lord, I Lift Hour Name on High*

**Showing of Film** – *Inspired, Transformed…American Baptist Churches*

**Litany for being *Inspired, Transformed***

  (based on Isaiah 61: 1-12)

Today may the Spirit of the Lord be upon us, anointing us for the ministries we have been called to share.

**May God send us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners, proclaiming the year of the Lord’s favor.**

With the powerful witness of generations past, who fought for religious freedom, who marched for justice, who sacrificed much to bring the love of God to the ends of the earth, we realize now it is our turn.

**Our turn to give, our turn to decide, our turn to bring hope and light and grace where it is needed most.**

We are, every one of us and all of us together, called to do something that will leave this earth better than we found it.

 **We are the hands and feet of Christ.**

God, bless our hands that we can serve you faithfully, touching the world with a compassion that reflects the depths of your love.

**God, bless our feet that we can go with courage, out into the world to carry your light, bringing hope to every nation.**

God, bless our minds that we can honor and respect each other, seeking understanding and reconciliation to heal and transform every division.

 **God, bless our spirits and fill us with life that brings life wherever we go.**

You have called us and placed your Spirit within us.

 **Send us now, assured of your sustaining presence,**

**inspired and transformed,**

**to boldly bring your Good News of the love of Christ**

**wherever we may go. Amen.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Offering**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn** – *In Christ there is no East or West*

**Scripture**

**Hymn** – *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*

**Benediction**

**Notes for Your Suggested Bulletin Insert**

Choose Scripture readings from the following:

Ephesians 4:7-12; II Timothy 1:1-7

Luke 4:14-19; John 4:31-35

Isaiah 61:1-12; 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm 34:1-8; Psalm 66:1-9

For the Invocation and/or Pastoral Prayer, feel free to adapt from the following prayer:

*God of justice and God of grace, who has called us by name into ministries of peace and reconciliation, healing and hope, we come and ask your blessing on us as the hands and feet of Christ. Remind us of the gifts you have placed in our keeping. Remind us that each of us bears your creative mark that has blessed us with unending ways to bless others. And then grant us the courage and strength to step out into your world and bring grace and love into every community. With every language, American Baptists serve our global community—such diversity is a precious and unique gift that brings your Good News to every corner of the earth. God of our grounding, in whom we live and move and have our being, what an awesome privilege is placed within our grasp to be your Church as American Baptists. We are grateful for those faithful in our past who have made the decisions, fought the fights, built the buildings, energized the ministries that have made American Baptists who we are and laid the foundations for what we can be. In this present time, it is our turn. It is our turn to be bold enough to speak, generous enough to make things possible, kind enough to spread compassion, active enough to make a difference in this needful world. Help us, blessed God, to see our place within the grand scheme of things, not so that we would judge ourselves significant but that we would find deeper connection to you and to each other for the sake of the ministries you call us into. In our being together help us to recognize our certain and peculiar role in your will for our world. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be the Church. Bless our questions and hone our understanding; bless our journeys and guide our feet; bless our ministry and humble our service; bless our intentions and pull from us our best. Bless your Church and all those who come into it so that we can pass your love on to others and proclaim grace and peace for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For the Children’s Sermon, feel free to talk about some aspect of our American Baptist life: our diversity, the work of our missionaries (present/past), our core beliefs, one of the ministries of your church, a brief story of how your church began, and so on.

For the worship service, keep the tone of celebration in mind, to give God thanks for all the persons who labored in ministry before us and have left us a witness for Christ.

The persons in the film gave their testimony as a special gift to us without charge. They represent part of our past. They inspire us to see who we are and to be proud of our lives together as American Baptists. It is up to us, including our younger generation, to take up the challenge and to move with confidence into the future to which we believe God is calling us.

Remember that leaders participating in the service can put into their own words some of the information mailed to the church to talk about the film.

It may also be a good idea, if congregations have not already done so, to arrange a time of fellowship after the worship service to talk about the film and to celebrate our lives together as American Baptists.  God has given us a very special gift as a denomination, and we should use this opportunity to speak in celebration of this gift.

*Feel free to use any other information from the ABCUSA Website to enhance the worship service and to be as creative as possible to make this Sunday a special one in the life of American Baptist Churches. Visit* [*www.abc-usa.org/inspired*](http://www.abc-usa.org/inspired) *for additional ideas.****We are American Baptists*** *serving as the hands and feet of Christ.*