



Why worry about Intergenerational Worship?

Rev. Narelle Collas

Does the Bible talk about intergenerational ministry?

Is it just a new craze sweeping the children's ministry and family ministry worlds?

Well, technically, it's not so much new as it is old...really, really old.

Until recently in church history, the generations did in fact worship together as an intergenerational faith community. In their book, *Intergenerational Christian Formation*, Holly Allen and Christine Ross (2012) point out that "first century churches were multigenerational entities, with children present for worship, healings, prayer meetings, even perhaps when persecutions were perpetuated."

All our family gatherings are intergenerational, we don't appoint certain members of the family to 'look after' the kids or to 'teach' the kids. We are all in it together and children gravitate to adults who show an interest in them or who are prepared to spend time with them. Shouldn't that be how it is in church? Don't we often describe our churches as a family? Are we really operating that way?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 gets talked about a lot within the realm of family ministry as a verse that exemplifies the work of discipleship done by parents within the home. Sharing the instructions of the Lord were not given solely to parents. Moses shared the commandments with the whole assembly of Israel.

Deuteronomy 4:9 reads, "Make them known to your children and your children's children" indicating there were multiple generations present when these commands were given. Now, with that in mind, consider that in one commentary, it's pointed out that according to the Jewish people, "Teach them to your children" meant "not only those of your own body but all those that are anyway under your care and tuition." That means the charge to "impress upon your children" the commandments of the Lord extended beyond the home and into the larger faith community. We call that "generational discipleship"!



In the NT Jesus modelled this inclusion of all generations. The boy offering the fish and bread was obviously part of the thousands gathered to hear Jesus preach.

In the epistles Paul writes to the churches and asks for the letters to be read aloud to the gathered community. In them, he specifically addresses a wide range of generations, including children (such as Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20). It's safe to assume he mentions all the generations because he expected them to be there to hear what he had to say.

You might be saying "well we don't have children at worship so we don't need to worry", and that may be true, but you will have different generations. There is a difference between a 60-year-old and a 90-year-old – different generations together. How are we including these differences in our worship service or are we expecting everyone to worship how we worshiped when we were younger or how we like worship now? Why do we expect worship (especially the music) to be static, to never change when the rest of the world has changed and is changing so quickly?

It is every Christian's responsibility to pass on the faith to the next generation.

How is your church finding ways to engage every generation in faith conversations and relationships?

Intergenerational Church on-line!

Your Church probably thought by Term 3 your groups can meet in person.

Some groups may be small enough to meet in person.

Other groups are too big to meet yet.

How do we bring all-ages together at this time?

Mental Health Matters



Rev Fiona Bottcher [Deacon]

I'm often challenged by the image of God that patients bring to our conversations – a God of reward and punishment. A childlike vision of a God who says: "I want to love you, but you are never quite good enough".

These patients have often experienced a parent, or trusted adult, who couldn't, or didn't, love and protect them. Their inner child has held tightly to this rejection and has built a new "god-parent" to project it on.

Some might say that this is religion at its worst; a God that continues to punish the neglected, and there have been times when I would agree. But I have also found hope for real transformation from this place. A relationship with a parent can be near impossible to repair, but in God there is hope for renewed relationship built on unconditional love.

Jesus tells us to "... receive the Kingdom of God as a little child..." (Luke 18:17) which I hear as an invitation to welcome and hold every person, however "childlike" they are in their journey and faith, into our communities. We walk along side them as fellow children; sharing stories, crying, laughing and loving. And above all, hoping.

Receiving the Kingdom as a child



Presbytery in Council

25th July
2020

on zoom.

Retired Ministers

The Presbytery are updating their files so that we can keep in contact with you. Rev Robert Renton will be coordinating this to help the ministry team with this task. Robert can be contacted through email robert.renton@bigpond.com or phone 0427 812 606. Please send through the following information

Name, partner's name, home or mailing address, email address, phone number, 'home' congregation.

While we can't have face to face meetings at the moment we are planning a zoom meeting in the future so that you can chat to each other. Even if you don't have a computer you can ring in and join the meeting. Narelle, Jeanne.

COVID has meant ministers had postponed leave. Now some ministers may be worn out and need leave at short notice... to help You can connect to the **Focus Worship Service through the Presbytery** Facebook Page in a number of ways by clicking on this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCAPPW>. By going directly to the Focus church's website each week: July 19 St Luke's Highton - <https://hightonstlukes.unitingchurch.org.au> The video will be posted to the Presbytery Vimeo page <https://vimeo.com/user111726530> - The video will be there a little later & other resources. New congregation each week.

Lego Comp Winner Team #42 Leopold UCA



Team #42 are
declared the
outright winners
of the Presbytery
LEGO challenge

Congratulations!



9 minutes @ 9

Please join the Ministry Team to pray for 9 minutes each day at 9.00am or 9.00pm

Prayers for all the people in Melbourne in lockdown. May God's peace be with them.

Pray for families navigating school holidays in these times of restriction.

Pray for kids unseen on Zoom.

Pray for youth groups who are keen to start back.

Pray for ministers as fatigue sets in.

Pray for our communities as we are experiencing "skin hunger" (a longing for human touch).

Minister's Chat

22nd July 2020

4 - 6 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82738551499>

Meeting ID: 827 3855 1499

COVID –19 CALD Languages

As a key stakeholder with important connections across Victoria's multicultural communities, we ask for your support in sharing the Victorian Government's latest translated materials widely through your networks. There are now in-language materials available — including **posters, social media banners and translated audio messages** — explaining the current restrictions and encouraging anyone who has any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, however mild, to seek advice and get tested. Please share the materials with your community by email, social media or through messaging apps you use like WhatsApp, WeChat, Messenger and others. By sharing these messages, you are helping your network stay safe and informed about coronavirus (COVID-19).

Regional Learning Hubs

Rev Linley Liersch



Who would like to study theology?

Who: *You might be a ministry agent looking for some continuing education. An experienced Lay Preacher who is looking to be stretched. Retired Minister who wants to keep their brain attuned theologically. Lay person who is interested in the topic of mission. Seeker who has done university study before and is curious about theology. OR Covid restriction are driving you mad and you need a new focus. All good reasons to take up this opportunity starting later this month.*

Topic: Towards a Missional Theology for Today This unit introduces students to the field of mission studies. It is a basic overview which touches upon an array of concepts and historical practices and their critique. It is divided into three main sections: 1. the biblical foundations of mission; 2. the ground and practice of mission through Christian history; 3. key themes shaping the theology and practise of mission today. **Lecturer:** John Flett

Where: **Regional Learning Hub – Geelong** on behalf of PPW. You are effectively committing to an on-line unit of study with Pilgrim Theological College (UCA). Watch the lectures at home. Do the weekly reading. Your tutorials will be facilitated by Rev. Linley Liersch (MDSE - PPW) via zoom. Benefit of talking to your peers about the readings. Ask all the questions you want. **REGISTER NOW** **Enrolment:** Forms are on-line at Pilgrim Theological College <https://pilgrim.edu.au/>. Or contact registra Erlinda

Seen and not heard, Heard and not seen!

Rev. Linley Liersch

We are worried that children, families, youth, and young adults might be the forgotten in COVID-19 conditions. We have worked hard getting worship on-line, but the shorter services may drop the children's message all together. Now how do we get our family groups on-line?

Children are the ones that are **seen but not heard**. Some of the issues are that pre-schoolers are not really able to 'tune-in' to small computer screens. They are the ones flying past the screen in the background. Parents could try linking their computers to the big TV screen for this age group. Familiar action songs are often best at grabbing this ages attention. Older children are the best to engage with zoom as they sit and wait for it all to unfold on the screen. You can send them away to colour-in, make something and then invite them back to show and tell.



Photo by Sincerely Media on Unsplash

Youth and young adults might actually be **heard and not seen!** These age groups are much more likely to listening in, contributing vocally, but the camera is turned off the whole time. They are more likely to communicate via Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter or Discord. What about getting the youth involved in a Film Festival. They all watch the movie suggested at home in their own time, tweet about it afterwards (or try Netflix party and watch it at the same time). It is also possible to set up private on-line gaming with youth groups where they can chat on-line ask Newtown UCA—St. David's how it is done. What about a zoom Scavenger hunt. Leader calls out common household items 'biscuits' the youth run off to get it, first back wins. Leader can 'screen share' the tally board at the end. Do a spontaneous Talent Show Night eg. who can touch their tongue to their nose.



Bradon French (eLM Intergenerational Ministry—Youth) also has some great tips for youth leaders starting youth group back. Including step one: Talk to your church council. See the podcast and resources on <https://victas.uca.org.au/advice-for-re-starting-youth-ministry-gatherings-in-vic-tas/> also Bradon French has up to date information for July and how to stay safe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnBfwjYScFE&feature=youtu.be> . Also see his podcasts interviewing Intergenerate Australia 2020 Conference people (Pictured Left).

Bradon wants to know who is interested in a Friday Night Youth group for lockdown?

It is the parents that are most likely to be on Facebook. So getting events and links out on these platforms will connect well with them. People of all ages offering intergenerational support time for parents on zoom you can finish with prayer for each other in the 'chat'

Families could be playing games on zoom: Animal charades, Simon says, Pictionary, Rock-Paper-Scissors, Pull funny faces and take screen shots and laugh together. Everyone puts a background on zoom and invite the kids to play I spy 'I spy something that is green'. More great ideas on '20 zoom games for households' <https://youtu.be/KnWUvpMQOpw>. Seems like the 'old time' games work just as well on-line. Drysdale UCA had their Messy church making lego of different bible readings then on Messy Church night they presented their creations. They could each read or tell their bible story too. Finally, kids can be **seen and heard**.

Lots of on-line resources recommended by Chris Barnett (eLM Intergenerational Ministry—Children & Families): Messy Church at home <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/MessyChurchBRF/messy-church-at-home/> and Messy Church at Home resources <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resources/messy-church-home-ideas>. Or Messy Churches around the world https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLdW8Sixa4ehhIQu45_utiBeBBzAnB0dM



Reach your
children, youth and
families on-line too!

