

Intergenerational Worship in the URC

Led by Helen Laird and Isaac Irvine

Why Intergenerational Worship?

- The church is the Body of Christ — every age matters (1 Cor 12).
- Being an Intergenerational Church (Suzi Farrant & Darren Philip):
 - Age-segregated models of church “are not working.”
 - True church life is about intentional relationships of mutuality across ages.
- Benefits:
 - Builds belonging.
 - Strengthens resilience of faith.
 - Models the Kingdom of God.

Preaching to All Ages

- Preaching with All Ages (Ally Barrett):
 - “The all-age talk is a task guaranteed to give preachers sleepless nights!”
 - Preaching well to all ages is possible through:
 - Stories and images: simple yet profound.
 - Layered meaning: children and adults take away different depths.
 - Interaction and senses: visual, spoken, and participatory.
- Tip: Think of a parable — understandable to children, but rich for adults.

Regenerational Faith

- *Regenerational* (Sam Richards):
 - Faith is not just passed down but shared across generations.
 - Children, youth, adults, and elders each have something unique to give.
- Practices:
 - Collaborative leadership (children read scripture, teens lead music/tech, adults/elders pray).
 - Testimonies from all ages.
 - Worship that blends silence, movement, story, and song.

Barriers (and things to remember)

- “Adults won’t be fed.”
 - Layering depth means adults and children learn differently from the same act.
- “Children won’t engage.”
 - Children engage deeply when worship is participatory, not passive.
- “It’s too time-consuming.”
 - Start small. Add one intergenerational element each month.

Reflection

- When have you seen different generations learn from one another in worship?
- How could you preach a Bible passage to a 6-year-old and a 60-year-old together?
- What is one barrier in your context? One step to overcome it?
- What action will you take in the next 3 months to strengthen intergenerational worship?

Main takeaway:

“Intergenerational worship is not about dumbing down or splitting up, but about creating shared encounters with God where the whole church body is present and active.”

Resources and further reading:

- *Preaching with All Ages* – Ally Barrett
- *Being an Intergenerational Church* – Suzi Farrant & Darren Philip
- *A Gospel for All ages* – David M. Csinos
- *Regenerational* – Dr Sam Richards
- Where to go for more ideas:
 - [Regenerational – an intergenerational worship resource](#)
 - <https://www.rootsontheweb.com>
 - <https://engageworship.org>
 - <https://www.allageworshipresources.org>
 - <https://intergen.org.au>
 - <https://urc.org.uk/your-faith/children-young-people/urc-youth/faith-adventures-youth-resource/>

How to contact us:

- Helen: cydo@urcwestmidlands.org.uk
- Isaac: youthrep@urcwestmidlands.org.uk
- Instagram: @urc_west_mids_youth
- Website: <https://urcwestmidlands.org.uk/contact-us/>