Worship in Multicultural Contexts

**The Politics of Change**

* + - Be sensitive to the changing context of worship. The environment of worship is changing: What influence does the environment have? What difference does our environment make to our worship forms? What difference does our social/cultural/political context make? Is it having an effect on us? What has happened in our world, in our community, and in our church that makes the celebration of this season different from other time in our history?
    - Don’t try to “sneak” change into your worship. Talk about what matters to us—what is meaningful to us. I believe that we can give people more credit for flexibility given the chance to learn and talk about worship. When a level of trust is achieved, temporary change can be introduced without as much preparation as may be needed early in the process.
    - Don’t’ try to pack in too many changes at once. There will be different degrees of readiness for change. Pay attention to the growth of the “Body.”
    - Continue to emphasize the need to offer a diversity of ways to praise the Divine who is known in endless ways.
    - Offer occasional special opportunities for alternative worship for those who are impatient for new things.
    - Education. Always **accompany changes with information** about the theological, biblical, and historical significance of the new symbol or act.