**Traditional Music Suggestions**

* Charles Wesley Hymns
  + UMH 603 “Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire
    - Commentary: The 1989 hymnal places this hymn in the section “The book of the Church: Holy Scripture.”  It was first published with the title “Before Reading the Scriptures.”  This is not particularly evident from the text on its own, as it seems more straightforwardly about the Holy Spirit, but it is invoking the Holy Spirit to help us hear the scripture.  It also fits squarely with the theme “…allowing the Spirit to speak to us, rather than imposing our agendas.”
  + UMH 594 “Come, Divine Interpreter”
    - Commentary: this is a good text but difficult to sing.  It does work to DIX (UMH 929 “For the Beauty of the Earth”) but the last line of the second stanza is tricky.
  + UMH 595 “Whether the Word Be Preached or Read”
    - Commentary: This is an excellent text that fits the theme very well.  It is not particularly easy to sing but does work with ST. CATHERINE (UMH 710 “Faith of Our Fathers”).
* Other hymn writers:
  + UMH 598 “O Word of God Incarnate”
    - Keywords: wisdom, truth unchanging, Scripture is a banner
  + UMH 463 “Lord, Speak to Me”
    - Keywords: speak, strengthen, stretch out, teach, full, use

**Contemporary Music Suggestions**

"Good Ground" - Citizens

"Lord I Need You" - Matt Maher

"Spirit of The Living God" - Meredith Andrews

"Word of God Speak" - Casting Crowns

"Treasure" - Desperation Band

**Prayers and Liturgies**

**Opening Prayer:**

We believe, O Lord,

that you have not abandoned us to the dim light of our own reason

to conduct us to happiness,

but that you have revealed in Holy Scriptures

whatever is necessary for us to believe and practice.

How noble and excellent are the precepts,

how sublime and enlightening the truth,

how persuasive and strong the motives,

how powerful the assistance of your holy religion.

Our delight shall be in your statutes,

and we will not forget your Word. Amen.

Richard Allen, African Methodist Episcopal Bishop, 19th cent., alt

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Faithful God,

your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths.

Illuminate our hearts and minds

by the power of your Holy Spirit,

that we might receive what you offer us today;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Nelson Cowan

**Benediction & Sending Forth:**

From generation to generation,

the scriptures have been proclaimed—

beautiful words, wonderful words of life;

words of teaching, of reproof, of correction,

words of training, words of equipping,

words of transformation.

Go forth from this place,

commissioned by Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,

who perfectly embodied these words of life;

that we may go and do likewise.

Amen.

Nelson Cowan