

Cross-Cultural Worship Resources

Swahili

Useful phrases to incorporate into your services.

In Swahili greetings are very important, and follow a particular formula. For someone to really make a positive impression, they need to follow these patterns.

Welcome	Karibu (to one person) Karibuni (to a group)
Hello	Hujambo [Response: Sijambo] Mambo {Response: Poa}
Morning greeting	Habari za asabuhi? [Response: Nzuri]
Afternoon greeting	Habari za mchana? [Response: Nzuri]
Evening greeting	Habari za jioni? [Response: Nzuri]

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.	Bwana akae nanyi.
And also with you.	Na wewe pia.

The Apostle's Creed

**Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi, Muumba wa mbingu na nchi;
Namwamini Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee, Bwana wetu,
aliychukuliwa mimba kwa uwezo wa Roho Mtakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira Mariamu.
Akateswa zamani za Pontio Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,
akashuka kuzimu; Siku ya tatu,
akafufuka kutoka kwa wafu: Akapaa mbinguni, ameketi mkono wa kuume wa Mungu
Baba Mwenyezi: Kutoka huko atakuja kuwahukumu walio hai na wafu
Ninamwamini Roho Mtakatifu, Kanisa takatifu la Kikristo lililo moja tu;
ushirika wa watakatifu. Ondoleo la dhambi, kufufuliwa kwa mwili
na uzima wa milele. Amen.**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, Jina lako litukuzwe; Ufalme wako , uje, mapenzi yako yatimizwe, hapa duniani kama huko mbinguni; utupe leo riziki yetu, Utusamehe makosa yetu, kama sisi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea. Usitutie majaribuni, lakini utuokoe kutoka uovu. Kwa kuwa ufalme ni wako, na nguvu, na utukufu hata milele. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Aaronic Blessing

Bwana akubarikie na kukulinda; Bwana akuangazie- nuru za uso wake, na kukufadhili; Bwana akuinulie uso wake, na kukupa amani. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace.
Amen.

Closing phrases

Thank you for worshipping with us today.	Asante kwa kuabudu nasi leo.
Good-bye	Kwaheri
Please come again!	Tafadhali njoo tena.
God bless you	Mungu akubariki (sg) Mungu awabariki (pl)

Other useful things to know about Swahili speakers

'dh' is pronounced like a voiced 'th' in English, as in 'the'

Avoid attentive eye contact, because this can be interpreted as hostile. Likewise, don't be surprised if someone doesn't look at you directly. They are being respectful.