



Worshiping into God's Future

A Worship Initiative of the United Church of Christ



SYNOD XXIV CALLED FOR...

a church-wide discussion
of our worship life

research in how we
worship today

strategies for
worship resources &
leadership to complement
Book of Worship





Countryside Community Church, UCC, Omaha NE

O, God....

where are you in these findings?

what is the good news?

what is curious or disturbing?

what are you calling us to?

We heard from you.

12,440 responses

from 2,246 churches

38 percent of all congregations

surveys, focus groups, online surveys

Resource packet research

What is worship?

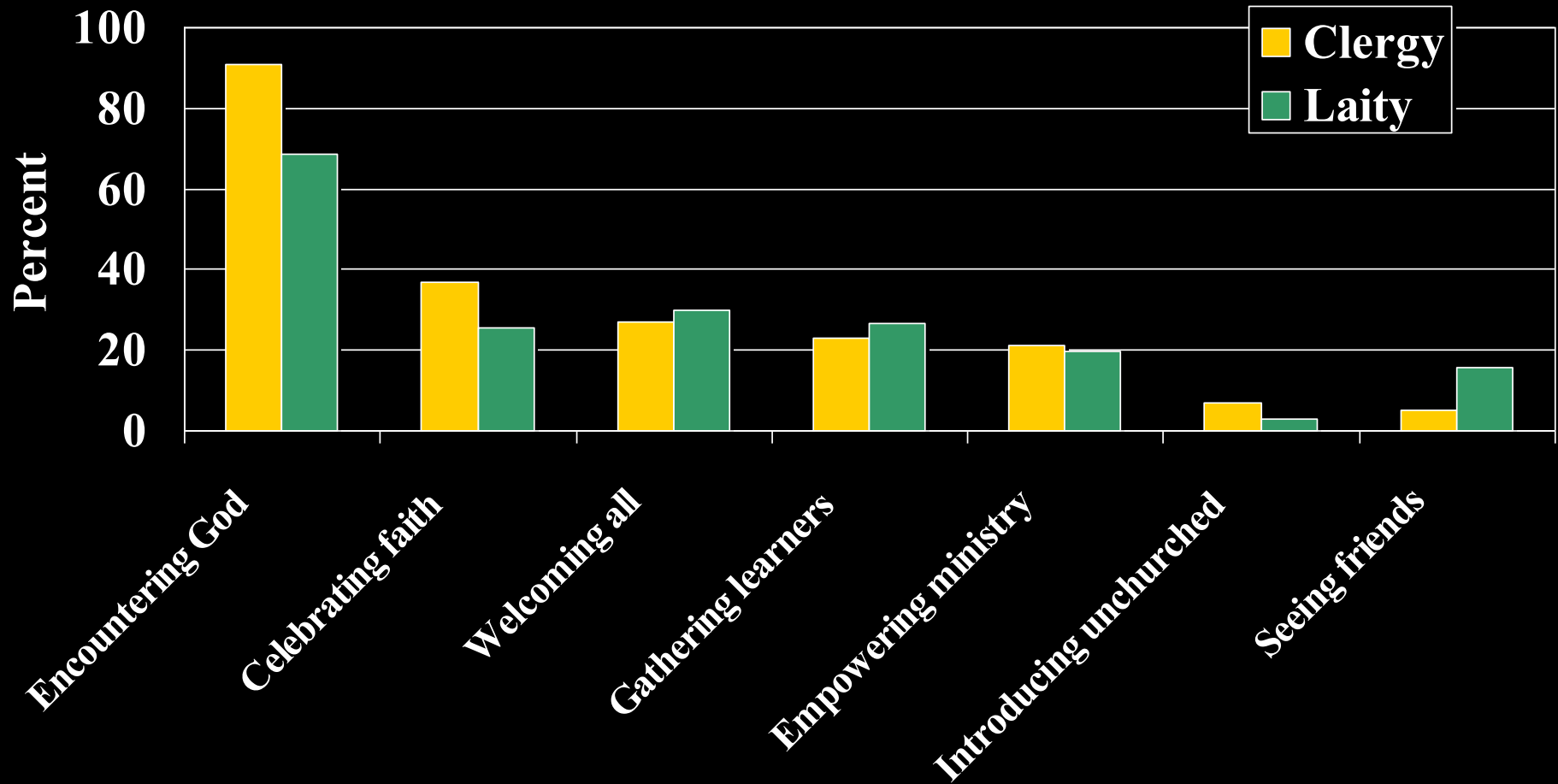


Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Silver Spring,
Maryland

90 percent of clergy
70 percent of laity

“an encounter with God
so we might be transformed
to do God’s work in the world.”

What is Worship?



Marks of UCC Worship

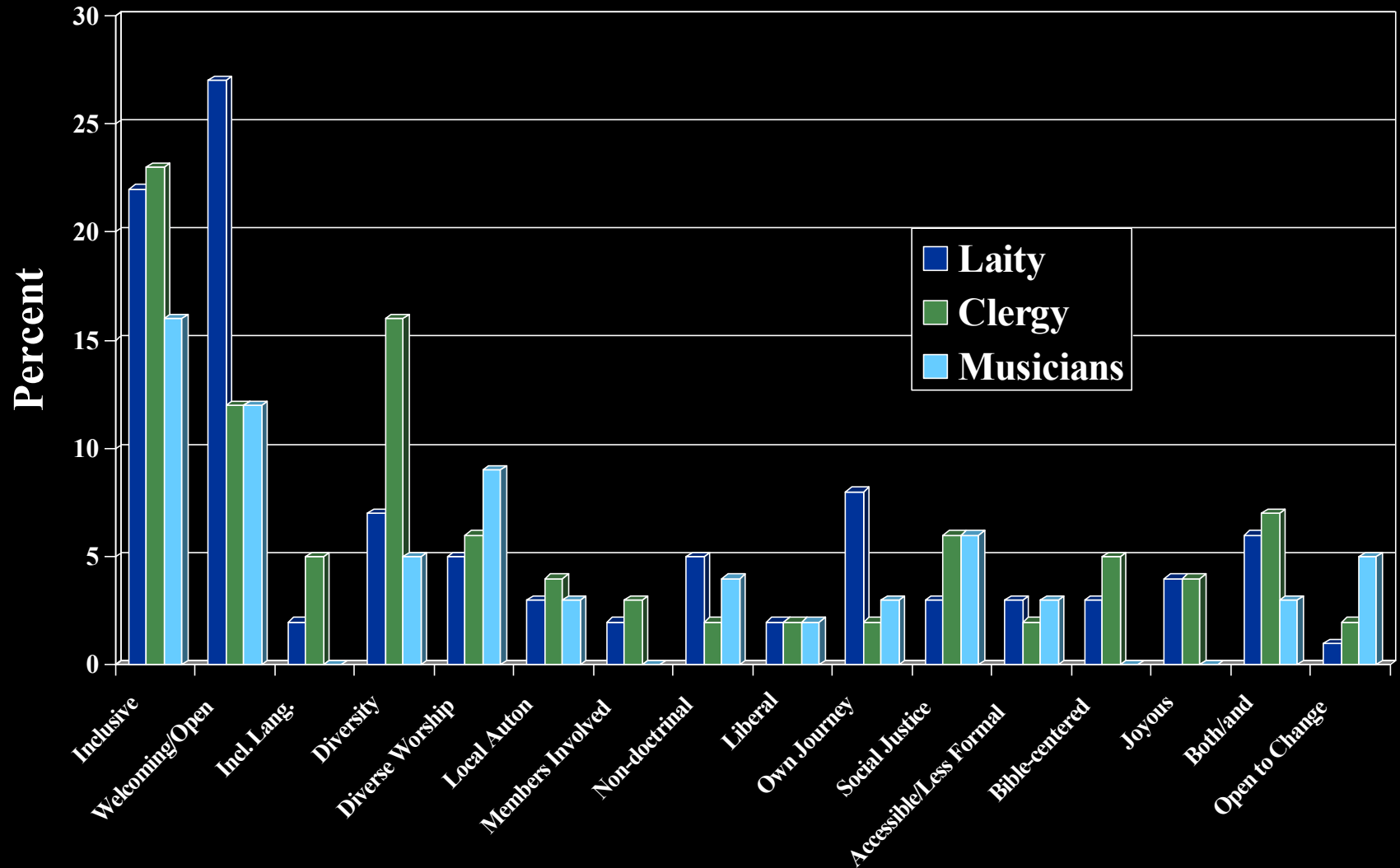
35 percent laity, 49 percent clergy

Inclusive/Open/Welcoming

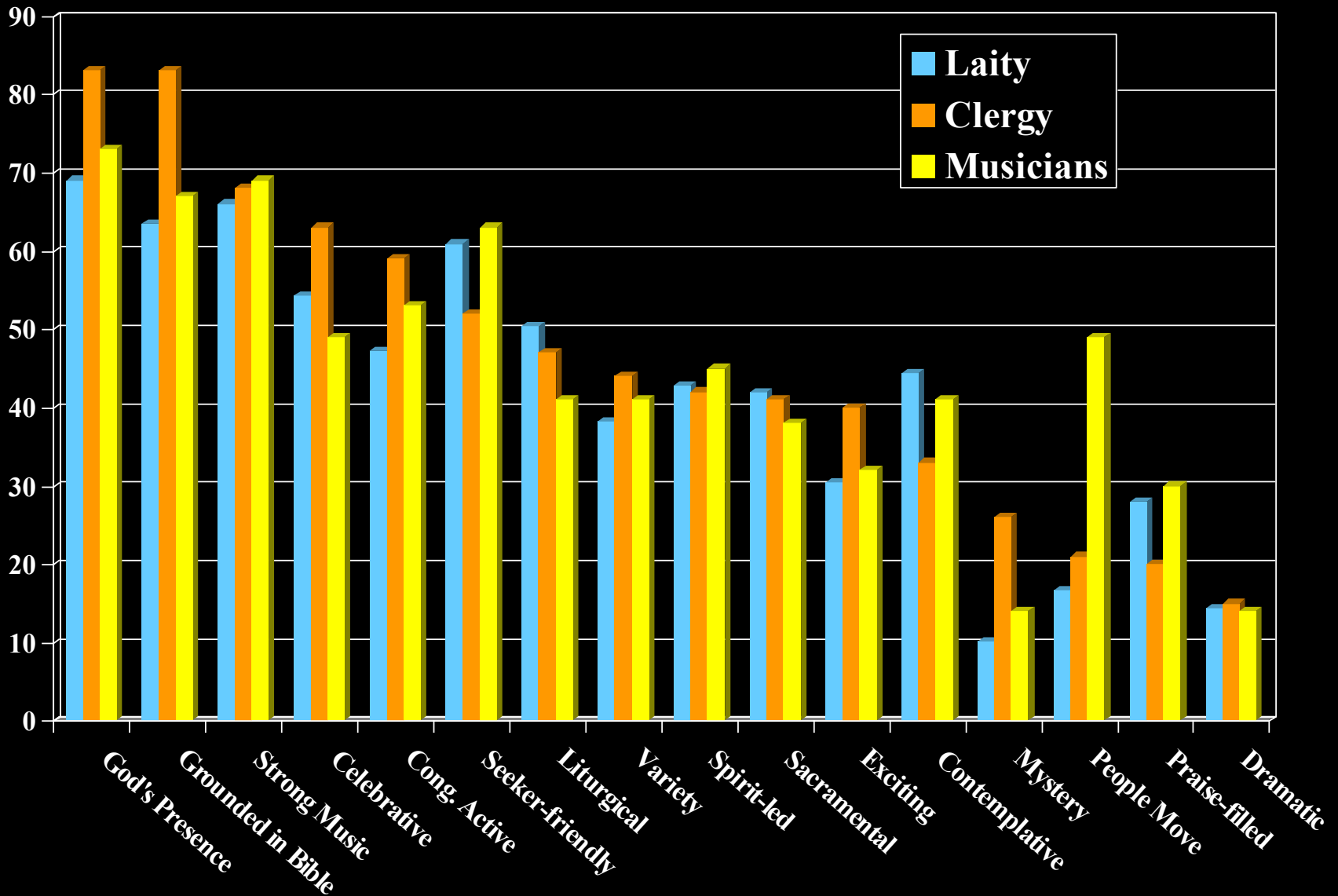
12 percent laity, 21 percent clergy

Diversity/Diverse worship styles

Marks of UCC Worship



Descriptions of Worship

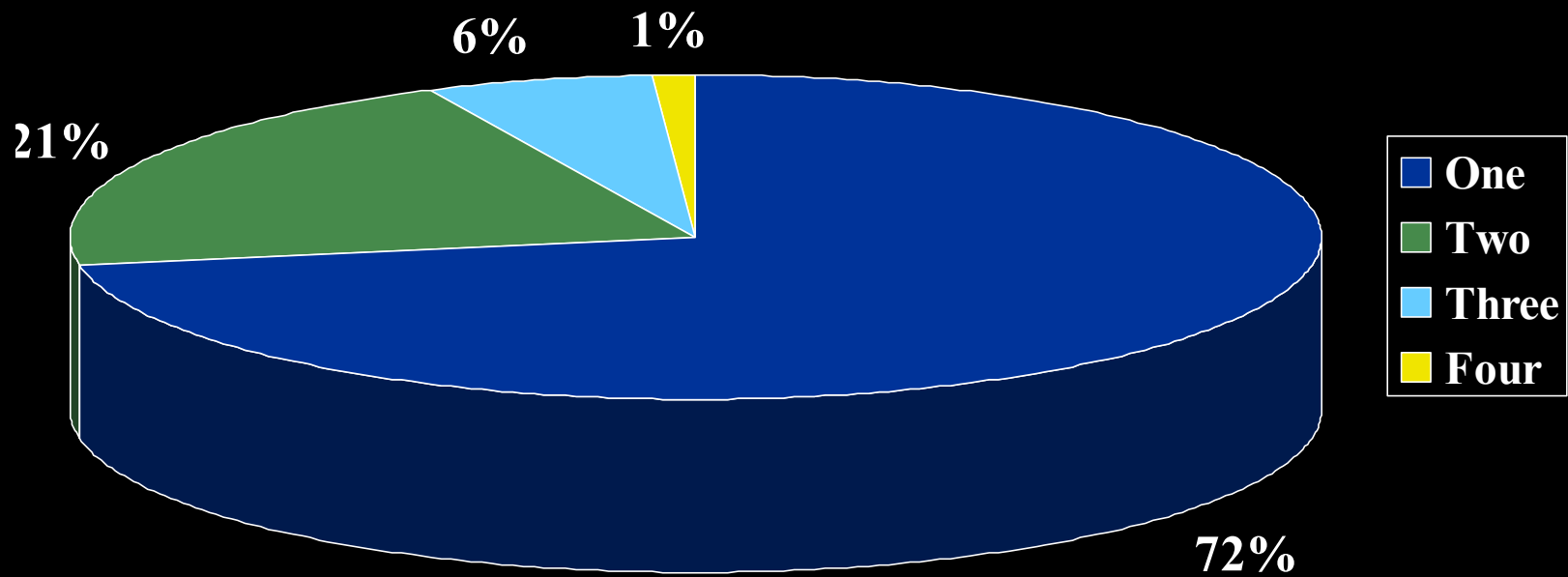


What's happening in worship in the United Church of Christ?

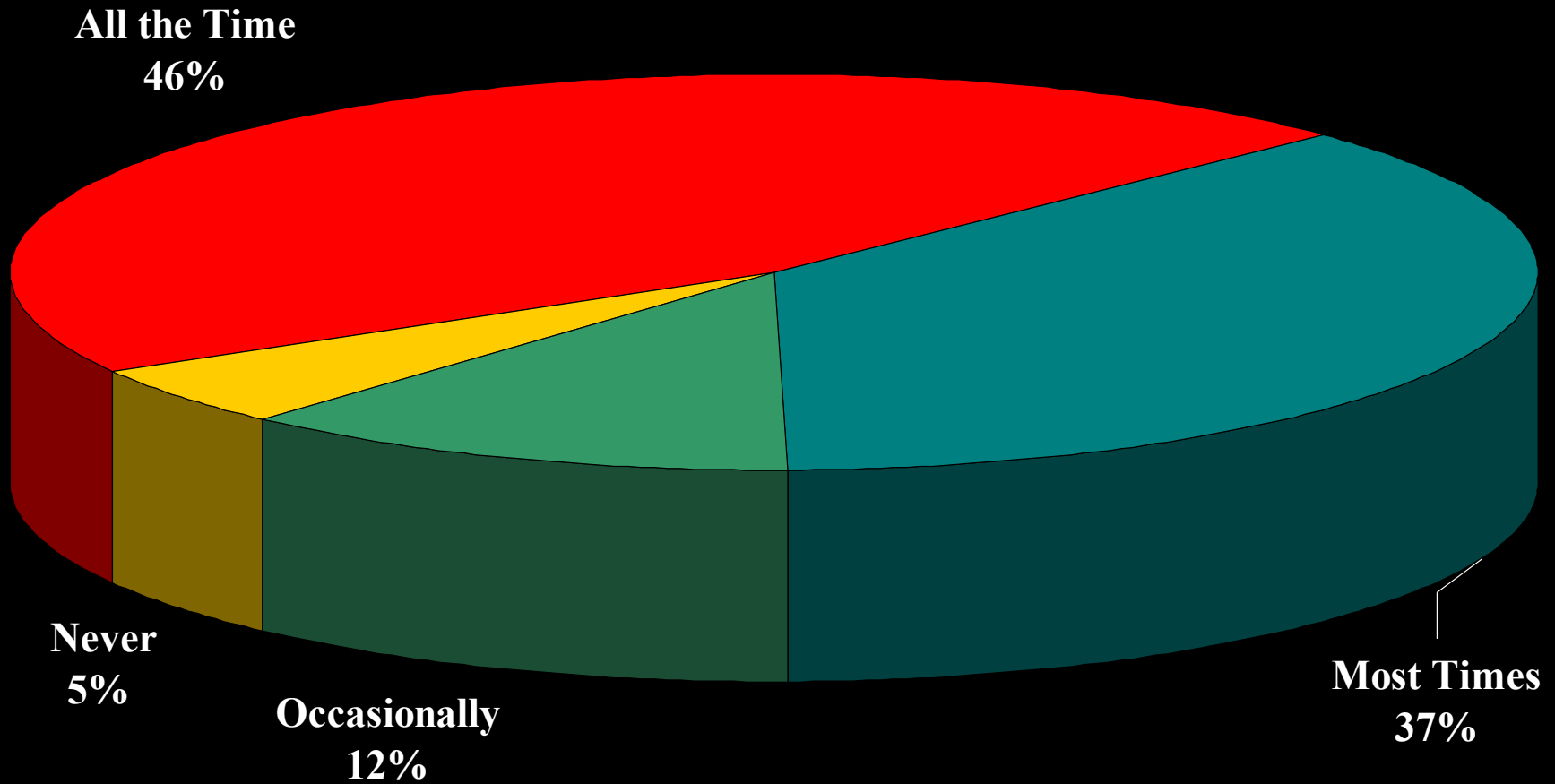


Wellesley Hills Congregational Church UCC, Wellesley MA

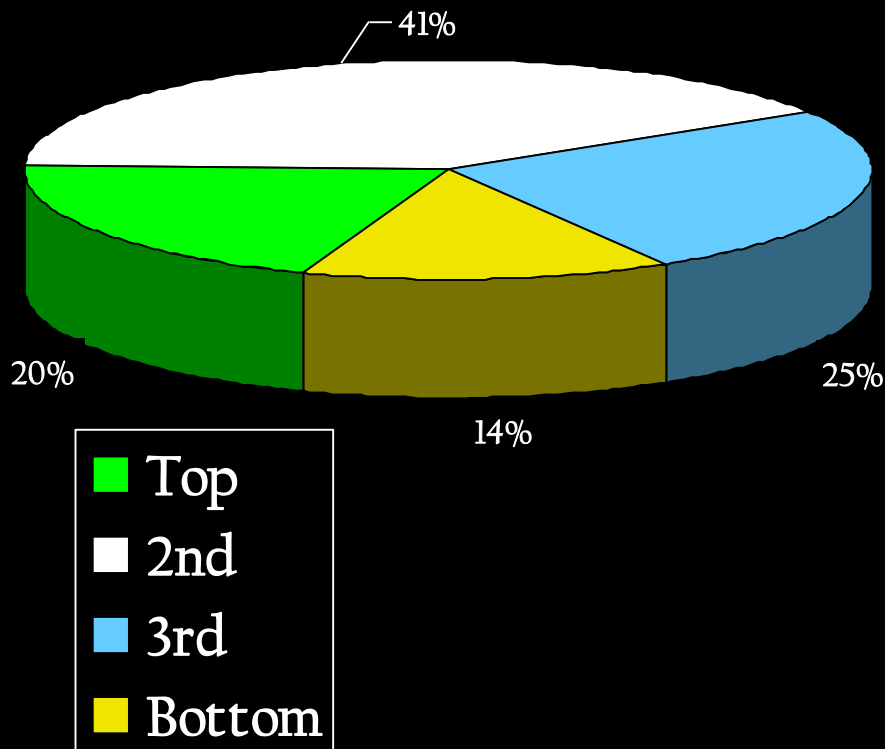
Number of Regularly Scheduled Services



Clergy Use of Revised Common Lectionary



The Use of the Lectionary



T Lectionary always used in worship and lectionary curriculum used in church school

2 Lectionary mostly used in worship and lectionary curriculum used in church school

3 Lectionary used mostly, but not in church school

B Lectionary used only occasionally or never

Worship Elements

Always or almost always included

- Prelude
- Call to Worship
- Invocation
- Time with Children
- Prayer of Our Savior/Lord's Prayer
- Pastoral Prayer
- Joys and Concerns
- Bible Reading
- Sermon
- Announcements
- Offertory/Offering/Prayer of Dedication/Doxology
- Benediction
- Postlude

Worship Elements

Sometimes included

- Processional
- Confession and Words of Assurance
- Statement of Faith
- Creed
- Passing the Peace
- Time of Greeting
- Responsive or Sung Psalm
- Other Responsive Liturgy
- Prayer Concerns, written or oral
- Silent Prayer
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

Worship Elements

Less frequently or never included

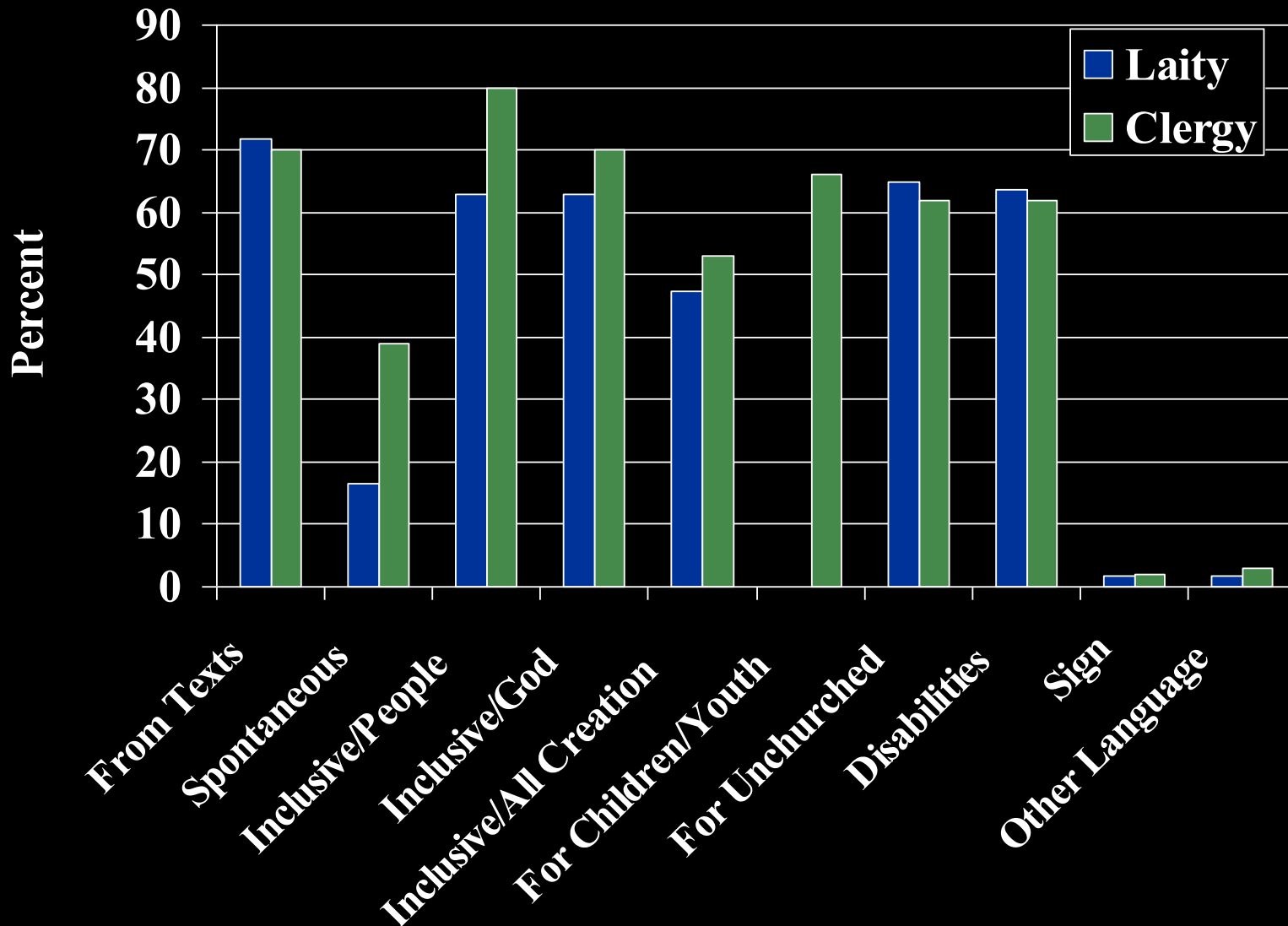
- Collect**
- Items from Calendar of Prayer**
- Congregation Stands for Bible Reading**
- Readings from Contemporary Texts**
- Drama**
- Video Clips**
- Testimony**
- Altar Call**
- Mission or Stewardship Moment**

What about the words we use in worship?

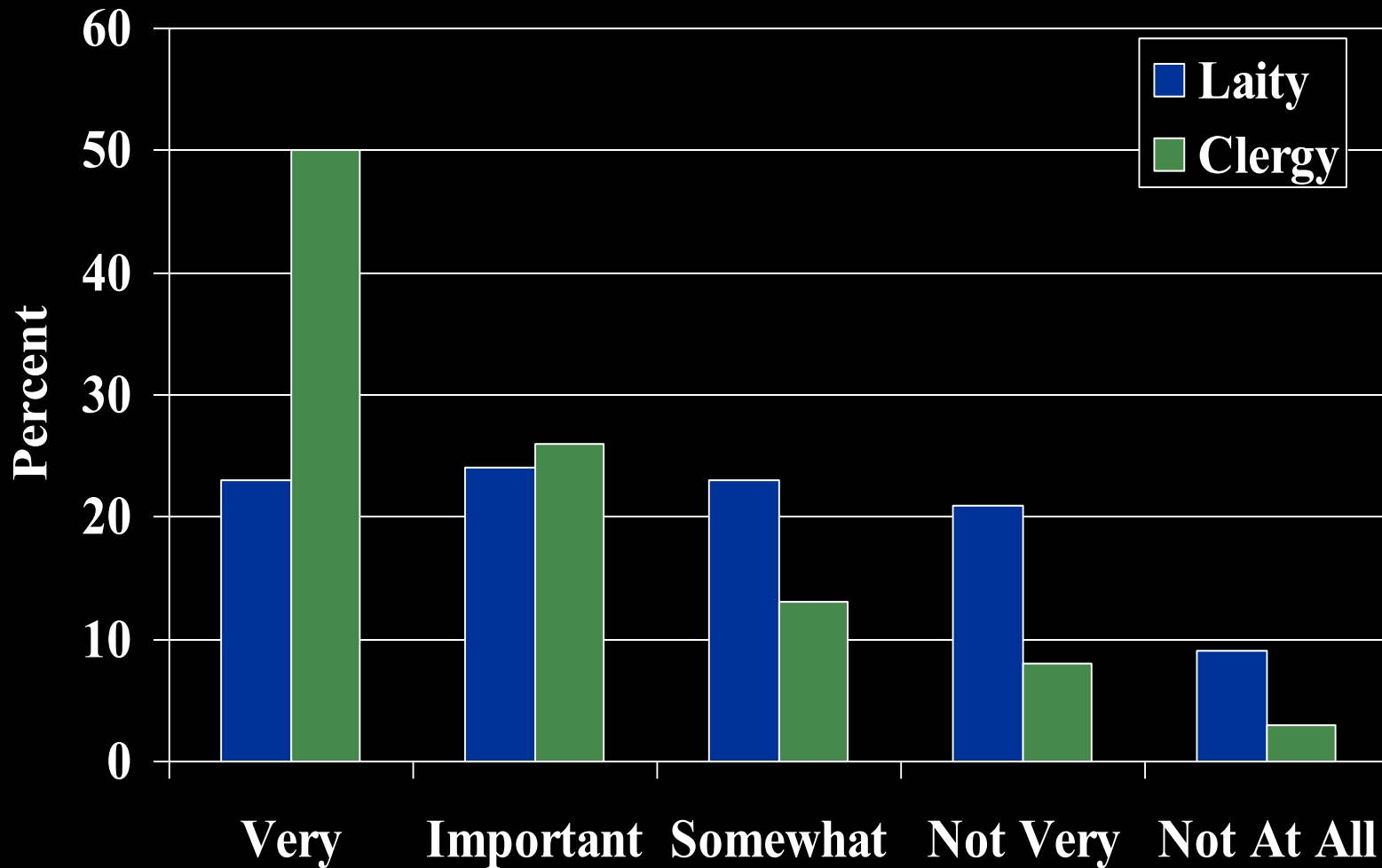


Ebenezer United Church of Christ, Burlington NC

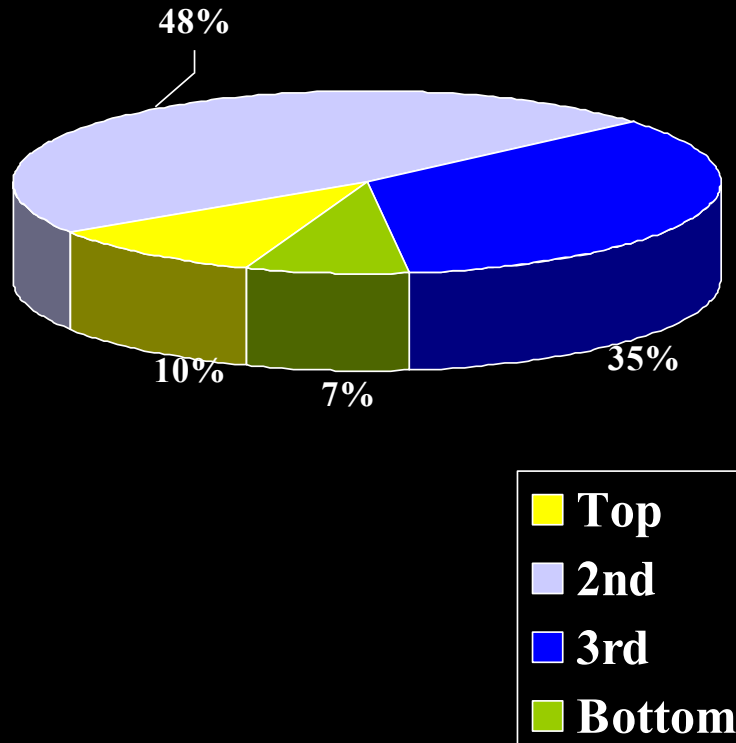
Description of Language Used Regularly



Importance of Inclusive Language

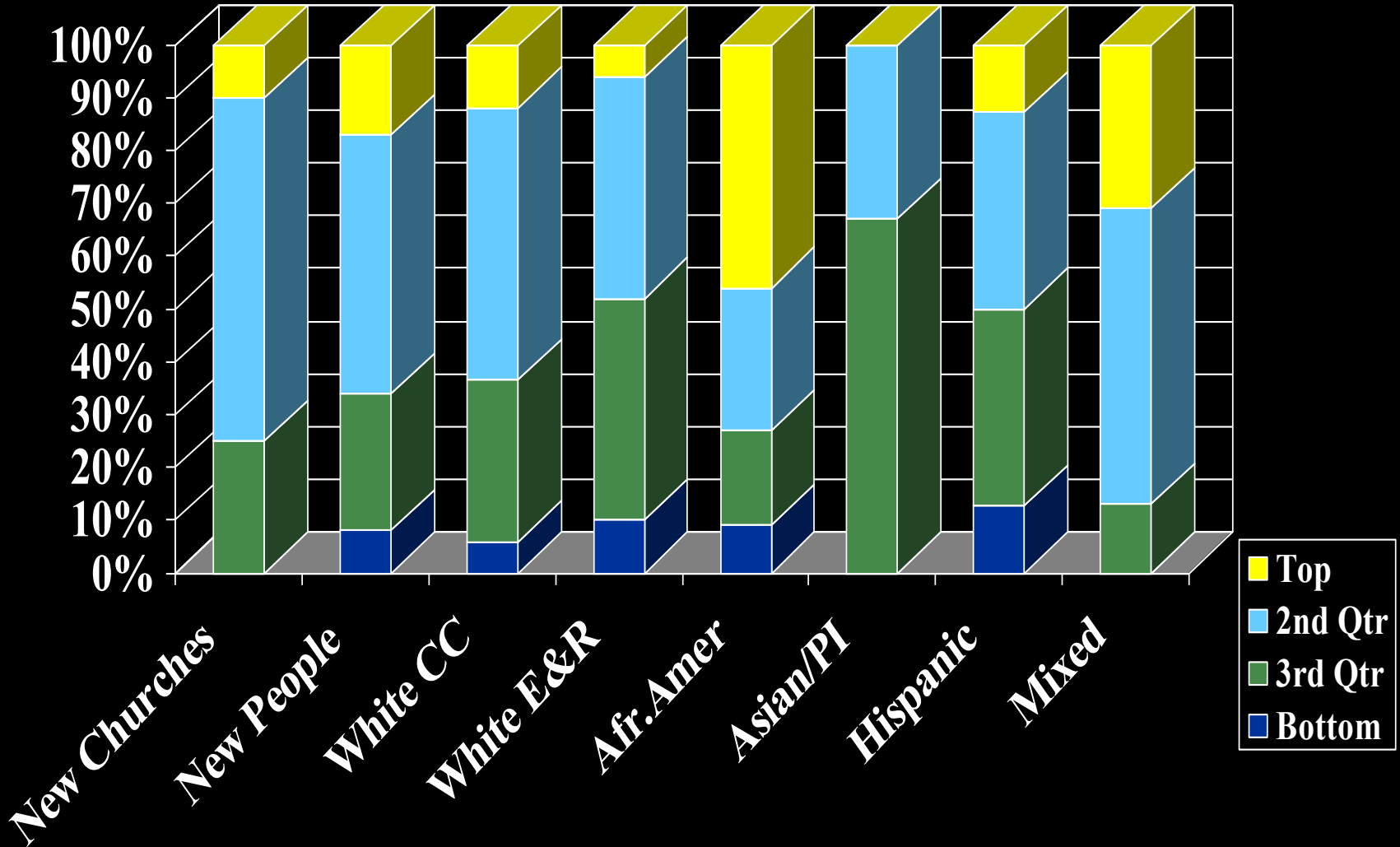


Justice Issues in Worship



- T** **Worship is powerful place connecting to world, inclusive language is important, reference to justice issues in worship, holidays, theology of sacraments has some justice emphasis**
- 2** **Some ratings or references are high, others are moderate**
- 3** **Only occasional justice content**
- B** **Little or no reference to justice issues, worship is quiet place away from the world**

Differences in Justice Issues



What about worship styles?



Saint Matthew United Church of Christ, Wheaton IL

60 percent congregations

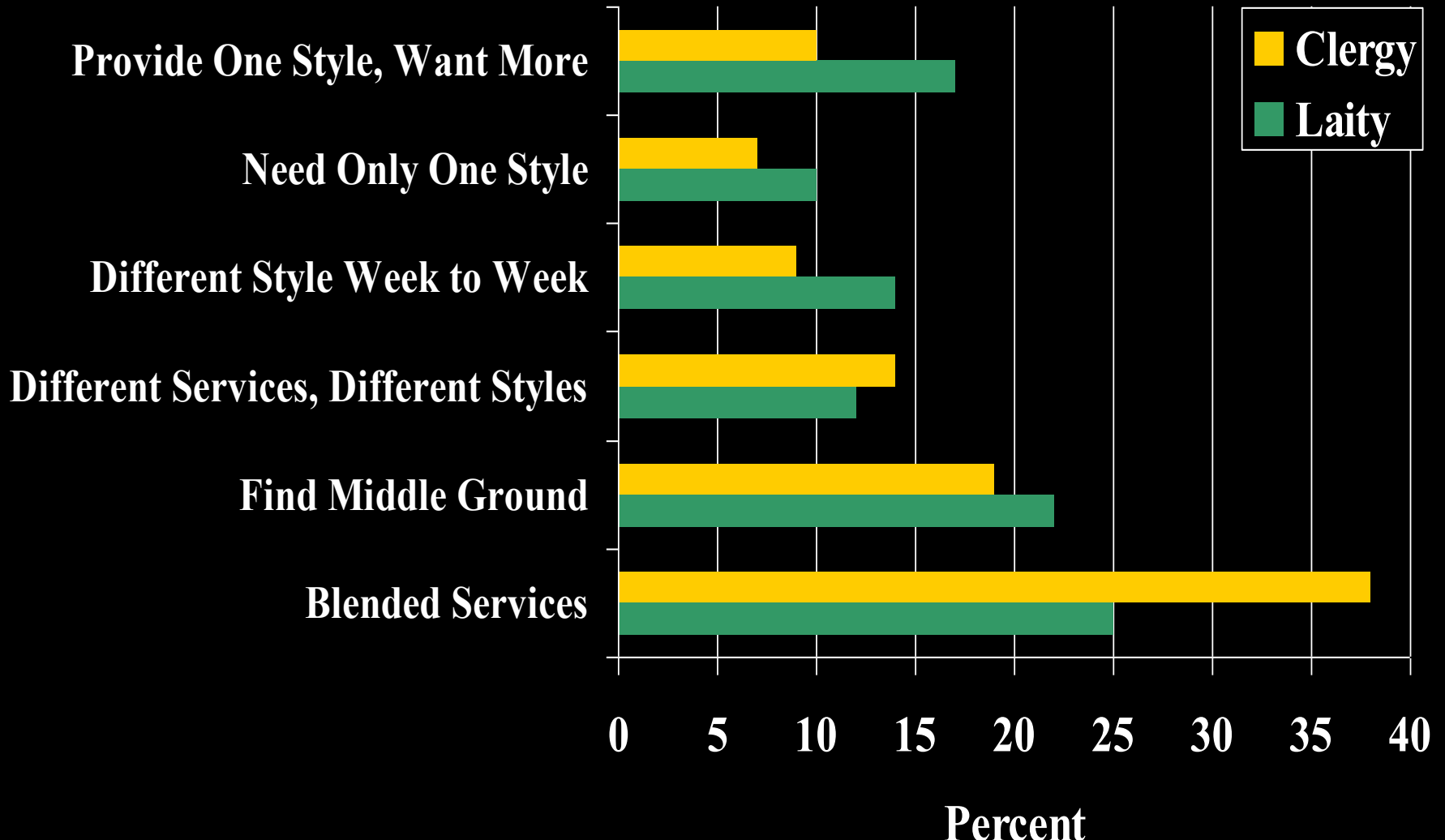
Traditional and primarily traditional
in primary worship service

11 percent in primary,

30 percent in additional

Contemporary and primarily contemporary

How Congregations Address Different Worship Styles

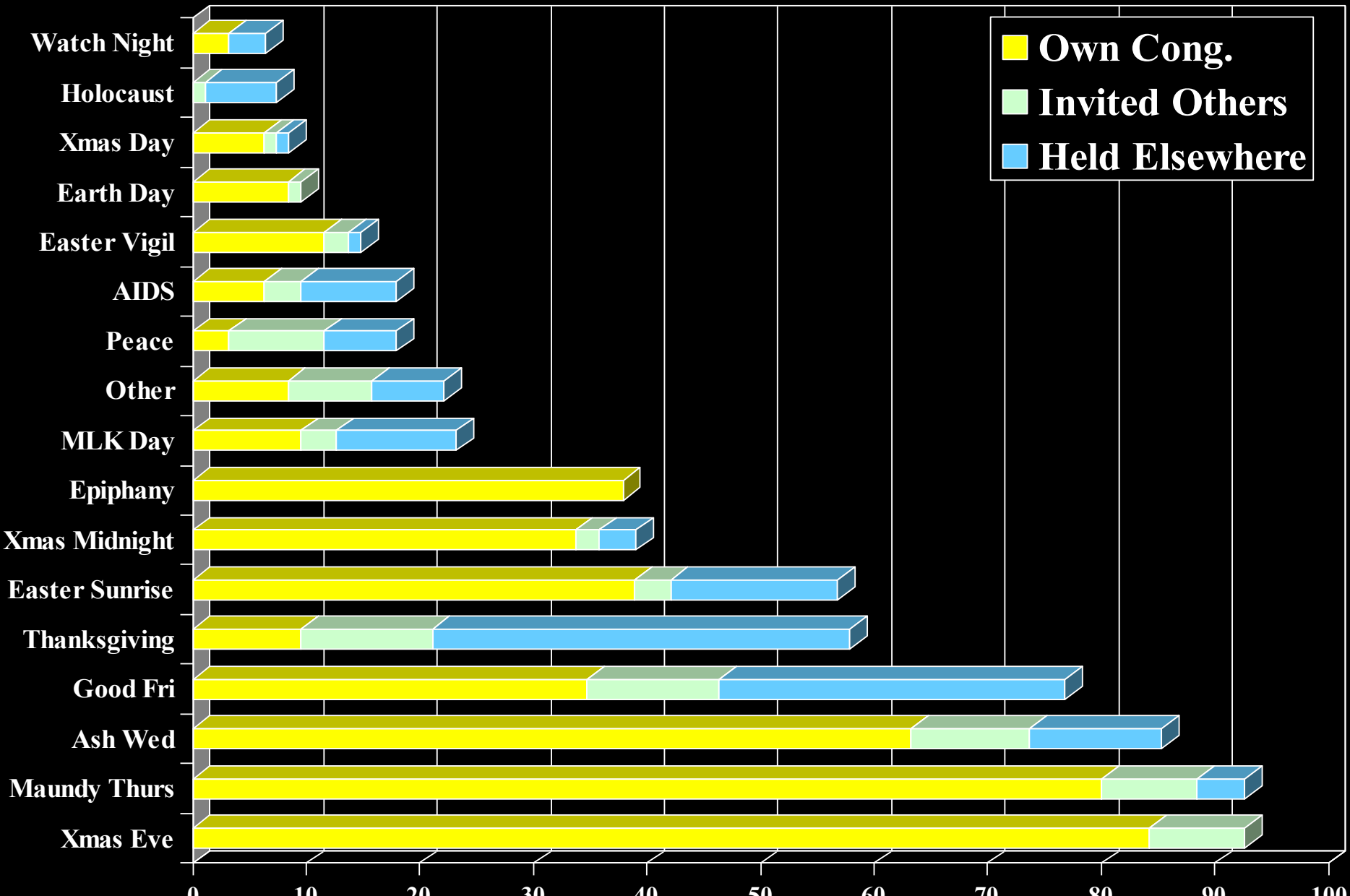


What about special or occasional worship services?

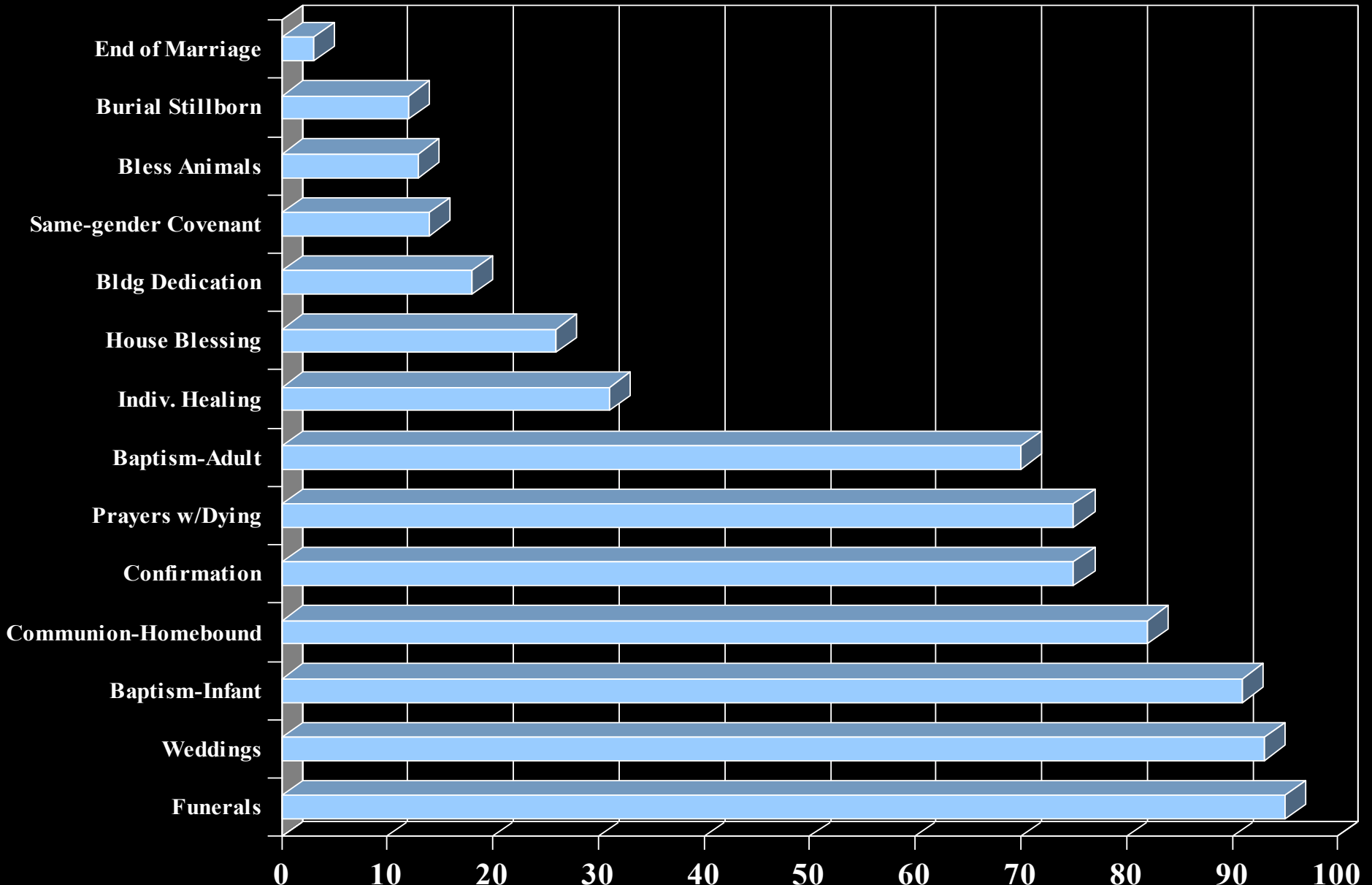


First Congregational Church UCC, Boulder CO

Special Church Services



Other Clergy Led Services

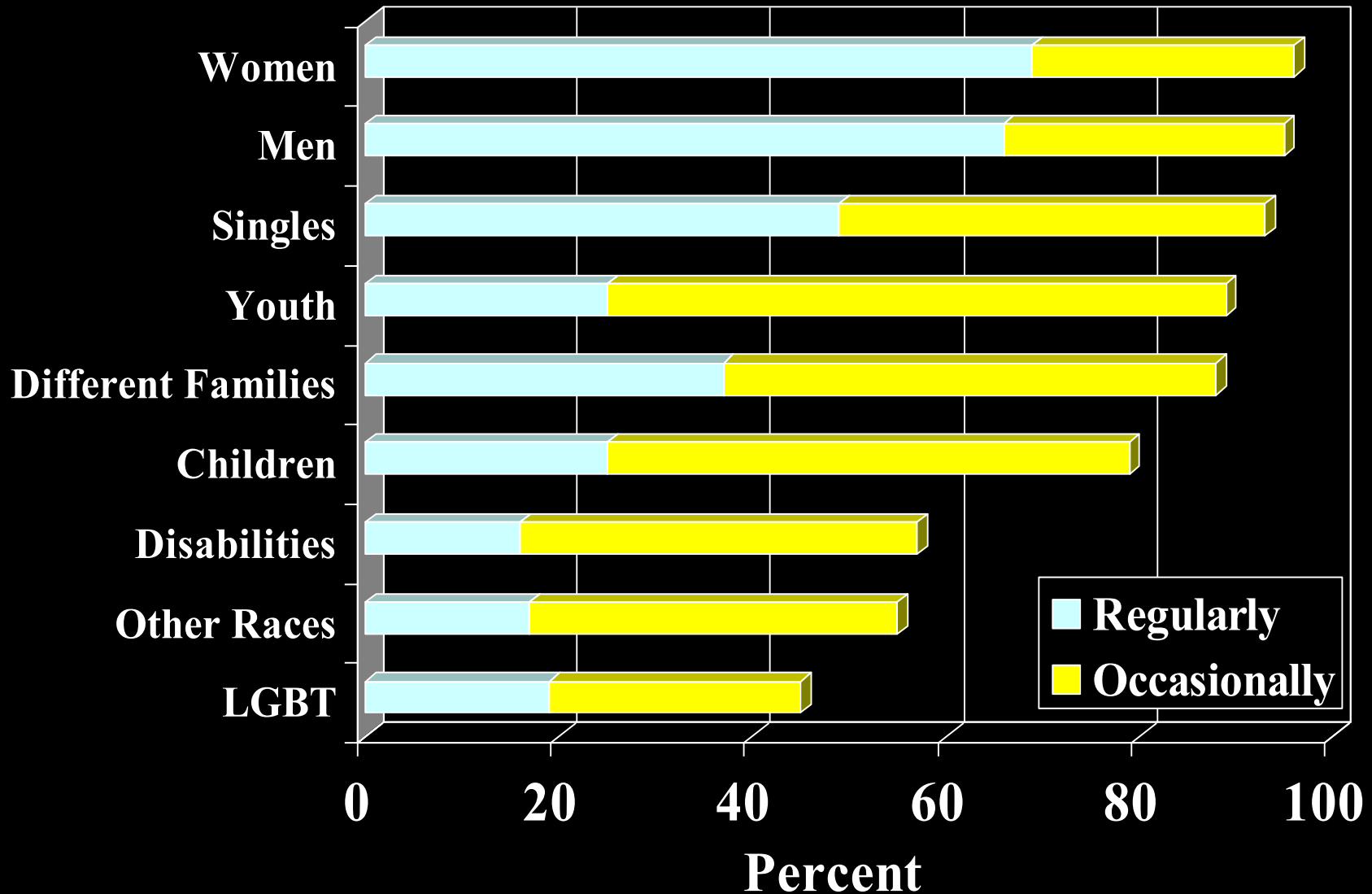


Who and how are people involved in worship?

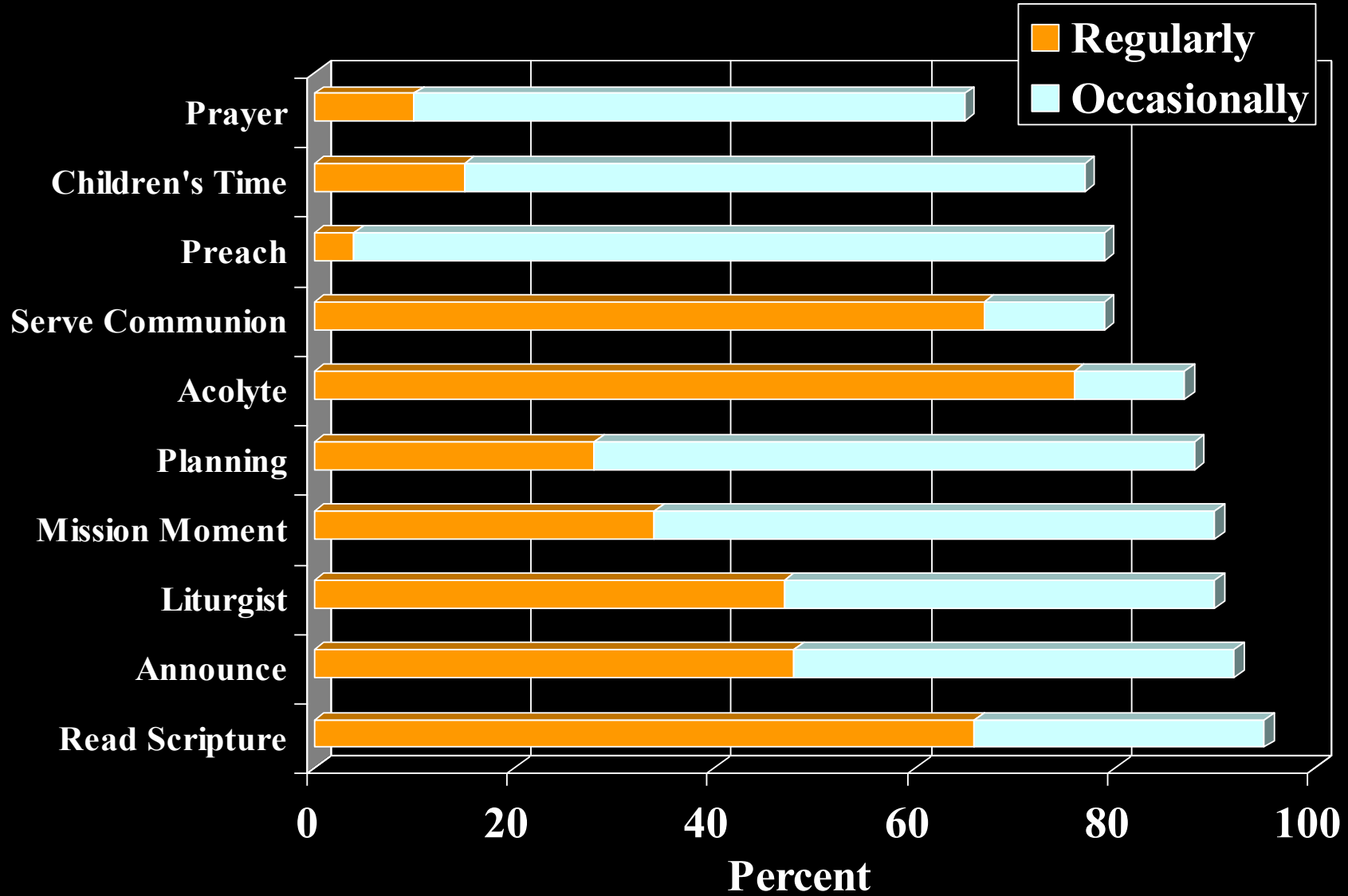


Saint Luke's United Church of Christ, Philadelphia PA

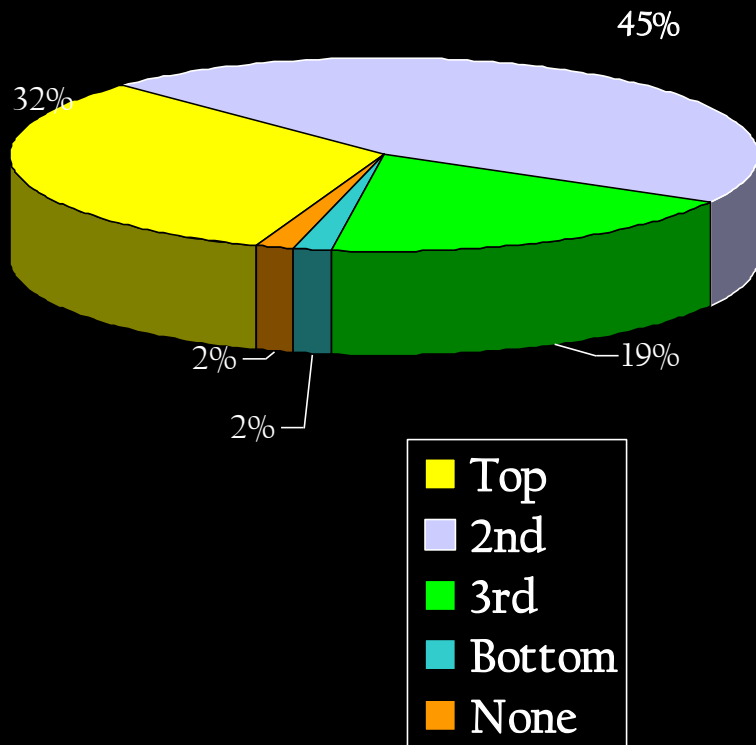
What Laity Are Involved in Worship?



How Are Laity Involved in Worship?

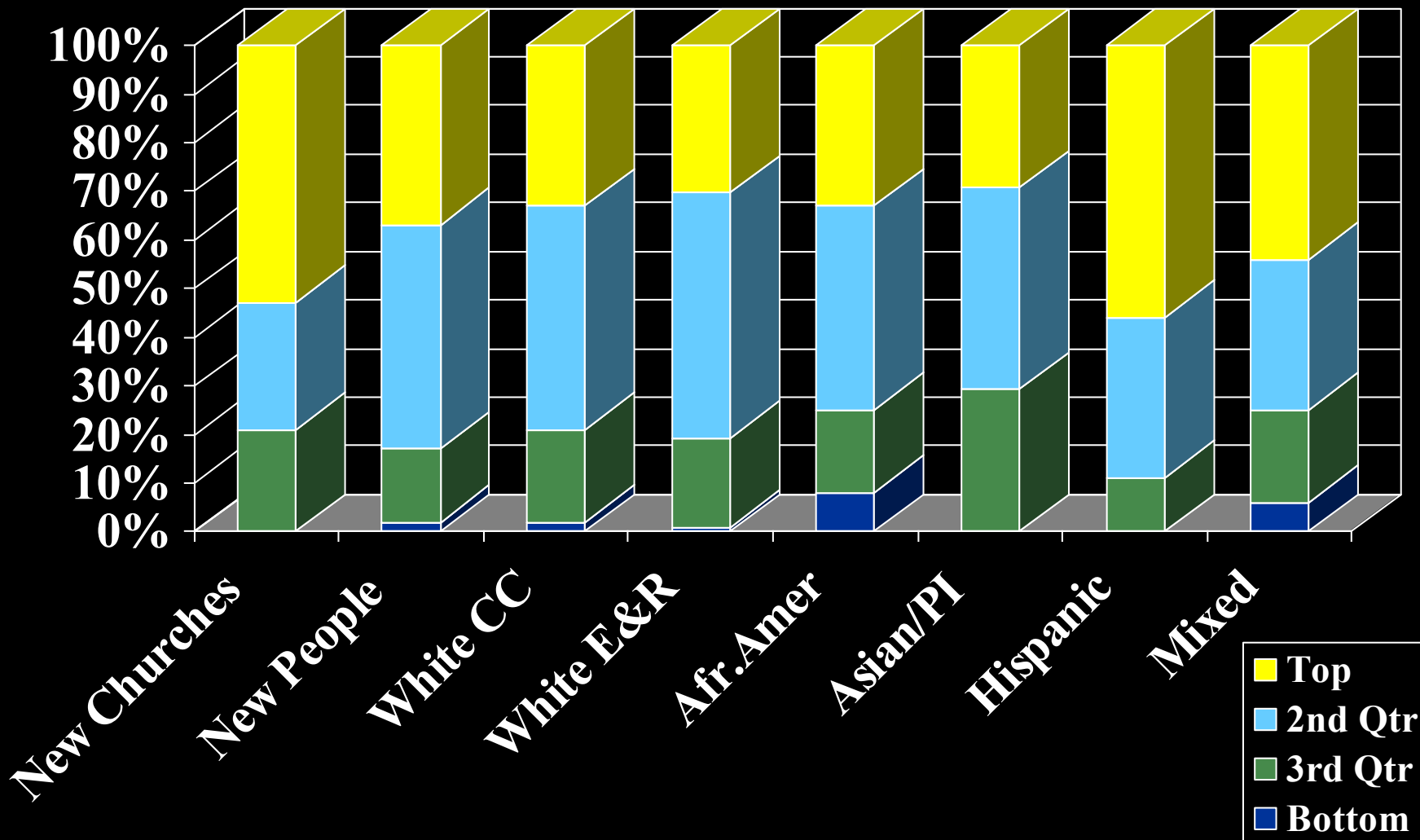


Churches Engaging Children & Youth

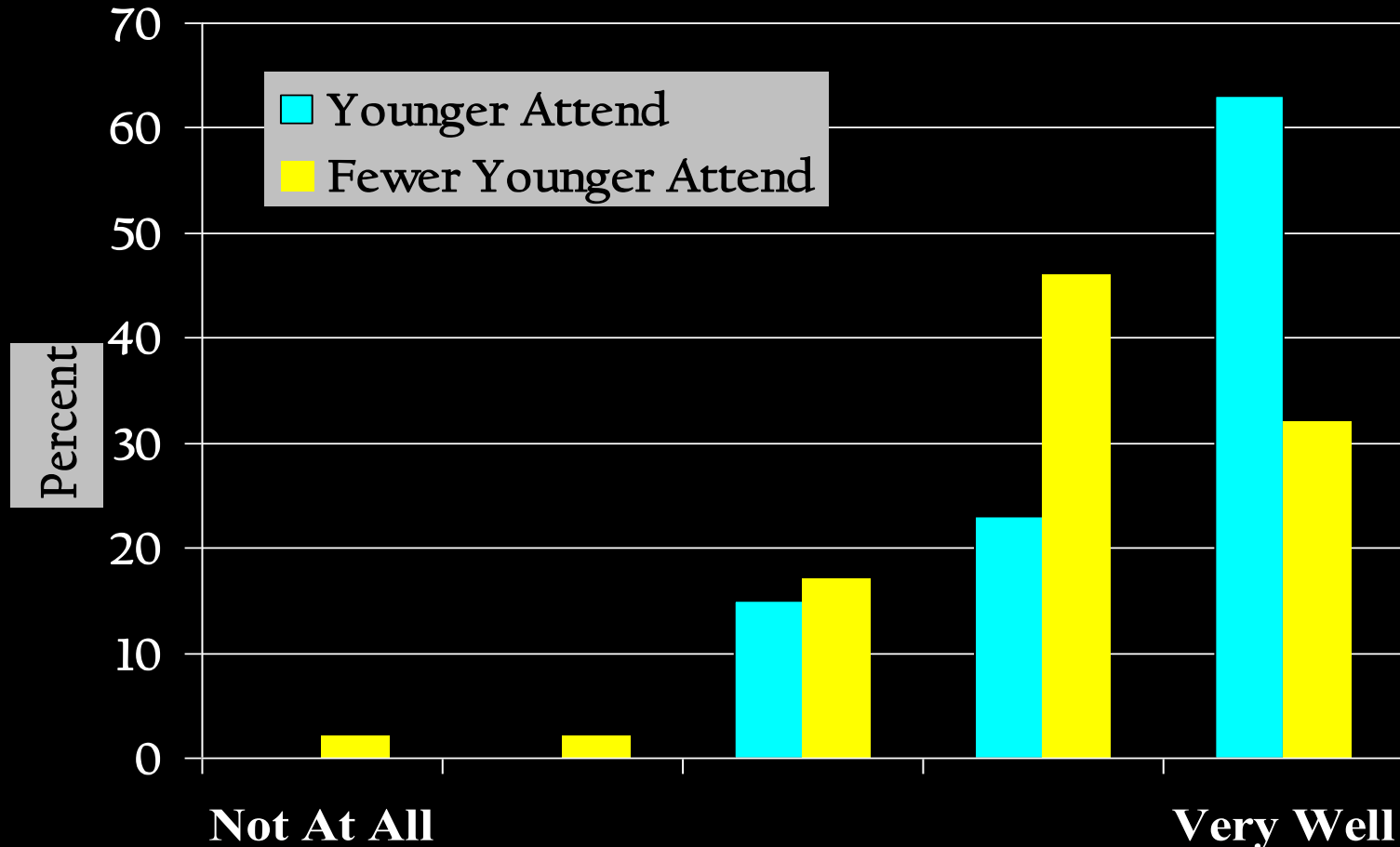


- T Children & youth help lead worship and partake in Holy Communion. Includes child-friendly language and sermon content, & special children or youth Sundays
- 2 Children and youth are involved, but at lower level.
- 3 Children and youth are involved through the children's sermon or on a special children or youth Sunday.
- B Children and youth are only in church school.
- N Includes no children and youth.

Involvement of Children and Youth



Description of Services With Younger Worshipers

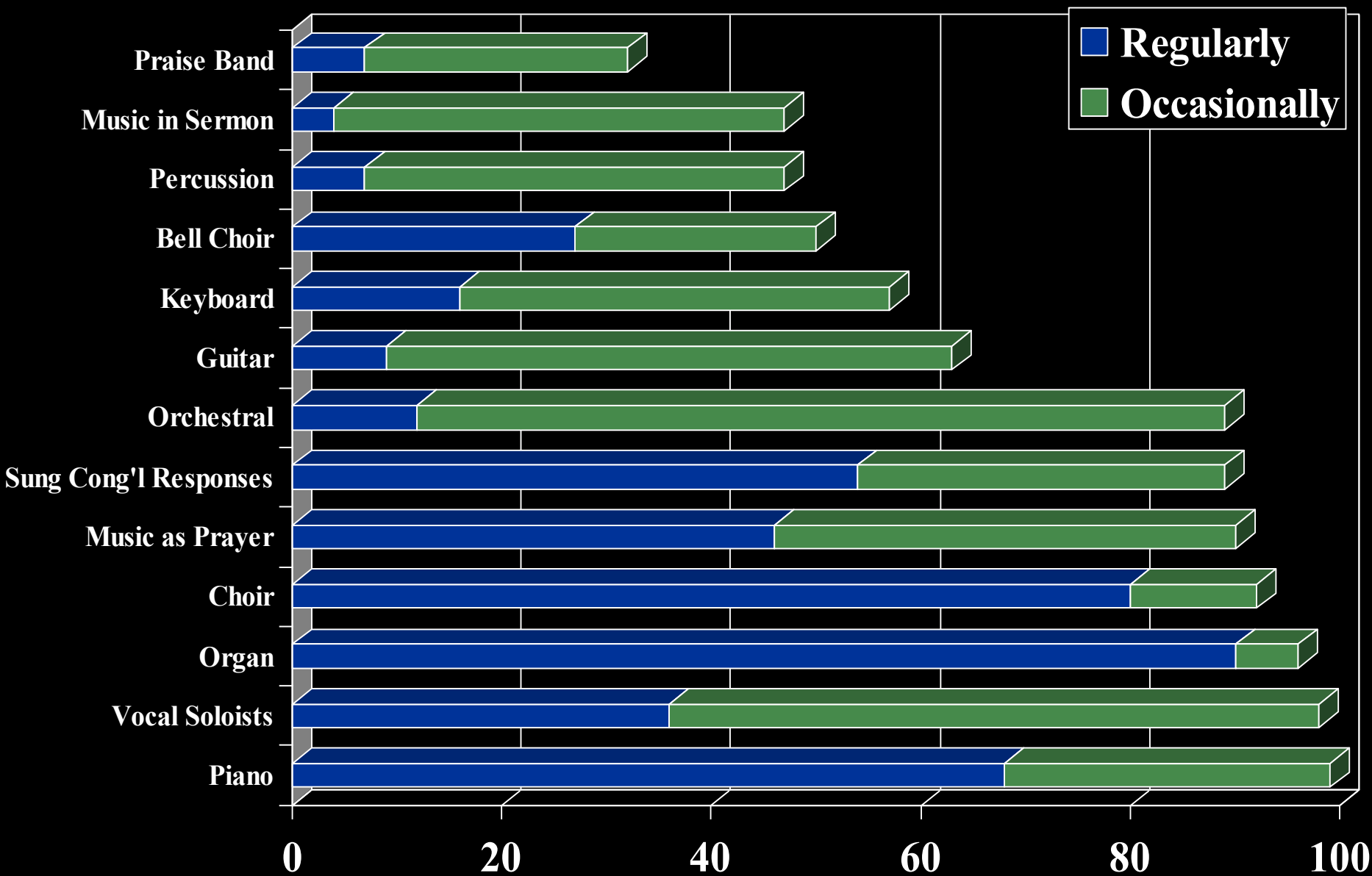


What about music?

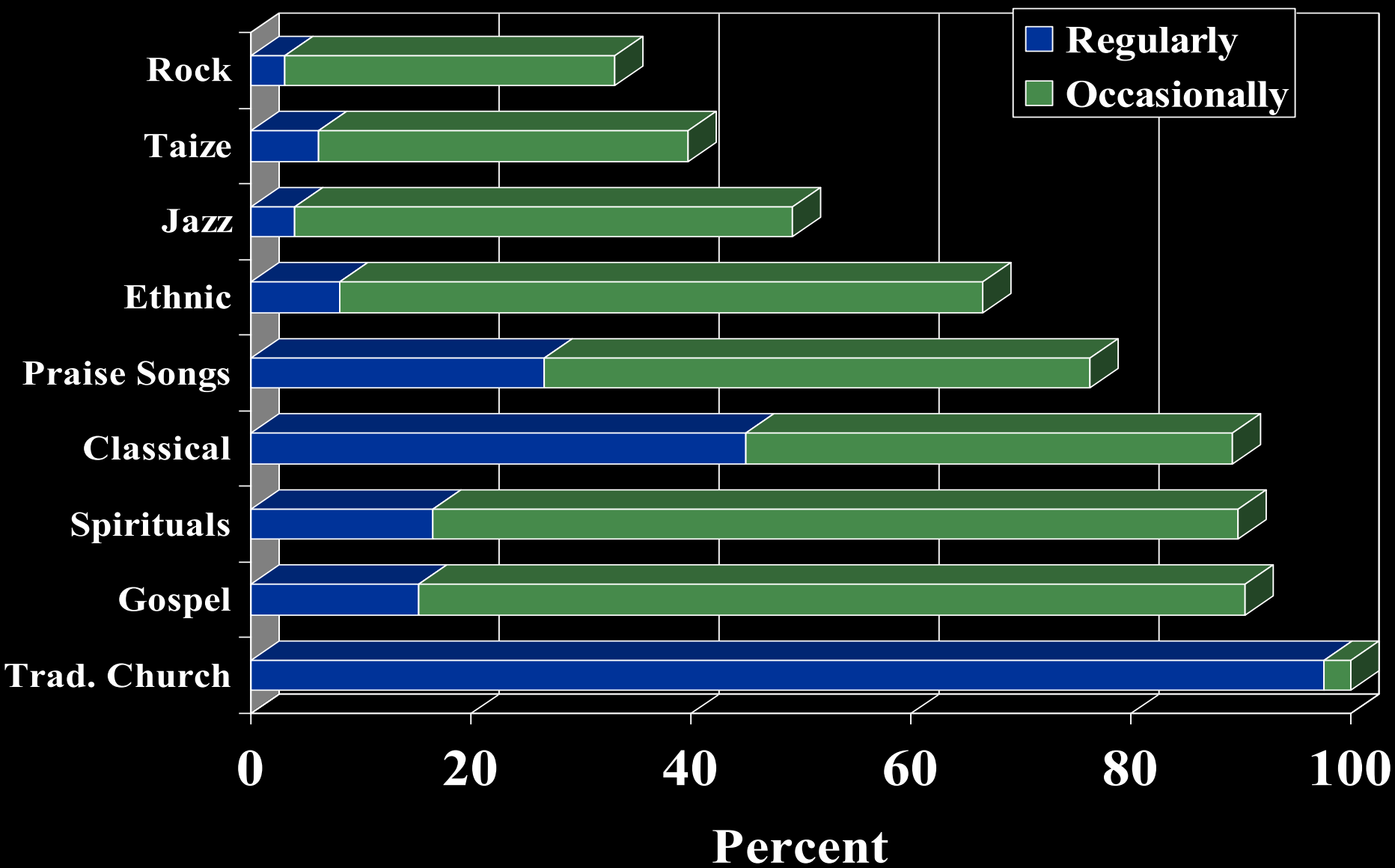


Malmalama Congregation Church UCC, Long Beach CA

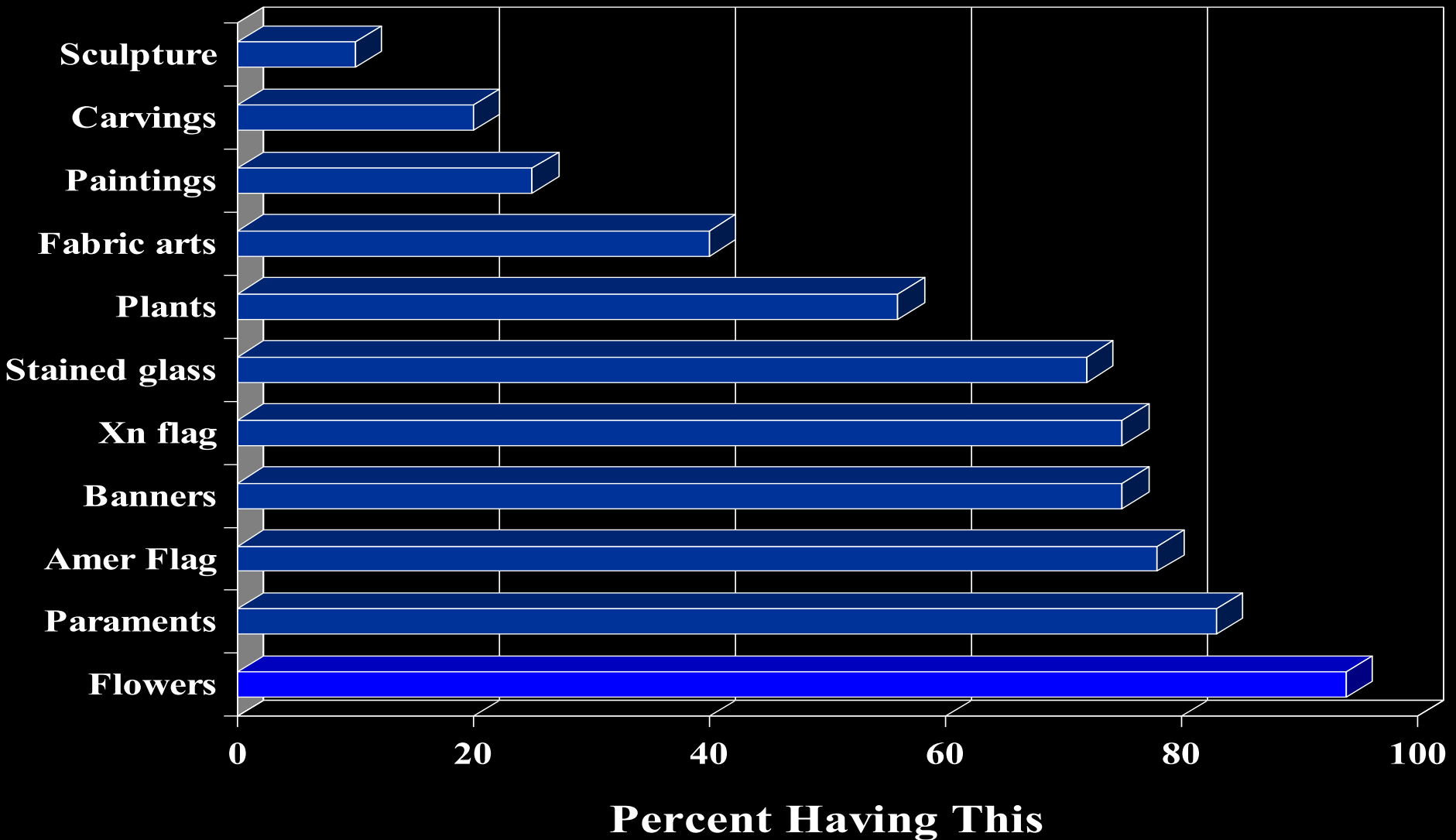
Musical Instruments Used



Types of Music Used



Arts in Sanctuary

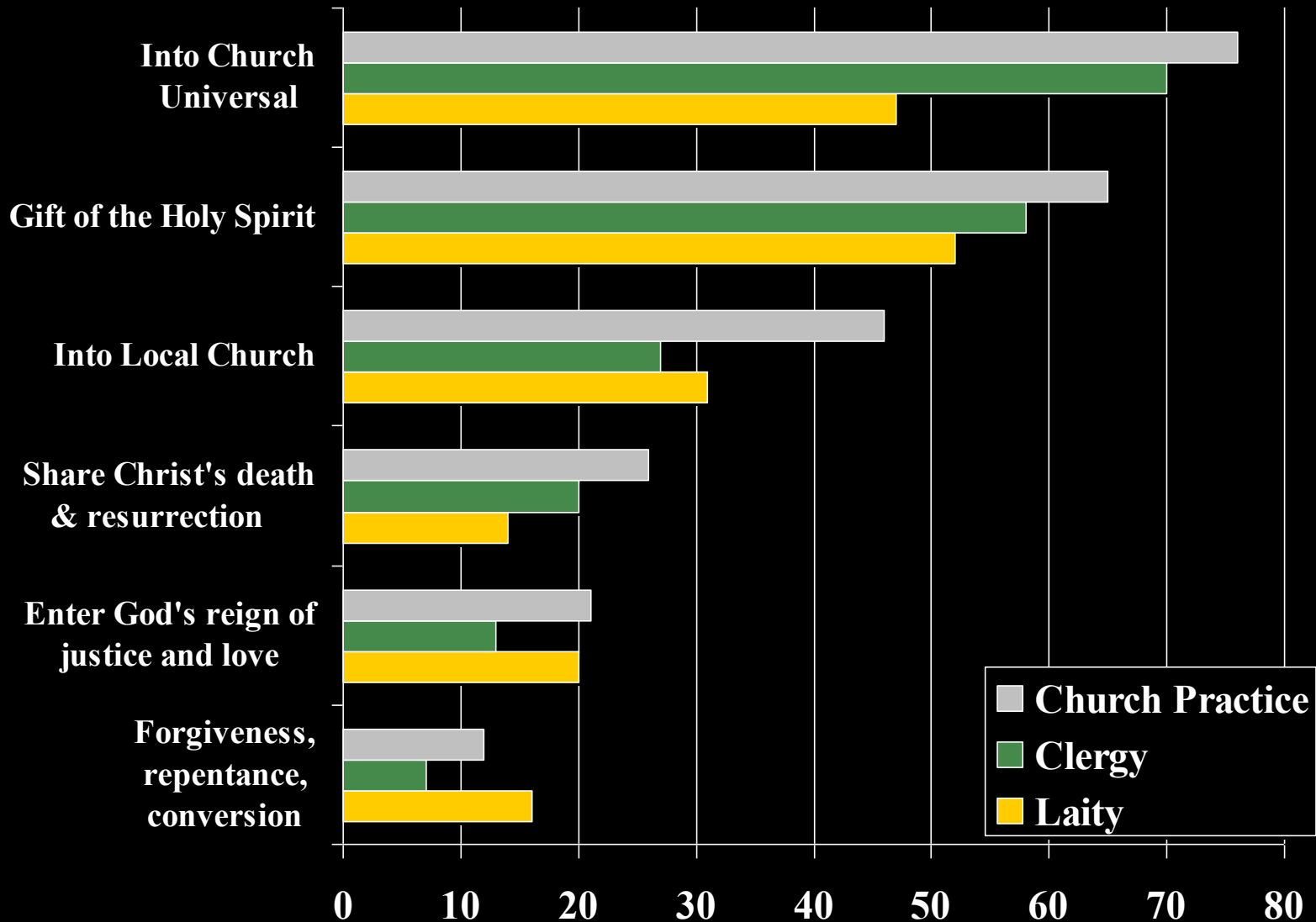


What about the sacraments?



Brookings United Church of Christ, Brookings SD

What Is Baptism?

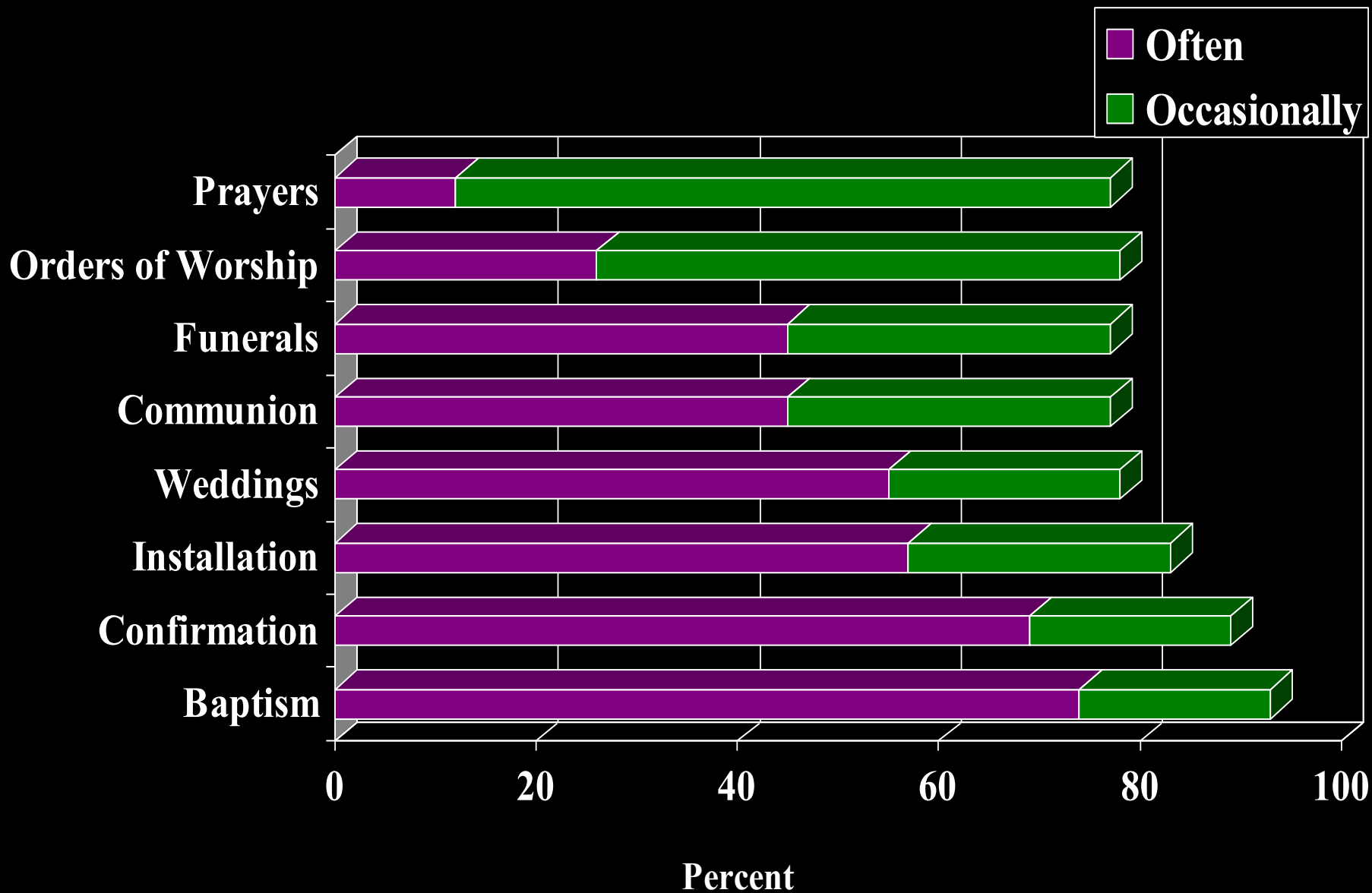


What about the words used at Baptism?

Book of Worship for Baptism

92 percent often or occasionally,
more than for any other rite.

Use of *Book of Worship* in Planning



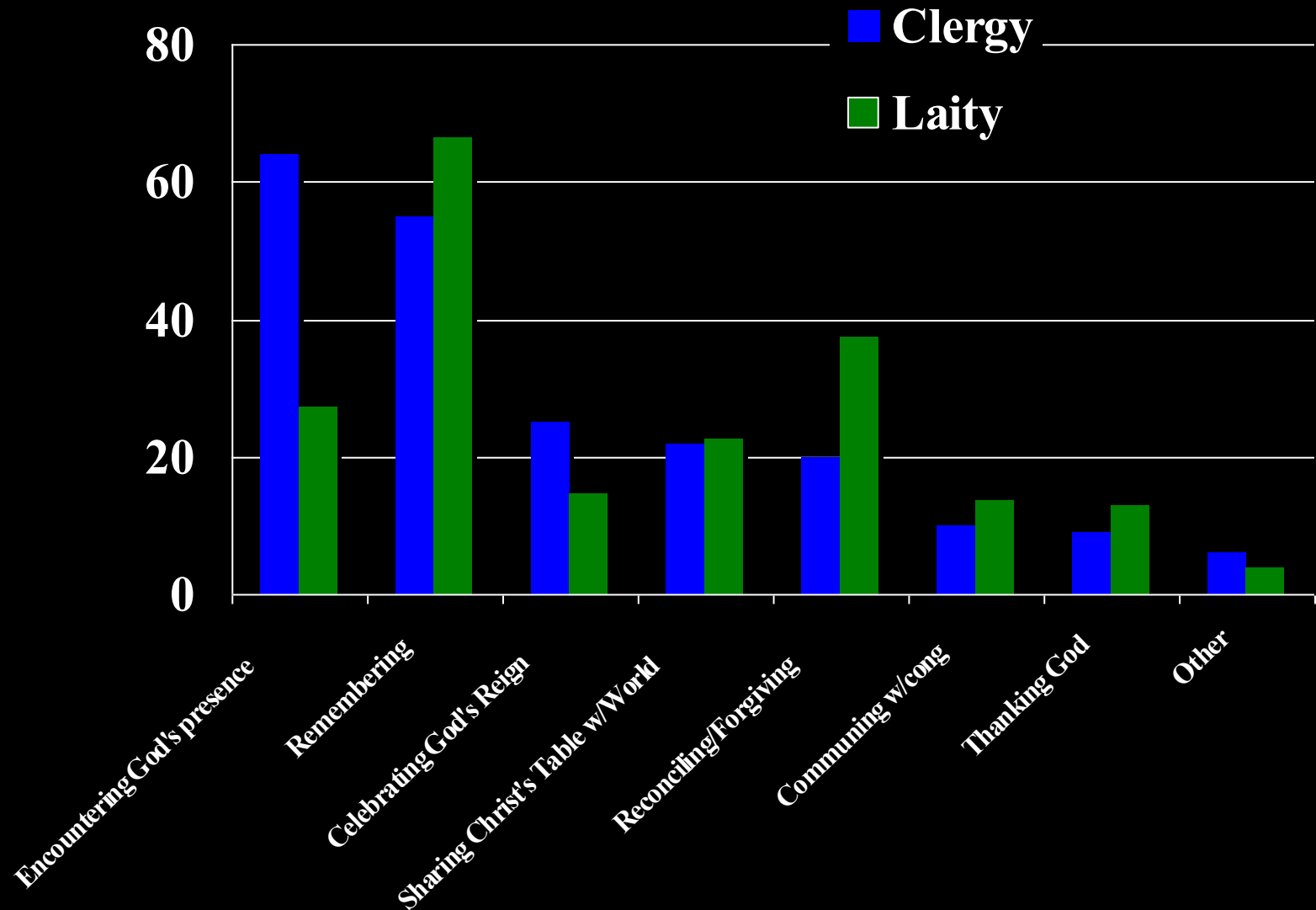
62 percent of congregations
“in the name of the Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit”

36 percent

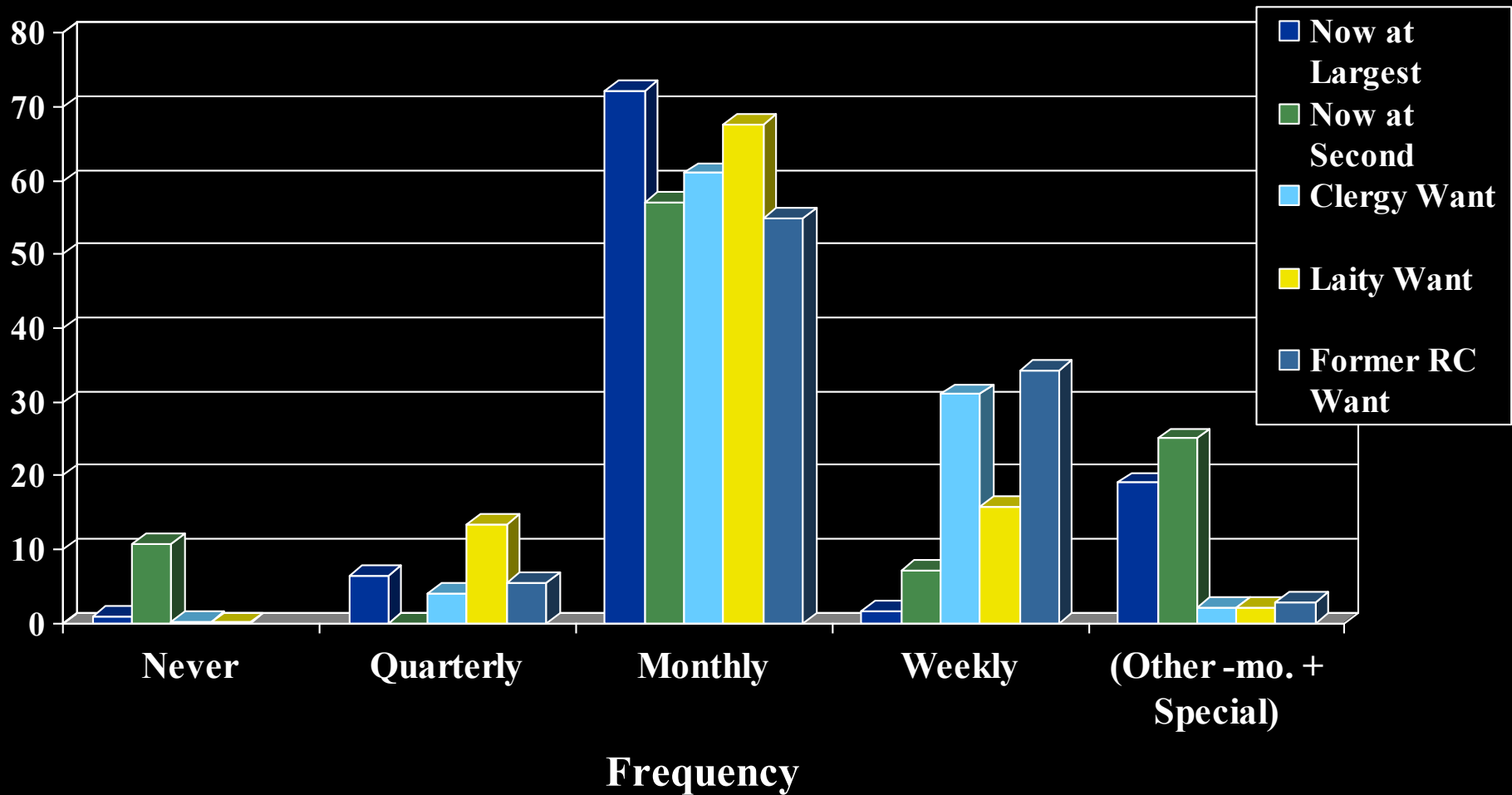
Other words as

“in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One God, Mother of us All.”

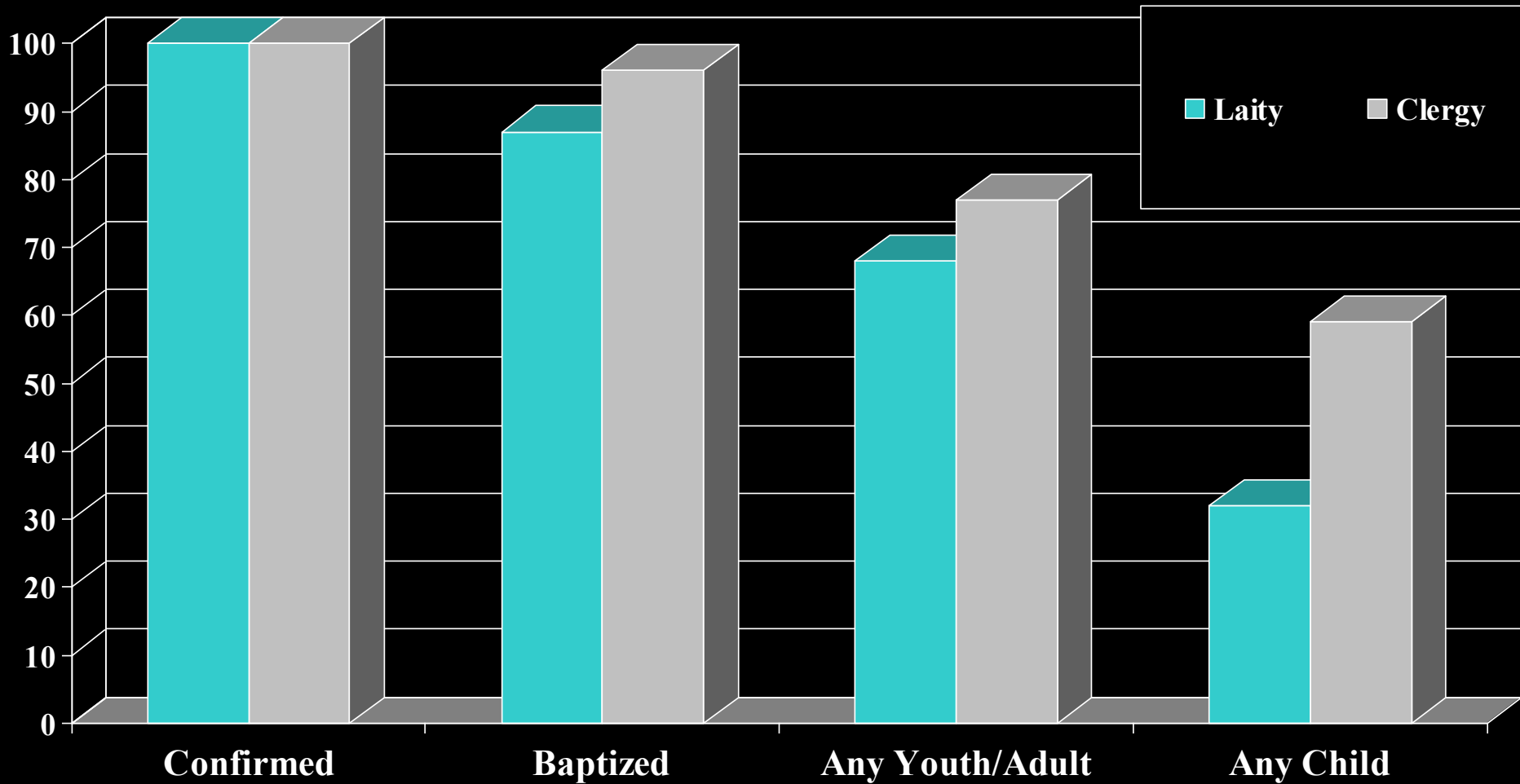
What is Holy Communion?

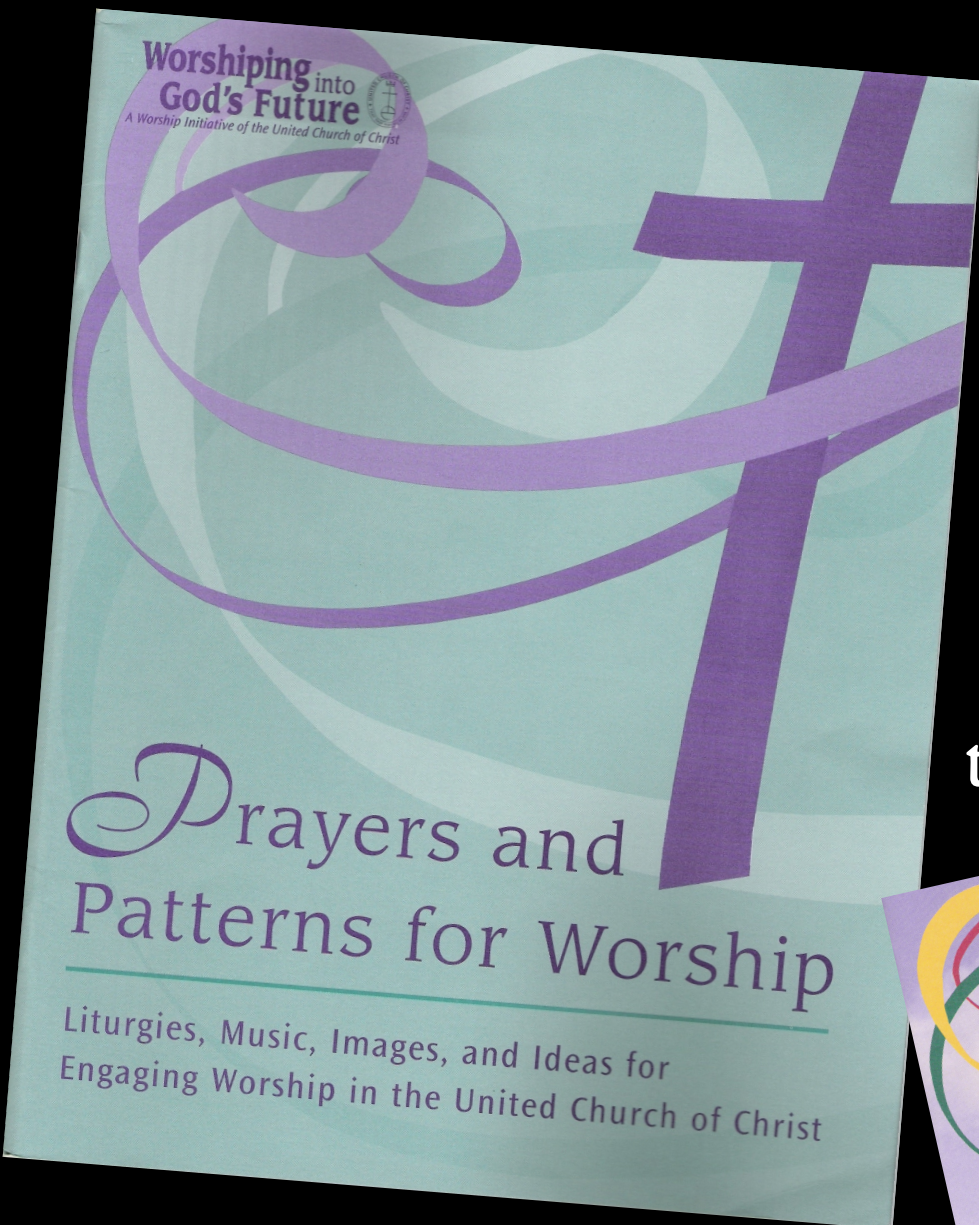


Frequency of Holy Communion



Who Should Receive Holy Communion?





Also we...

reflected on our worship practice

tried others' liturgies

tried new liturgies and music





Central Christian Church, UCC, Hilo HI



Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago IL



Sulphur Springs United Church of Christ, Sulphur Springs IN

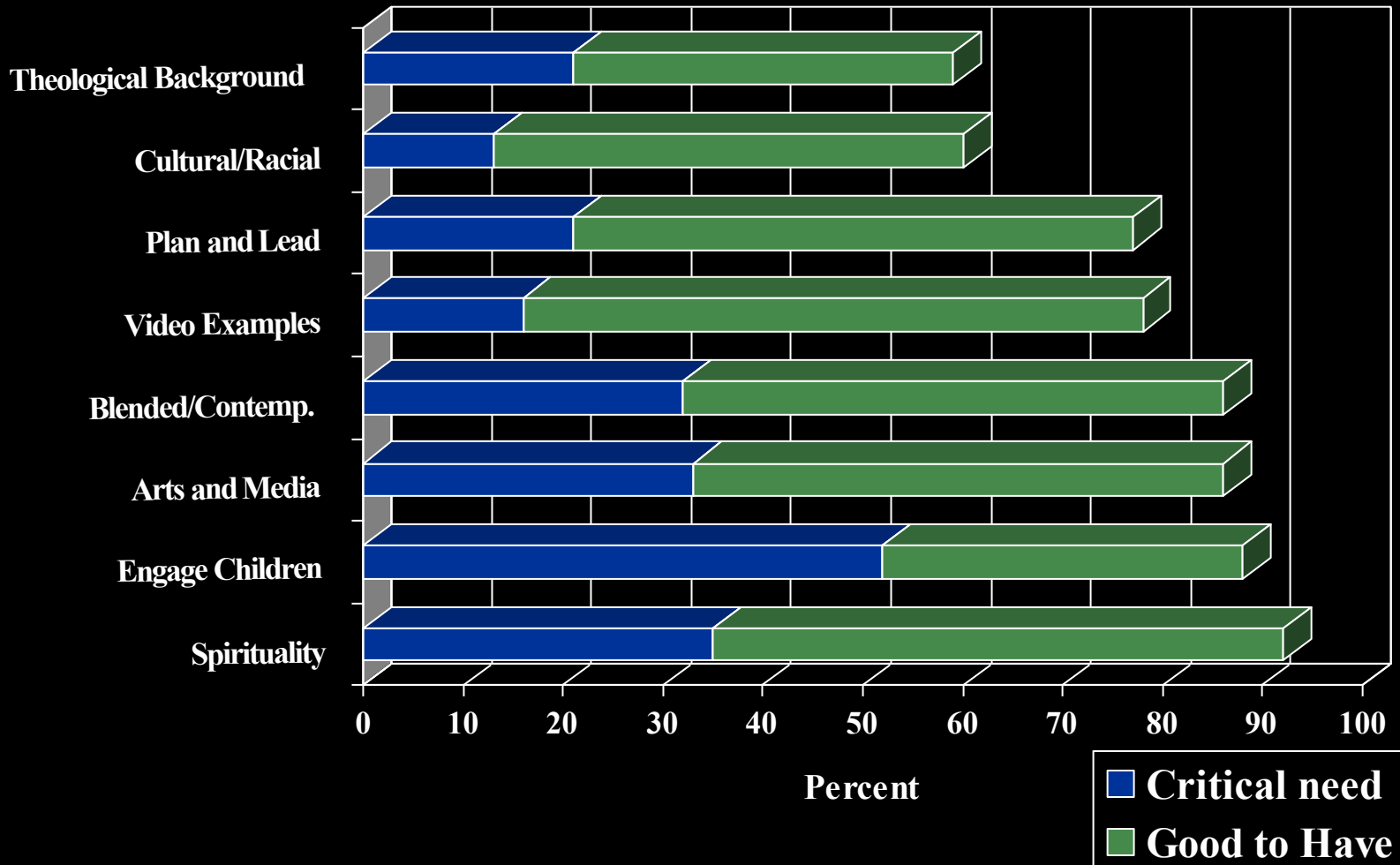


Belmond Congregational United Church of Christ, Belmond IA

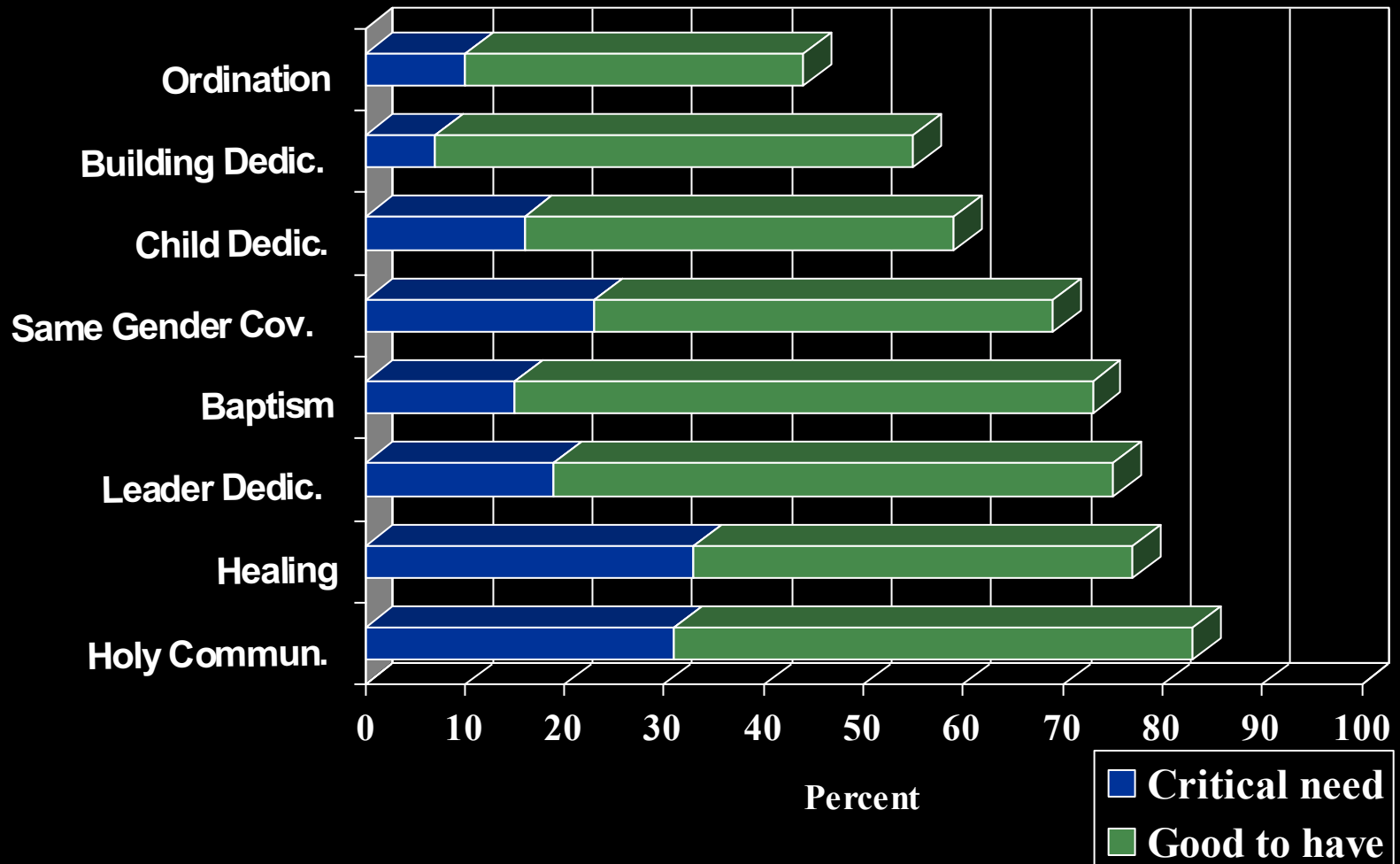


The Risen Lord by He Qi

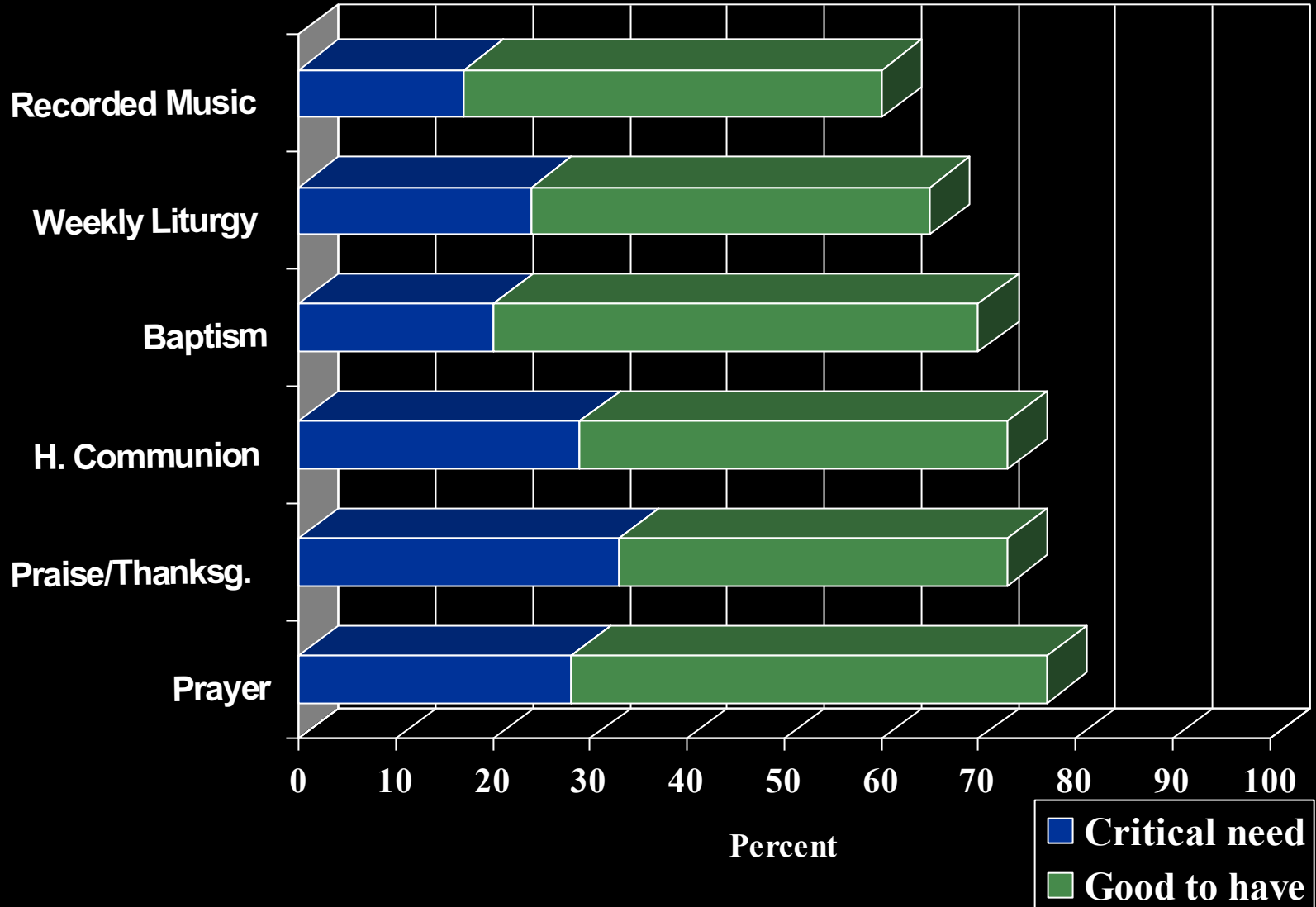
Resource Needs



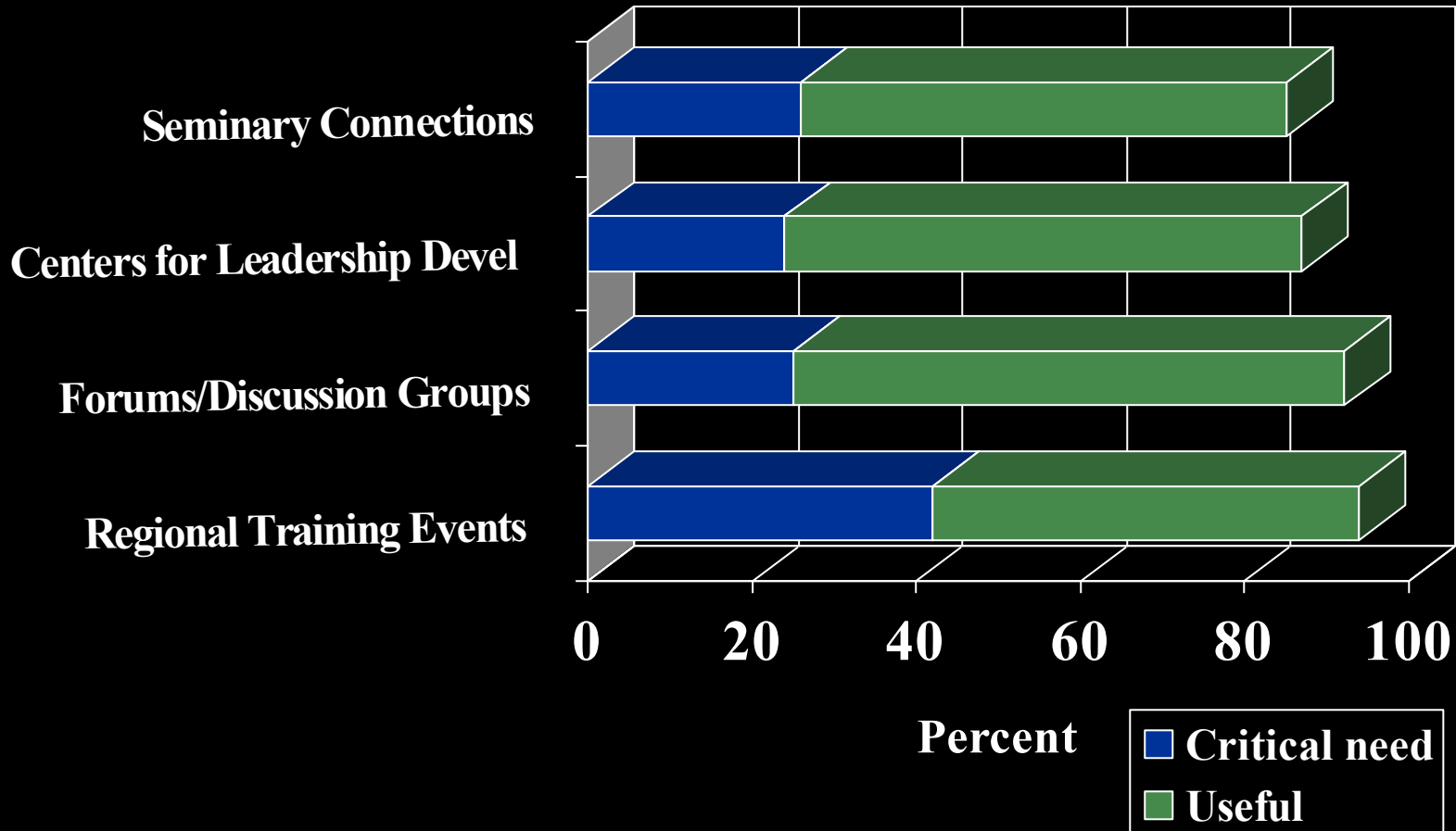
New Liturgy Needs



Music Needs



Ways to Provide Training



Having listened to the church. . . .

**Strategies for
Worshiping into God's Future**

Primary Strategy

Continue prayerful conversations
about our worship and sacramental life
through
resources and leadership development



With grateful hearts,
awaiting more light and truth,
open to God's future,
we worship the Living God!





Worshiping into God's Future

A Worship Initiative of the United Church of Christ

