

Worship: A Service of
Celebration and Commitment
For Churches and Presbytery

Vital Congregations



Section
9

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

Worshippers may share signs of peace.

— Word —

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, by the gift of your Spirit,
let us be grounded in your Word,
always growing in your wisdom
and bearing good fruit in your world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture

Sermon

An ascription of praise, hymn and/or affirmation of faith may follow the sermon.

Prayers of Intercession

Living God, hear our prayers
for your church and your world.

The following response may follow each petition:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the life of the church...
Support us in our weakness,
heal us in our brokenness,
and use us to do your will.

ecclesial health

We pray for loved ones...
Surround them with your care,
deliver them from danger,
and bless them with your grace.

caring relationships

We pray for the gifts of your Spirit...
Shape us through your Word,
wash us in your mercy,
and feed us at your table.

spirit-filled worship

We pray for leaders...
Awaken them to do justice,
teach them to love kindness,
and help them to walk humbly with you.

empowering servant leadership

We pray for all who serve your mission...
Move us with compassion for those in need,
send us out to share your gifts,
and make us good stewards of your creation.

outward incarnational focus

We pray for all who share the gospel...
Inspire them to proclaim good news,
equip them to show your way,
and empower them to speak the truth in love.

intentional authentic evangelism

We pray for all who follow Jesus...
Keep us faithful as Christ's disciples,
guide us in his way of life,
and strengthen us to serve you always.

lifelong discipleship formation

Other petitions may be added.

Holy One, let your church be a living sign
of your great love for the world,
until all may rejoice and give thanks
at the coming of your glorious realm;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— Eucharist —

Offering

I appeal to you, by the mercy of God,
to present yourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.
This is our spiritual worship.

Rom. 12:1

As the offering is gathered, the table is prepared.
The covenant for congregational vitality may also be presented at this time

Great Thanksgiving

— Word —

The introductory dialogue (“The Lord be with you...”) may be included here.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

In the beginning, when there was only chaos
and darkness covered the face of the deep,
you began to create the heavens and the earth.

On the first day of the week, you spoke,
and by your word you gave light to the world.

In the fullness of time you claimed us as your holy people,
calling us out of darkness and into your marvelous light.

The Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy...”) may be included here.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

In the beginning, Jesus was with you as your Word,
and through him all things came into being.

In the fullness of time you sent him to dwell among us
as your Word made flesh, full of grace and truth.

The words of institution are included here:

With thanksgiving, we remember how Jesus took the bread...

With thanksgiving, we remember how Jesus took the cup...

Though Jesus gave his own life for our salvation,
the darkness could not overcome his light.

On the first day of the week, you spoke again,
and raised him from death to life.

Now open our eyes to recognize him
in the breaking of the bread.

The mystery of faith (“Christ has died...”) may be included here

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Speak to us on this day, O Lord our God.

Breathe new life into our dry bones.

Help us to bear witness to the light of Christ
that all the world may know he is risen indeed.

In the fullness of time, bring to completion
the good work you have begun in us.
As you have been with us from the beginning,
[be] with us always, to the end of the age.
Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer follows.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken in silence.
Then the minister says:

Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who trust in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11:25–26

Communion

After receiving communion, worshipers may be invited to sign their names
in a book or on a banner representing their commitment to congregational vitality.
After communion, all may pray:

We give you thanks and praise, O God, Acts 2:42–47
for the presence of Christ in this place—
in the teaching and fellowship,
the breaking of bread and the prayers.
Send us out to tell of signs and wonders
and share the blessings we have received.
Day by day, use our witness and work
to add to the number you have saved,
until you gather us up in your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— Sending —

Litany of Commitment

The litany of commitment may be led from the baptismal font.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you renounce the power of death
and trust in the Lord of life?

See BCW 409

We do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

Taking light from the paschal candle, a leader may light candles for each of the seven marks.

Will you seek to grow in the image of Christ
through lifelong discipleship formation?

lifelong discipleship formation

We will, with God's help.

Will you share the hope that is within you
through intentional authentic evangelism?

intentional authentic evangelism

We will, with God's help.

Will you offer the grace of God to others
with an outward incarnational focus?

outward incarnational focus

We will, with God's help.

Will you love and serve one another
through empowering servant leadership?

empowering servant leadership

We will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim the good news of salvation,
through Spirit-filled worship?

spirit-filled worship

We will, with God's help.

Will you extend God's compassion to all
through caring relationships?

caring relationships

We will, with God's help.

Will you work to build up the body of Christ
in its ecclesial health?

ecclesial health

We will, with God's help.

Almighty and eternal God, by your grace
you have called us to this time and place
to be your servant people
as we follow our servant Lord.

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Make your Holy Spirit move within and among us,
that together we may live a new life
in the crucified and risen Christ.

Bind us together in faith,
so that as we receive all spiritual gifts
needed to fulfill our calling,
we may support one another in common ministry;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

Blessing and Charge

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

2 Cor. 13:13; Matt. 28:18–20

Go therefore and make disciples.

The Lord is with you always. **Amen.**

Suggested Readings

Exodus 14:10–31
Deuteronomy 6:1–9
Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18
Isaiah 43:1–21
Ezekiel 37:1–14
Mark 1:9–20
Luke 10:1–11
John 4:7–15
Acts 2:1–21
Romans 6:1–11
1 Corinthians 3:1–23
Ephesians 4:1–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Colossians 3:1–17
1 Thessalonians 5:12–24
Revelation 21:1–6

Suggested Hymns/Songs

Arise, Your Light Is Come!	GTG 744; PH 411
Called as Partners in Christ's Service	GTG 761; PH 343
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation	GTG 394; PH 416, 417
Come, Labor On	GTG 719; PH 415
Come Sing, O Church, in Joy	GTG 305; PH 430
From the Nets of Our Labor	GTG 751
God, Bless Your Church with Strength!	PH 418
God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian	GTG 303; PH 523
Guide My Feet	GTG 741; PH 354
Here I Am, Lord	GTG 69; PH 525
Holy Spirit, Lord of Love	PH 524
How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord	GTG 432; PH 419
Let Us Build a House	GTG 301
Live into Hope	GTG 772; PH 332
Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness	GTG 314
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song	GTG 737
Lord, When I Came into This Life	GTG 691; PH 522
Lord, You Give the Great Commission	GTG 298; PH 429
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore	GTG 721; PH 377
Send Me, Jesus	GTG 746
Shout to the North	GTG 319
Song of Hope	GTG 765; PH 432
Step by Step	GTG 743
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound	GTG 766
The Church of Christ in Every Age	GTG 320; PH 421
The Church's One Foundation	GTG 321; PH 442
The Lord Now Sends Us Forth	GTG 747
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples	GTG 757; PH 434
Together We Serve	GTG 767
We All Are One in Mission	GTG 733; PH 435
We Are Your People	PH 436
We Will Walk with God	GTG 742
Will You Come and Follow Me	GTG 726
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant	GTG 727