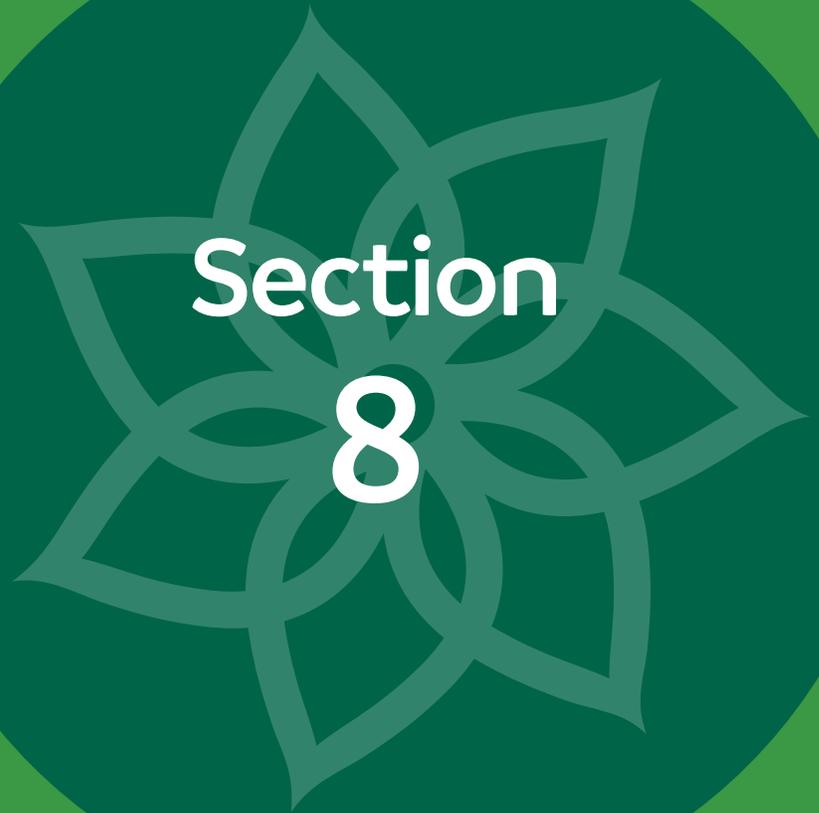


Worship: A Service of
Repentance and Reconciliation
For Churches and Presbytery

Vital Congregations

Section

8



Vital Congregations: A Service of Repentance and Reconciliation

By David Gambrell

The litany of confession and lament near the beginning of this service may be used or adapted as a stand-alone element of worship.

— Gathering —

Gathering Music

Instrumental music or congregational song may precede the service

Opening Sentences

Even now, says the Lord our God,
return to me with all your heart.

Joel 2:12–13, 28, 32

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Hear the promise of the Lord:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

**We will dream dreams and see visions;
we will call on the name of the Lord!**

Hymn

Litany of Confession and Lament

The litany of confession and lament may be led at the baptismal font.

O my people, O my church, says the Lord.
What more could I have done for you?

See BCW 288

Holy One, have mercy on us.

A leader may extinguish a candle for each of the seven marks.

We have ignored and impeded
God's call to follow the way of Jesus.

lifelong discipleship formation

Holy One, have mercy on us.

We have silenced and suppressed
the good news of God's holy realm.

intentional authentic evangelism

Holy One, have mercy on us.

We have forgotten and forsaken
the gift of God's Word made flesh.

Holy One, have mercy on us.

We have ridiculed and rejected
Jesus' example of humble service.

Holy One, have mercy on us.

We have hidden and hoarded
the transforming presence of Christ.

Holy One, have mercy on us.

We have denied and disregarded
God's great love for all the world.

Holy One, have mercy on us.

We have abused and abandoned
our common ministry in Jesus' name.

Holy One, have mercy on us.

outward incarnational focus

empowering servant leadership

spirit-filled worship

caring relationships

ecclesial health

A time of silence follows.
Then a leader relights each candle from the paschal candle.

— Word —

Prayer for Illumination

Instrumental music or congregational song may precede the service

Opening Sentences

Holy God, by your Word and Spirit,
breathe life into our dry bones
so that we may be a vital sign
of the new life you offer to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture

Sermon

Instrumental music or congregational song may precede the service

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.

We pray for loved ones ...

Surround them with your care,
deliver them from danger,
and bless them with your grace.

We pray for the gifts of your Spirit ...

Shape us through your Word,
wash us in your mercy,
and feed us at your table.

We pray for leaders ...

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

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.

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.

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.

ecclesial health

caring relationships

spirit-filled worship

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intentional authentic evangelism

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

Instrumental music or congregational song may precede the service

Jesus said: Come to me,
all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matt. 11:28–30

As the offering is gathered, the table is prepared.

Great Thanksgiving

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

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
You are our shepherd; in you there is nothing we lack.
You make us lie down in green pastures.
You lead us beside still waters and restore our souls.
You lead us in right paths for your name’s sake.

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

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:
Jesus walks with us through the darkest valleys.
We fear no evil, for Jesus is with us.
He comforts us—even through his cross.

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 . . .

For your table of grace in the midst of sin and death,

for your oil of gladness, anointing our heads,

for your cup of blessing, overflowing in our lives,

we give you thanks and praise, O God.

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.

Let your goodness and mercy follow us, O God,

all the days of our lives,

and let us dwell in your house our whole lives long.

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.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Jesus walks with us through the darkest valleys.

We fear no evil, for Jesus is with us.

He comforts us—even through his cross.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken in silence.

Then the minister says:

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.

I lay down my life for the sheep.

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me.

Jesus said: I am the good shepherd.

I came that you might have life,

and have it abundantly.

John 10:10–11, 14–15

— Sending —

Hymn

Blessing and Charge

As Jesus loves us, let us love one another. John 13:34; Num. 6:24–26

This is Christ’s new commandment.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you peace. Alleluia!

Worshipers may share signs of peace.

Suggested Readings

Ecclesiastes 3:1–15

Isaiah 40:1–31

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Lamentations 1:1–4; 3:19–24

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Habakkuk 3:17–19

Matthew 5:1–16

Luke 4:14–21

John 21:15–19

Romans 12:1–21

1 Corinthians 12:12–31

2 Corinthians 5:16–6:10

Ephesians 2:13–22

1 Peter 2:1–10

1 John 4:7–21

Revelation 21:1–6

Suggested Hymns/Songs

Come Now, O Prince of Peace GTG 103

For Everyone Born GTG 769

Help Us Accept Each Other GTG 754; PH 358

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry GTG 799; PH 362

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me GTG 775; PH 363

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying GTG 469

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need GTG 803; PH 172

Spirit, Open My Heart GTG 692

The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want GTG 801; PH 170

There Is a Balm in Gilead GTG 792; PH 394

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts GTG 470

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy GTG 435; PH 298

Though I May Speak GTG 693; PH 335

We Are One in Christ Jesus GTG 322

We Cannot Measure How You Heal GTG 797

When We Are Living GTG 822; PH 400