**Guide to Call to Worship
For Communion Sunday**

**Instructions/ General Tips**

**(Updated September 17)**

 Pick up any special announcements and/or instructions from the Pastors

Read the Bulletin to note any special parts of worship - baptism, communion, new members, etc.

Gather with the Pastor(s) at 10:10 (9:10 in summer) in the preaching Pastor’s Study for prayer. The organist will join you.

Walk in and sit at the Lectern at 10:20 a.m. (9:20 a.m. in the summer) before worship starts.

# **COMMUNITY TIME**

## **We reconnect with one another as we prepare to worship God**

**Instrumental Music**

 (Remain seated)

**The Welcome And Announcements Of The Church**

 **“Good morning and welcome to worship. A special welcome to our guests and visitors. If you’re new or visiting, please sign our Guest Book, or fill out a Pew Card and place it in the Offering Plate so that we can help you learn more about this faith community.**

**“We ask that you please check your cell phone to make sure it is either off or on silent.”**

**Assisted listening devices, large print bulletins, and large print Bibles are**

**available for your convenience.  Please ask an usher, if you would like to**

**use them.**

 **“Please note the announcements printed in the bulletin. In addition, I’ve been asked to share the following . . .”**

 (Read any announcements that are given to you)

(Look to the Pastor to see if she has any additional announcements)

 **“Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for refreshments and fellowship.”**

**“Let us center ourselves and worship God”**

(Be seated thru the Chiming of the Hour, the Prelude, the Lighting of the Candles.)

# **THE GATHERING**

## **We are drawn into the heart of God as we worship together**

###### Chiming of the Hour

**Prelude and Lighting of the Candles**

**Call To Worship** (once the Prelude has concluded)

(This part of the service is meant to focus the congregation on God’s presence and activity, and to remind them why we are gathering in community to worship.)

(Please note that we have changed the Call to Worship to reflect a true invitation to worship. It is no longer meant to be a personal testimony, or a time of reflection on the scripture for the day.)

(Please keep it very brief - no more than one minute)

(The following are some suggestions for Calls to Worship. You may choose one of these, or write one yourself, or find one on the internet perhaps. There, you will find a vast array of seasonal Calls to Worship. You may also ask the Pastor for help with this)

Suggestions:

* “As we come into the house of the LORD today, let us do so with reverence. Let us recognize the greatness and glory of the one we worship. Let us celebrate that we can come just as we are, and yet, let us come before him with humility. It is no small thing to worship the LORD our God. Let us worship in gratitude and in awe.”
* “This house of worship is a place of healing for those who enter broken by life and in need of repair. This house of worship is a place of faith for those who come full of overpowering doubt. This house of worship is a place of prayer, offering stillness and words of faith when our own beliefs lack a voice. All you who gather here, come with gratitude. Enter into this sanctuary with thanksgiving and open your hearts to the possibility of a life restored and made new, for God's love makes all things new. Thanks be to God! Let us lift our voices in praise!”
* “What do you bring into the house of God today? What hurt and sorrow do you carry? Lay it down and worship. What joy fills your heart? Give it to God in praise. Come, just as you are, to the Creator of the universe. God is present in this place and ready to receive honor and glory. Let us worship together now!”
* “Come near, for Christ is here with us this day. Christ Jesus welcomes all to this place of worship. God’s love is offered freely to all humankind. Come now and receive God’s love and celebrate in loving fellowship as we give God praise and worship.”
* “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Come, let us worship God.” (from Hebrews 12:1-2a)
* “Friends, Christ draws close to us. His presence is not announced so much by searing light or angelic song, as it is by the gradual recognition of something holy enmeshed in our daily lives: simple as salt, common as bread, as unexpected as a treasure buried in a field! Such is the presence of Christ with us in each ordinary day. Let us praise God with joy!” (-Diane Karay, All the Seasons of Mercy, Westminster Press, 1987, 63)

“The Scriptures today call us to listen to the voice of wisdom, a striking reminder that the essence of worship is listening. Too often we eagerly rush into this place of worship with a list of needs for God to address and a litany of ideas to run by God for approval. We forget to listen. Come, gather together to worship, and may there be silences in which we listen to what the Spirit says to us.”

“As we gather in the welcome of God's love, as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ, as we gather in the power of the Spirit, let us listen for the voice of God!”
( -Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds., Touch Holiness New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1990, 175)

“Serve the Lord with gladness; come before God’s presence with singing. Enter into God’s gates with thanksgiving, and into God’s courts with praise; be thankful unto God and bless God’s holy name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endures to all the generations.”

“Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God’s salvation from day to day. Declare God’s glory among the nations, the Creator’s marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.” (1 Chronicles 16: 23-25)

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Come let us worship God!” (Psalm 118:24)

“O Come, let us sing to the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!”

 (Remember to speak to the back of the sanctuary, not the front! This way you will maintain better eye contact with everybody)

 (Remain standing after you finish and invite the congregation to sing the opening song . . )

**Prayer of Invocation** The Pastor will provide the prayer which will be highlighted in the bulletin. **The Lord’s Prayer** (This is read in unison with the congregation)

**Opening Hymn / Songs**

 **“Let’s join in singing our Opening Song…”**

 (You may take a seat in one of the pews, or remain at the Lectern. If you leave the Lectern, return so you can lead the Offering)

**THE WORD**

## **We listen for God’s Word**

**The Scripture**

**The Word in Music: The Anthem**

**The Message**

**Time of Prayer**

**Sharing of Prayer Requests**

**Children Enter the Service to Jesus Loves Me.**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**The Offering**

 (After the Children enter, and before the Ushers walk up to the chancel, issue one of the following invitations, or develop one of your own)

 **Suggestions:**

 **“We are invited to share our gifts and tithes in gratitude for God’s abundant life.”**

 **“We’re invited to share our gifts and tithes that we may live more fully as the Body of Christ in the world.”**

**“The prophet Malachi spoke God’s word: ‘Bring the full tithe into the**

**storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the**

**test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven**

**for you, and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.’ In response to**

**God, let us make our offering.”**

 **“Freely you have received, freely give, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**

(Matt 10:8; Acts 20:35 adapted)

 **“Let us make an offering to God, remembering Jesus’ words: ‘From**

**everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and**

**from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be**

**demanded**.**”** (Luke 12:48)

**“The words of Paul to the Corinthian church: ‘Remember this:**

**Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and who ever sows**

**generously will also reap generously. Each of you must give as you**

**have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God**

**loves a cheerful giver.”** (2 Cor 9:6-7)

“What an abundance of gifts we have to offer; musical talent, the melody of laughter, the use of our hands in cooking and repairs, the use of our minds in problem solving, curiosity, compassion, patience, urgency, spiritual reservoirs, financial resources, obedience, and courage to act. All these gifts, and others which bear our personal marks, are symbolized in our offering for the work of the church. Let us commit ourselves in service, as we worship God with our offerings.”

“God calls upon us to love one another as God loves us. Even as God has abundantly blessed us with good things, let us bless others through gifts that show we care.”

 “**Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the**

**Lord**.”

“The amazing gift of one who fully embodied God’s intention for humanity, promts us to make a grateful response. In Christ, we have known a love that will not let us go. Through an offering let us share this love in our community and to the ends of the earth.”

“Let us make an offering to God for the ministries of the church.”

“God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, and in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit! God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that blesses others through the sharing of our love, our talents, and our material possessions. Let us rejoice now in what we have been given, and in what is ours to give, as we receive our morning offering.”

 (Pick up the plates and bring them to the Ushers)

 (Sit down again until the Ushers return)

 (Meet them at the chancel and say an **offertory prayer**. Write it on a piece of paper or just pray it from the heart. Please remember that your voice is not amplified with a microphone at this point. Speak loudly, so that everyone can hear your prayer.)

**Suggestions:**

 **“Thank you Lord for these gifts shared in thanksgiving for your abundant and eternal life. In Jesus’ name. Amen”**

  **“Accept Gracious God these offerings, and grant that the ministry of Jesus Christ through this congregation may prosper under your guidance, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”**

“O God, use our offerings of money, time and talents to enliven your church, to enhearten a wold prone to discouragement, to enable a spreading of the love of Christ. May all our gifts and our giving be acceptable in your sight. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.”

“We dedicate these gifts, Lord, for the work of your church, and ask that you use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.”

“God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead,that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.”

“Gracious God, with thanks we offer the gifts of our hands and the fruits of our labors. Accept them as expressions of our response to the life and love you have given us. Amen.”

“God, we know that bread for ourselves is a material question. Bread for our sisters and brothers is a spiritual question. May these gifts reflect the spiritual dimensions of our lives. May they be used to renew the spirits of our brothers and sisters throughout your world. Amen.”

“All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. Throughout all time, your love has remained steadfast. All that we are, and all that we have is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have. Bless these gifts and bless the givers that we might be an offering of your love for the world. Amen.”

“With gratitude and praise we offer ourselves, with our talents and treasure, to God who has given us life. We offer ourselves to be God’s messengers; to let people know that God is with them; to save them from despair, and to give them hope; to save them from fear, and give them confidence; to save them from death and to give them life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our living, reigning Lord, Amen.”

“We offer to you, O God, the gift of our hands and the loyalty of our hearts. Accept us with our gifts, we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“In our offering, O God, we proclaim our work and our worship are one; we proclaim that life is undivided. Let our material gifts make possible spiritual ministries of reconciliation and love-restored community. Amen.”

“As joint workers with you, O God, we offer you the fruits of our labor that you may bless them for your service, and us in our calling. Amen.”

“You shower us with your goodness every day, O God. With grateful hearts we bring you these gifts. Transform them into outpourings of peace and justice to reconcile all peoples to one another and to you. Amen.”

 (Go to your seat after the Ushers walk back)