



## Basic Template for Worship

Most individuals resourcing this material likely serve in the area of planning worship on a regular basis. Whether that is you, or you've been invited to the table to help craft a service around God's call on each person's life, this template can be a launching point for the work you are endeavoring to do.

The basic template used here comes from the opening pages of The United Methodist Hymnal - a resource to which the majority of our congregations have access. It includes liturgy, scriptures, and music specifically chosen for a worship service focusing on God's call to each one of us.

This template is not in stone, so be open to using the material here in whatever order your congregation is accustomed to, or consider creating a different experience that might avail your members and guests to be open to something new - such as a clearer picture of how God is inviting them to serve. Sometimes, it is in the unfamiliar, that we are awakened. Be open.

As you begin the preparation process, take a few moments to quiet your heart, connect with God, and ask for guidance and a felt sense of God's presence with you, that God would lead you to co-create something meaningful and purposeful that serves the calling process and brings God glory and honor.

## ENTRANCE

### GATHERING

*The people come together in the Lord's name. While they are gathering, one or more of the following may take place.*

- Informal greetings, conversation, and fellowship
- Announcements and welcoming
- Rehearsal of congregational music and other acts of worship
- Informal prayer, singing, testimony
- Quiet meditation and private prayer
- Organ or other instrumental or vocal music

*If music is part of your gathering time, consider putting questions or a prayer on the screens or in the bulletin, inviting the people to prepare their hearts for God's invitation to them today.*

### GREETING (or responsive CALL TO WORSHIP) and SONG

*Facing the people, the leader greets them in the Lord's name. Scripture sentences or responsive acts between leader and people declare that the Lord is present and empowers our worship. The song may precede or follow the greeting.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Option 1) — Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth  
Worship the LORD with gladness;  
Come into God's presence with singing.

People: **Know that the LORD is God**  
**It is God who made us, and we are his;**  
**we are God's people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and God's courts with praise!  
Give thanks to God; bless God's name!

People: **For the LORD is good;**  
**God's steadfast love endures forever,**  
**and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Option 2)

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—  
not because of anything we have done,  
but because of God's own purpose and grace.  
This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus

before the beginning of time,  
and is revealed to us through the appearing of our Savior,  
who is victorious over death  
and has brought life and immortality to light  
through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.  
May our response in worship today, and in our daily lives,  
be an aroma pleasing to God.  
Let us worship God.

## **OPENING HYMN or SONGS**

*These are some suggestions for opening hymns:*

*CCLI = Christian Copyright Licensing Intl., TFWS = The Faith We Sing,*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal, W&S = Worship & Song*

CCLI Song #2298355 - Open the Eyes of My Heart - (Baloché)

TFWS #2008 - Let All Things Now Living

TFWS #2009 - O God Beyond All Praising

TFWS #2049 - God is Here Today

TFWS #2236 - Gather Us In

UMH #384 - Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

UMH #577 - God of Grace and God of Glory

W&S #3001 - O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

W&S #3003 - How Great Is Our God

W&S #3004 - Step by Step

W&S #3011 - All My Days

W&S #3008 - Open the Eyes of My Heart

W&S #3152 - Welcome

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*This prayer is intentionally set in first person so everyone hears it from an individual perspective.  
Please feel free to change it to second person.*

**Leader:** God, forgive me when I run ahead of You and fail to notice Your invitation to follow.

**People:** **Forgive me, O Lord! Help me slow down and walk with You.**

**Leader:** Forgive me when I don't believe I am enough to serve you in a particular way.

**People:** **Forgive me, O Lord! Help me believe I am enough to serve.**

Leader: Forgive me when the busyness of my life edges out your invitation to serve.

**People: Forgive me, O Lord! Help me create space for serving You more intentionally.**

Leader: Lead me in Your way, that I might more fully live into the person you created, and are calling me to be.

**People: Lead me, Lord, in Your mercy!**

Leader: Lord, help me to embrace Your calling for my life with equal parts passion, wisdom, and humility.

**All: Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: As far as the east is from the west, this far, God has removed our transgressions from us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: We believe in the forgiveness of sins. We are saved by grace through faith. This is God's gift through Jesus Christ.**

### **Response**

UMH #70 or 71 - Glory Be to the Father

Glory (Morgan) - CCLI Song #3744592

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

### **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

TFWS #2050 - Lord, Be Glorified

TFWS #2164 - Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

TFWS #2152 - Change My Heart, O God

TFWS #2242 - Walk With Me

UMH #344 - Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

UMH #382 - Have Thine Own Way

UMH #393 - Spirit of the Living God

UMH #431 - Let There Be Peace on Earth

UMH #432 - Jesu, Jesu

UMH #454 - Open My Eyes, That I May See

UMH #463 - Lord, Speak to Me

W&S #3116 - Love the Lord

W&S #3119 - Take, O Take Me As I Am

## SCRIPTURE

*Here are a few verses from scripture that speak to God's call on our life. Let them speak to you as you are led. This is not an exhaustive list, so hear the invitation to explore more passages on your own. All Bible verses are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.*

**Romans 12:1-3 (Message Version)** - "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God.

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out! Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its immaturity, God brings out the BEST in you, and develops well-formed maturity in you.

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all the God has given me, and especially as I have relation to you. Living then in pure grace, as every one of you does, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing their goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what God does for us, not be what we are and what we do for God."

**1 Corinthians 7:17** - "Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them.

**Ephesians 4:1-6** - "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

**Philippians 2:1-4** - "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being

like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.”

**1 Peter 4:10-11** - “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

## **SERMON / MESSAGE**

*See the section on [Exploring the Call Within the Context of Worship](#) for more ideas on how to engage members and guests in various ways throughout the service (including during the sermon).*

## **OFFERING**

### **ANTHEMS AND SONGS**

God Has Work for Us to Do - Mark A. Miller (CGA1288) SATB

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace - Jody Lindh (CGA612) SATB

Order My Steps - Glenn Burleigh/arr. Jack Schrader (Hope C5083) SATB

Show Us How to Love - Mark A. Miller (CGA1595) SATB

Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons) - arr. Tom Trenney (MSM-50-8751)  
SATB w/congregation

No Fear in Love - (Gretzinger, Ward) - CCLI Song #7029062

I Will Rise - (Tomlin, Reeves, Maher) - CCLI Song #5183450

## **SENDING FORTH**

### **HYMNS & SONGS**

CCLI Song #5806878 - I Will Follow - (Tomlin, Ingram, Morgan)

CCLI Song #4162843 - Take My Life - (Tomlin, Giglio, Malan)

TFWS #2130 - The Summons

TFWS #2153 - I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

TFWS #2171 - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace  
TFWS #2172 - We Are Called  
TFWS #2222 - The Servant Song  
TFWS #2223 - They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

UMH #396 - O Jesus, I Have Promised  
UMH #398 - Jesus Calls Us  
UMH #399 - Take My Life, and Let It Be  
UMH #402 - Lord, I Want to Be a Christian  
UMH #581 - Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service  
UMH #583 - Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)  
UMH #584 - Lord, You Give the Great Commission  
UMH #585 - This Little Light of Mine  
UMH #593 - Here I Am, Lord

*Here I Am, Lord is a call and response song with the verses representing the voice of God, and the refrain the voice of the people. Consider having the song leaders (choir or band) singing the verses and invite the congregation to sing the response.*

W&S #3124 - How Shall I Come Before the Lord  
W&S #3182 - Benediction Hymn  
W&S #3183 - As We Go

### **Benediction (Option 1) (from 1 Peter 2:9-10)**

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, God's own instruments:  
so that, through your unique call and invitation,  
you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who  
called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

### **Benediction (Option 2)**

**As you go, remember this:**

You are a Spark of the Divine,  
and you've been given a unique "one-of-a-kind" voice  
to use for good, in this time and for this generation.  
Today, and in the days ahead,  
be on the lookout for ways to offer your voice

as a life-giving blessing to others!  
In doing so, may you discover more and more  
the ways in which God is calling you to serve  
with the very gifts God has already given to you!  
Go in peace!