

LITURGIST INSTRUCTIONS

(Revised April 2019; Eastertide, Pentecost and Ordinary Time)

Please arrive at the church by no later than 9:00 am so that you can check with the pastors to determine whether any part of the service varies from the standard scenario described below, or if there's any other part of the service that they wish you to assist.

The liturgist assists in leading worship and sits in the front pew beside the pastors. The church office needs to know who the liturgist will be by Wednesday each week; the Emmaus Team Leader for your Emmaus Team will send that information to the office to be included in the worship bulletin.

1. Following the Opening Hymn, please step to the pulpit microphone and lead the congregation in **the Call to Worship and/or Gathering Prayer**. The congregation should still be standing, but if they sit down, please invite them to stand as they are able. Say: "Join me now in this morning's Call to Worship. Following the Call to Worship, then say: "Let us pray..." and then read the Gathering Prayer.
2. Following the Time with Children, please step to the pulpit microphone and read the **Scripture**. If there is no Time with Children (first Sunday of the month), please remain at the pulpit following the Call to Worship and/or Gathering Prayer. Invite the congregation to be seated by saying, "You may be seated." After, please say: "The first reading today comes from..." or, "The Gospel Reading for today comes from..., as found on page xxx of your pew Bibles."
3. Do the **Invitation to Giving and the Prayer of Dedication** [go to UCC website or see samples below] Step up to the pulpit after the Time of Prayer. Offer an invitation, encouraging people to give with generous hearts. Step back down to sit with the pastors in the front row during the Offertory music. As the Doxology is sung and the ushers come forward, step back up to the pulpit and say, "Let us pray." Then, begin your prayer.

Sample Invitations to Giving

1. 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."

2. Remember the words of Jesus: It is more blessed to give than to receive.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. As we give today, may we do so in love, in joy, in prayer, in thanksgiving, and in unselfishness.

6. 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.

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

Sample Prayers of Dedication

1. God, use our offerings of money, time and talents to enliven your church, to give courage to a world 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.

2. We dedicate this money, Lord, for the work of the church, and ask you to use all that we have and are in your service.

3. What we have we bring: our good intentions, our unknown motives, our uncertainties about life, our grasp of truth, our time, our uneasiness with what is. We offer this in the midst of what remains unspoken and affirm that it is received. Amen.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Creator God, we offer you these gifts with eyes open to human need, ears tuned to every cry of despair, hearts sympathetic to the plight of others, feet ready to go out of the way to help, and hands ready to reach out and share.

Thank you, again, for serving as Liturgist. If you have any questions, please see the Pastor the morning of your liturgist assignment. If you are unable to serve on your assigned morning, please contact your Emmaus Team Leader.

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