

LITURGIST INSTRUCTIONS (Revised October 2023)

Thank you for volunteering to be the liturgist! Our congregation appreciates seeing lots of different faces in the pulpit taking on this role.

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 noon on 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.

Typically the Thursday before the coming Sunday, the Office Administrator will email you a digital copy of the worship bulletin so you can see where your parts of the service are and plan accordingly (especially if you are in the choir and need to plan your choreography). Also included in the email note will be a link to the DCC web site for the latest liturgist instructions posted there, along with a liturgist guide with just the parts of the service for which you are responsible. You can print out the liturgist guide and read from it directly.

Please arrive at the church by no later than 9:15 am on Sunday so that you can meet with the pastors to determine whether any part of the service varies from the standard scenario described below, or if there is any other part of the service in which they wish you to assist. If you have questions about your role, feel free to reach out to the pastors before Sunday. You'll also want to do a pulpit microphone test with the sound technician to make sure you are using the microphone correctly.

The following are your parts of the service to lead, typically:

1. Following the announcements, please step to the pulpit microphone and lead the congregation in the Call to Worship. Remember to look into the camera. Please invite them to stand as they are able, saying:

“Please rise in body, mind, or spirit and join me in the Call to Worship”

2. Lead the Passing of the Peace (*looking into the camera!*)

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another and pass the peace of Christ.

3. Following the Time with Children (*or as listed in the bulletin*), please step to the pulpit microphone and read the Scripture. Please say:

"The reading today comes from [book, chapter, and verses]" or, "The Gospel Reading for today comes from [book, chapter, and verses]. Hear these words." Read the scripture readings as printed in the bulletin.

4. After the Lord's Prayer, step up to the pulpit and read the Invitation to Giving that you have selected [*see below for sources to select from for an Invitation and 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, read the Prayer of Dedication you have selected.

Resources for Invitations and Prayers

There are many sources for offering invitations and prayers. You are welcome – encouraged even – to offer an invitation and prayer that speaks to your understanding of this moment. You can choose them from the resources below, including some sample ones provided, or *even write your own invitation and prayer*.

Note: In certain seasons, such as Advent, these may be provided for you; in other seasons the pastors may make a suggestion for special occasions, such as the special offering for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Note: After you extend the invitation to give, please add the following:

For those of you who have already made a gift by check or automated giving, we are grateful. If you would like to make a gift today, please place it in the offering plate or give using our web site or mobile device. At this time, I invite the ushers to come forward to collect this morning's offering."

UCC Web Site

The UCC web site offers giving invitations and dedication prayers appropriate to the specific day in the liturgical season and lectionary-suggested scripture readings. [*See the front page of the bulletin where the liturgical season and specific day in the season will be given, for example, "After Pentecost 15A - September 10"*].

- Go to <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2/> .
- If the above link does not work, since this content is moved around periodically, just go to <https://www.ucc.org/>, click on the **"Resources"** menu option, scroll down and click on **"Worship Ways"**, then click on **"Learn More"**.
- Scroll down the **Worship Ways** page to locate the section for the current liturgical season.
- When you've located the season, click on **"+ Read More"**. Continue to scroll down the list you just opened, looking for the specific date.

- Scroll down the page to find the current liturgical season and your Sunday's date. Click on that link.
- You'll then see sample parts of the service.
- Scroll down to the Invitation to Generosity, or Invitation to Giving and, if you determine that it is appropriate, copy and paste the text into your liturgist script (or write it down to use on Sunday).
- Just below the Invitation, you'll find the Prayer of Dedication that you can also cut and paste, or write down to use.
- If you don't find the invitation and prayer found above appropriate (for example, it does not fit into the specific theme of the service), go back to the bottom of the Worship Ways page (*click on the back arrow at the top*) and peruse the Years A, B, and C archives to find one closest to the same Sunday in the liturgical season that might be more appropriate. Note that the dates may well be for previous years, but you can get as close as you can to your Sunday's date.

Liturgy Blogs

“**re: Worship**” offers a variety of scripturally-based resources for worship planners and leaders. Peruse the material shown, and look under “Labels” at the lower right side of the page for the liturgical season and day or other categories of material that you might want to use.

- Click on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>

Rev. Carol Penner’s Web Site

Rev. Carol Penner has a website on leading worship. She is the Director of Theological Studies, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies, at Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo (Canada).

The link below is titled: “Worship resources in a Mennonite voice for ears of all kinds”:

- Click on <https://leadinginworship.com>.

You’ll find lots of material there for various service themes.

Note: If you discover or use a different source, please pass along the link(s) so we can add them to the list.

Sample Invitations and Prayers

You can also choose from the sample invitations and prayers that follow.

Sample Invitations to Giving

As noted above: After you extend the invitation to give, please add the following:

For those of you who have already made a gift by check or automated giving, we are grateful. If you would like to make a gift today, please place it in the offering plate or give using our web site or mobile device. At this time, I invite the ushers to come forward to collect this morning's offering."

1. Jesus posed the question, "For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?" When we consider the gifts we give and receive, we remember that our Creator is also the Source. Let us give generously of the abundance of our lives so that the world may be made better and God's kingdom on earth may come nearer.
2. As recipients of the many ways in which God provides, let us share this generosity with others whose seeds have not yet taken root, whose plots need tending.
3. The Holy Spirit comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. We honor and uphold the Kingdom here on earth through our stewardship; as we are called to present our lives as a living testimony of the God who has created each one of us to be unique and minister to a world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent and treasure. Let us now uphold the glory of God by the giving of our gifts in the spirit of generosity.
4. Colossians 3:1-2 states, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kingdom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.
5. God has called us to give of our resources so that others may experience the new life God is inviting us into. Let our gifts be for the birthing of new life in our local community, in the global community, and in our faith community.
6. Just as God spoke to people years ago through the prophets, we're faced with an opportunity to participate in God's restorative action in the world. Where others have scattered, God is gathering. Let us be empowered to share our gifts fruitfully and allow God to multiply them for the good of all.
7. God's justice is persistent in affecting change and invites us to be liberal and tenacious in our giving. Let us bring gifts to further justice and peace wherever they are desired and needed. Let these resources be used to facilitate a just peace for all.
8. Our lives are gifts not of our making. But by our consent to Love's deep desire we are indeed remade. God is generous in this way, searching out every lost sheep or coin or beloved child until the fullness of joy rises in celebration. So we are invited to share in the sacred savoring that comes with self-giving that begins and ends in God. May our yes of giving grow Love's delight in us.

Sample Prayers of Dedication

- **Remember to precede with “Let us pray”.**
 - **Follow with “Amen”.**
1. Generous God, thank you for seeding and inspiring generosity in us. May these gifts be a blessing to the ministry of this church. Multiply them and make us fruitful and faithful stewards of our time, talent, and treasure.
 2. We dedicate these resources to doing God’s work among God’s people. May these gifts plant seeds of justice for God’s children who seek it; may they remind us to love more mercifully; may all walk humbly as we learn to tread gently upon this earth.
 3. Generous God, may these gifts glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kingdom on earth. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray.
 4. Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory.
 5. O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ we pray.
 6. We’re grateful for your invitation to move and give faithfully and abundantly, God. We ask that you would extend your blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this congregation. May it be so!
 7. Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them. Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a balm of justice.
 8. O Love, stretch wide our hearts, open our minds, saturate our souls and form us anew in the gift of this day. Let thanksgivings rise for miracles you place in our paths at every turn. Call forth awe at the miracle of life stirring all around and within these bodies not of our making, but given by You to steward Your love for a season short or long.