

Sample Liturgist Guides

A liturgist can pick from these samples and customize them for a given Sunday.

Prayer of Confession

The Prayer of Confession has several components. **Parts in bold** are chosen by the liturgist.

- **Invitation to Confession**
- Unison Prayer of Confession (printed in the bulletin)
- Congregation sings “Lord Have Mercy”
- **Sharing of God’s Love and Forgiveness (also known as the assurance of pardon)**
- Congregation sings “Glory Be to the Father”
- **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Invitation to Confession

[A]

Every week as part of our worship services we have a time of confession. This is *not* just an attempt to make us feel bad. This is an opportunity to release the burdens we have been carrying around with us. God already knows everything we have done and said – and everything we haven’t done and haven’t said. When we speak or pray our confession, we allow the grace of Jesus Christ to unite us with God’s love again.

So will you join me in our prayer of confession, beginning with a time of silence?

[B]

We come from the Reformed theological tradition. That means we believe that everything we do, everything we think, everything we say, everything we feel, and even our best intentions are somehow tainted by our separation from God. We can’t be perfect. We can’t bridge the gap between us and God.

So God came our way, instead. As John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

So will you join me in our prayer of confession, beginning with a time of silence?

[C]

As we approach this time of confession, let us hear these words from Psalm 91. “Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.”

Will you join me in our prayer of confession, beginning with a time of silence?

[D]

As we approach this time of confession, let us remember that we are confessing to someone who knows what we’re going through. As Hebrews 4 says, “Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Will you join me in our prayer of confession, beginning with a time of silence?

[E]

Every week as part of our worship services we have a time of confession. This is an opportunity to get rid of all the things that we have let separate us from God. As James 4:8 says, “Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.”

So will you join me in our prayer of confession, beginning with a time of silence?

For more ideas, see <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/bcr-103/>

Sharing of God's Love and Forgiveness

[A]

Romans 8:34 reminds us, "Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us." So believe the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

[B]

Romans 5:10 gives us this encouragement: "For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!"

Sisters and brothers, we are forgiven and free! Amen.

[C]

Psalms 103:12 reminds us, "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." So believe the good news of the Gospel, that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

[D]

2 Corinthians 5:17 gives us this hope: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Amen!

[E]

Colossians 1:13-14 remind us, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Amen!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

[A]

Relationships are the core of this church, so we invite you to greet one another in the spirit of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you! Please share that peace with one another.

[B]

2 Corinthians 13:12 says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss." But I think we'll go with waving or shaking hands instead. Please share the peace of Christ with one another.

[C]

Jesus challenges his followers in Matthew 5:47, saying, "If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that." So I encourage everyone to intentionally look for someone you don't always talk to as we share the peace of Christ today.

[D]

Paul's letters in the New Testament start off with a heart-felt greeting. Philippians 1 says, "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." In the spirit of that heart-felt greeting, I invite you to share the peace of Christ with one another.

[E]

The grace of Christ is most often found in relationships, and so we take some time each week to foster those relationships with one another. The peace of Christ be with you! Please share that peace with one another.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

[A] = Ripple Prayer

Holy God, our prayers today ripple outward from the center. Our prayers today are like waves on a pond rippling away from a stone dropped into the water.

So we start our ripple prayer at the center. We pray for ourselves and those who are closest to us. <PAUSE>

We ripple outward to the people around us. We pray for our friends, our extended family. <PAUSE>

We ripple outward to pray for our city and county. <PAUSE>

We ripple outward to pray for our country and world. <PAUSE>

And we end by joining together in the prayer that your Son taught us to pray... <LORD'S PRAYER>

[B] = Joys and Concerns

God of love and grace, we love you for who you are, for who you have revealed yourself to be, for who you made us to be. We pray for everyone on our church's joys and concerns list. We pray for healing for the sick. We pray for comfort for the lonely. We pray for clarity for those looking for answers.

We celebrate and pray thanksgiving with those who are joyful right now. We celebrate that there are new births, new jobs, medical tests that are all clear, and even tiny moments of answered prayer.

We pray for those we know and those around the world who are in harm's way, such as military, police, firefighters, and missionaries.

And we ask that you hear us as we pray the words your Son taught us to pray... <LORD'S PRAYER>

[C] = Psalms

Holy God, it has been said that the psalms are the prayer book of the Bible. So we use those psalms in our prayer today.

Psalm 42: "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God...Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God." <PAUSE>

Psalm 55: "But I call upon God, and the Lord will save me. Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice." <PAUSE>

Psalm 17: "I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." <PAUSE>

Psalm 19: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." <PAUSE>

And let us end by joining together in the prayer that Jesus taught us. <LORD'S PRAYER>

[D] = Abba, Father

Good morning, God. Jesus prayed to you as "Abba," as "Father," as an intimate, loving, personal connection. And so, like calling up a loved one on the phone, we would love to tell you about our day and our week.

We are so grateful and thankful for these things in our lives... <PAUSE -OR- list your own thanksgivings>

We are worried, though, about these things... <PAUSE -OR- list your own worries>

Despite that worry, we know that we have hope in you. We pray for your power and presence to be made known... <PAUSE -OR- pray for God to be present in particular circumstances>

And we know that we can always pray to you with the words that Jesus taught us. <LORD'S PRAYER>

Offering

[A]

We have an offering as part of our worship services, and this isn't just to fund our church. It's a part of worship because making an offering is an act of worship. The English word "worship" started out as "worth-ship." It means that something is worthy or worth something to you. And so the offering is a chance to tell God, "you're worth something to me." Will the ushers please come forward?

[B]

As we come to this time of offering, we remember that Jesus told us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In other words, the act of giving can actually change our hearts. One of the fastest ways to change our hearts is to change how we earn, spend, or give. So we are invited to invest in our hearts by investing in what Jesus is doing at this church. Will the ushers please come forward?

[C]

The Apostle Paul was writing to the church in Corinth to ask for an offering. He was hoping to bring home a generous gift from the Greek churches back to the poor and struggling church in Jerusalem. But he didn't use guilt. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul wrote, "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." That is my prayer for us today. Will the ushers please come forward?

[D]

There are many times in the Bible where we see people offering gifts to the Lord. One of the common themes is that God looks into the heart of the giver and responds accordingly. When the widow offered two pennies from a devoted heart, Jesus praised it as worth more than the piles of gold that others brought. But David and others also offered very large offerings which God says were "very fragrant" and "pleasing." As we come to this time of offering, God is looking for a worshipful heart rather than a particular amount. Will the ushers please come forward?

[E]

This church has a long history of generosity, and that generosity fuels meaningful ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. When we feed our community dinner, when we offer tutoring, when we welcome the community to vacation Bible school, when we help our brothers and sisters in Africa, your generosity made that possible. Thank you for choosing to invest in what Jesus is doing in us and through us. Will the ushers please come forward?

Charge and Benediction

[A] = Numbers 6:24-26

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, go in peace.

[B] = 2 Thessalonians 3:16

“Now may the Lord of Peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.” Go in peace.

[C] = John 14:27

Receive the same blessing that Jesus gave to his followers in John 14: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Go in peace.

[D] = Romans 15:13

As we leave today, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Go in peace.

[E] = Acts 1:8

As we leave today, we enter the mission field. So remember Jesus’ last words before ascending into heaven: “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Go in peace.