

A Liturgy for CP Church Ministries
June 14, 2015
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Call to Worship *(to be read in unison with great enthusiasm)*

**I'm ready, God, so ready,
Ready from head to toe.
Ready to sing,
Ready to raise a God-song:
"Wake, soul! Wake, lute!
Wake up, you sleepyhead sun!"**

**I'm thanking you, God, out in the streets,
Singing your praises in town and country.
The deeper your love, the higher it goes;
Every cloud is a flag to your faithfulness.**

**Soar high in the skies, O God!
Cover the whole earth with your glory.**

(Psalm 108:1-5 The Message)

Because of the contemporary wording of this Psalm, it would be a wonderful opportunity to include youth and older children to read as antiphonally [taking turns], adding instruments, streamers, etc. Then you could end like this:

*Youth: I AM ready to worship! Are YOU (name of church) ready?
Congregation: YES! We are ready!*

OR

Have different Ministry team leaders in congregation read the Call to Worship instead of children and youth.

OR

For a more traditional Call to Worship, you could use the New Living Translation.

**My heart is confident in you, O God;
No wonder I can sing your praises!
Wake up, my soul!
Wake up, O harp and lyre!
I will waken the dawn with my song.
I will thank you, Lord, in front of all the people.
I will sing your praises among the nations,**

**For your unfailing love is higher than the heavens.
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.
May your glory shine over all the earth.**

Call to Confession

God has called us to be the Church in the world—to be God’s ambassadors, but so often what the world sees is anything but kingdom people. At this time, we have the awesome privilege to confess our shortcomings, our sins, before our God knowing that God is faithful and just and will forgive those sins.

Prayer of Confession

We have come together today collectively as your church, O God. We have answered the call to step out into our community, our world to spread the Good News; however, so often our view of the world becomes clouded by our wants and our desires. Instead of following the example set by Christ, we turn inward and limit our love and service to those closest to us, to those whom we view as likeminded. We are timid and afraid to reach out to those who need you the most. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to see all people as your children.

Other times we even fail to reach out to those in our own congregation. We wait for someone else to answer the call of service, or worse we become jealous and quarrelsome among ourselves. We get our feelings hurt when we don’t receive the recognition we feel is due us. Forgive us, Lord. May we be so filled with your Spirit that when others see us, the love of Christ shows through.

God, we have confessed our sin collectively, but now we ask that you would cleanse each of us individually, making us new again as we pour our hearts out to you. *(Pause for a moment of silent prayer.)*

Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers and for hearing the prayers of your people. In Jesus name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know and believe—our God is a God of mercy and grace. For those who have confessed their sin, those sins are forgiven. **Hallelujah! Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, we acknowledge that you still speak to your people today just as in days of old. Your will for us is revealed through your word, through your messengers and through circumstance. We often forget to be still. Clear our hearts and minds of all that is outside this your sanctuary, especially the sanctuaries of our hearts that we may be attentive and alert to hear the message you have for each one of us here today and in so hearing may we also do. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

In preparing this worship service, I came across these songs that may be used to highlight this theme. The words are so meaningful. These songs and scriptures could also be adapted for sermon topics.

- **“One Race, One Gospel, One Task”**
 - “He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors”... 2 Corinthians 5: 19-20
Words by Margaret Clarkson
Tune: “*Praise to the Lord the Almighty*”
The Worshiping Church-A Hymnal, Hope Publishing (p. 735)
- **“When the Church of Jesus”**
 - “You have neglected the more important matters... justice, mercy, and faithfulness” Matthew 23:23
Words by Fred Pratt Green
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams
The Worshiping Church-A Hymnal, Hope Publishing (p. 722)
- **“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”**
 - “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation...” Mark 16:15
Words: Jeffery Rowthorn
Music: Cyril V. Taylor
The Worshiping Church-A Hymnal, Hope Publishing (p. 715)
- Acts 2: 42-47 A Generous and Growing Church
- 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 or 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 The Body of Christ Needs All Parts

Prayers of the People

Precious Lord,

We thank you and praise you for calling us your children
and like children we are given the opportunity and privilege of praying to you
with full assurance that you hear and answer our requests.

We thank you for your Church of which Cumberland Presbyterian is a part.
Today we especially lift up those in this denomination who serve in leadership roles
and pray your wisdom and guidance upon them.

Many from this global church who serve as Ministry Team Leaders,
pastors, elders, missionaries and Cumberland Presbyterian Women
as well as all their families will be traveling to Colombia, South America for General Assembly.

We pray travel mercies on them, Lord, blessings of good health,
and open, respectful, receptive hearts and minds
as they are guests in what for some will be uncharted territory.

Bestow your Spirit on them as at Pentecost
that language will not be a barrier to understanding, worship, and fellowship.

Lord, may your will be sought and established in the decisions that will be made

at this meeting of General Assembly
and may these decisions equip your church to more fully serve you in this world.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

We show our love for God, as well as our love for God's people, through our giving so that the world may come to know Christ as Savior and Lord. May we give generously and joyfully.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Glorious God, creator of heaven and earth, accept these gifts we bring to you. Bless and multiply our gifts so you may be glorified and your Church may serve you and make your name known throughout the whole world. We thank you for the opportunity of giving from the abundance that you have given us; may we be faithful stewards in all things. We praise you, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Taken from verse one of "Lord, You Give the Great Commission." If the minister is a singer, I suggest he/she sing this to the congregation. Or s/he may give the adapted version below:

The Lord has given us the great commission:
Preach the Word, heal the sick, reach out to those who are hurting.
Lest we, the church, neglect its mission and the gospel go unheard,
I pray you will leave today with renewed integrity
to witness your purpose
and that the Spirit's gifts will empower you for the work of ministry.
Go in confidence knowing the Lord is with you. **Amen.**