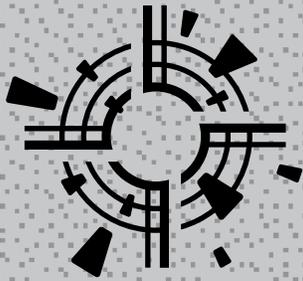


Child of Blessing Lectionary Resource



PRESBYTERIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
MUSICIANS



We want our children in the room for worship.

We want our words and music and prayers and even sermons to make sense for them, without watering it down.

We want people of every age, including children, to experience the wonder and joy of worship.

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Introduction

Every Sunday as our family gets ready for church, we load a stockpile of supplies into the minivan. We must look like we're about to head off on a week-long vacation with our carefully selected stuffed animals, notepads, coloring books, extra pencils, fruit snacks, and a change of clothes (just-in-case). We don't use half of it, but there it is: a wealth of what-ifs ready to occupy fidgeting hands, silence sibling jealousies, and escape the boredom for which today's children often lack the practice and opportunity.

As both a pastor and a mom, I confess that we are not always preparing *for* worship; sometimes we are preparing to distract our children *from* it. But even so, once in a while the words and songs break in. I'll hear my six-year-old respond "and also with you" during Communion liturgy. Another will shout out an answer during the sermon (only if mom is preaching though). My nine-year-old will whisper a question about a strange hymn lyric. Three weeks later on a car ride, he'll mention "that Bible lesson from church a few weeks ago," and accurately connect it with current events.

As I have listened to your stories through focus groups and conversations over the past few months, I've heard something similar. We want our children in the room for worship. We want our words and music and prayers and even sermons to make sense for them, without watering it down. We want people of every age, including children, to experience the wonder and joy of worship.

You have shared your own memories of childhood worship, including the love you felt, your sense of awe, and your inclusion during specific moments. You also shared memories of boredom, the feeling of being a spectator rather than a participant, and times of outright exclusion. You have shared your challenges in crafting or finding appropriate liturgy and the difficulty around not knowing who to plan for. The resources in this packet will not magically resolve all our hopes and challenges. But we hope it will be a starting point.

Child of Blessing is a five-year project, funded by the Lilly Endowment's *Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer Initiative*. The goal of the initiative is: "to nurture the faith of children by motivating and supporting congregations to give greater attention to the inclusion of children in their worship services and prayer practices in sensory-rich ways." The Child of Blessing grant is designed to cycle through seven phases over the next five years. These are not linear, but continual: listen, develop, test, train, disseminate, evaluate, and sustain.

The document you are reading now encompasses all seven of these goals but emphasizes numbers 2 and 3. We hope you share in our excitement and gratitude for the contributors who have made this resource possible. Thank you to Meg Flannagan, Adam Fischer, Anne McNair, David Gambrell, and Sally Ann McKinsey for their carefully chosen words, music, and gestures.

As you sift through their work, pay attention to the suggestion that not every word must be printed in the weekly bulletin. It could be that worshipers of every age experience a new sort of freedom in repetition, call and response, and simplified language. For the musical suggestions, consider ways that these songs can be introduced before Sunday morning. If you are trying a new hymn, find a YouTube clip that you can share with your congregation in advance through email or social media. If you have a children's choir, consider teaching them first and letting them teach the congregation. There is also a Spotify playlist to accompany each season's resources with a sampling of the musical suggestions. Feel free to share the link in your bulletin or churchwide emails. Encourage your worshipers to play it on car rides or while cooking dinner.

Most of all, know that you are not alone. Our pilot congregations come from all over the country, of every size and community type. Many of you have met each other in focus groups where you have shared ideas, frustrations, joys, and hopes. This grant is written so that new congregations can be added at any time. If you have colleagues who would like to take part, please send them my way! I can't wait to hear how these materials are taking shape in your community. Thank you for your willingness to try something new, and for all the thoughtful feedback you have shared already. I am grateful to share this journey with you all.

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Melissa McNair-King
Program Manager, Child of Blessing



Each installment of this resource will feature a theological concept that has implications for multigenerational worship. Use this as a prompt for small group conversation in your community.

The sacrament of baptism provides a theological foundation for intergenerational ministry. From the moment of our baptism (at whatever age), we are full and complete members of the body of Christ, with every gift and calling that entails. In carrying out the church's ministry, we seek to draw on the gifts and serve the needs of every member, from "generation to generation."

Question for discussion:

How does the church minister to its oldest and youngest members?

What gifts do the church's youngest and oldest members have to offer?

David Gambrell

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INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY

Weekly liturgy suggestions include a Call to Worship and Confession and Pardon for each week and suggestions for the prayers of the people/prayers of intercession for each season. These seasonal prayers can be repeated each week in a season. Some weekly liturgy is also repeated over the course of a season or may follow a repeated pattern.

Liturgy is written with a few principles in mind:

- Repeating call-and-response refrains invites a congregation to understand and claim them. Practice repeating refrains in different ways, with different tones and emphases.
- Children need simple and clear language, free of metaphor.

Notes about formatting:

- Unbolded, unitalicized text is intended to be spoken by one voice, usually a liturgist, but can be spoken by a congregant from where they are seated, a child, or a pastor from the pulpit. Part of the intention is to think broadly about what "worship leader" means.
- Some liturgy meant to be spoken by one liturgist should not be printed in the bulletin or projected on a screen to encourage congregants to feel more present and less reliant on the printed word. In this document, we've used shading to indicate liturgy that is not meant to be printed.

- Italicized text indicates guidance for the worship leader or for the one(s) who plan(s) worship.
- Bolded text is intended to be spoken by the whole congregation and should be printed or projected for everyone to see.

Mary Margaret Flannagan and Adam Fischer

INTRODUCTION TO CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Suggestions for congregational song include hymns, familiar and perhaps not so familiar. Singing less familiar hymns outside of worship helps to learn them! Sing hymns in Sunday school, in choir rehearsals for children, youth, and adults, and in other congregational gatherings. Provide listening links ahead of time to prepare congregants for new hymns in worship (use the QR code for a Spotify playlist corresponding to this list of suggestions).

Hymns have been suggested because they correspond to their liturgical season and/or lectionary texts, are easy to learn, and appeal to all ages. Notations indicate which lectionary readings correspond to each suggestion, when appropriate. Some hymns correspond to a season rather than a particular text.

Recommendations have been made in the following categories:

Gathering	Call to Worship, Opening Hymn, Kyrie/Petition, Gloria/Response to Forgiveness
Word	Sung Prayer for Illumination, Hymn Responding to the Word
Eucharist	Doxology, Sanctus, Communion Hymn
Sending	Sending/Closing Hymn, Benediction Response

Most selections are from the hymnal *Glory to God*, but many of those hymns from *Glory to God* may also be found in other hymnals.

Anne McNair

ABBREVIATIONS LIST

ACS	<i>All Creation Sings: ELW Supplement</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 2020)
ELW	<i>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 2006)
G3	<i>Gather, 3rd ed.</i> (GIA, 2011)
GTG	<i>Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal</i> (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)
LS	<i>LifeSongs</i> (Augsburg Fortress, 1999)
SSS	<i>Santo, Santo, Santo</i> (GIA, 2019)
OLOF	<i>One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism</i> (GIA, 2018)

Season of Advent

Liturgy

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

To fully engage children in what is often a long prayer, find ways for them to participate or join you in prayer:

- Invite them to sit with you while you pray or to move around the sanctuary during the prayers. (Perhaps where they sit during the children's sermon, if that is comfortable for them, recognizing that some children will not find it comforting to sit in front of the congregation.)
- Share the microphone and let them voice their prayers by categories or leave space in the prayer for anyone to name prayers out loud without a microphone, remembering that God hears all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken.
- Bring newspapers or magazines with images, holding them up and praying for the people and places you can all see.
- Invite people in the pews to slide together and sit in small groups so that they could voice prayers to one another after categories are prompted by the worship leader. Children may be more likely to verbalize their prayers with parents or other safe adults.
- Cut shapes from paper (stars, circles, or other shapes) and ask ushers to offer the pieces of paper to people as they enter the service, saying, "If you have a prayer request, please make a drawing about it or write it here. We will share these later in the service." During the prayers, invite people to come forward and pin their paper shapes onto a string that can be strung across the sanctuary windows. Depending on your context, children could collect the shapes, pin them, and vocalize the written prayers for the congregation.
- Keep it brief! Children's (and adults') attention spans and ability to focus is limited. Likely people of all ages will rejoice in shorter prayers.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you are the light of the world.

Thank you for beautiful things we see each day, like...

(the sunset, sparkling snow, colorful leaves, the faces of one another)

Thank you for signs of your life in the world, like...

(people helping each other, the new things we learn each day)

We are especially glad for people who share your light, like...

(family, teachers, friends)

Sometimes, God, we feel afraid. We need you to comfort us when...

(others bully us, we feel alone, we are afraid of the dark, we get hurt)

We pray for those around us and around the world who need your help, especially...

(people who are hungry, sick, or hurting, people who don't have a safe place to live, anyone who needs a friend).

Hear these prayers and help us to be your disciples, sharing your love with all your people.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray: **Our Father...**

GATHERING

Call to Worship/Candle Lighting (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, TIF IN VELDELE, GTG 85

Light One Candle: Christ is Coming, ADVENT CANDLE SONG LS 3

He Came Down, HE CAME DOWN, GTG 137

Opening Hymn (Choose one for each Sunday of Advent.)

Wait for the Lord, WAIT FOR THE LORD, GTG 90

While We Are Waiting, Come, WAITING, GTG 92

Prepare the Way, O Zion, BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN, GTG 106

Come Now, O Prince of Peace, O-SO-SO, GTG 103

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You, VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, GTG 104

Come Now, O God, LOST IN THE NIGHT, ACS 902

The King Shall Come, CONSOLATION, ELW 260

El Dios de paz/Peace Giving God, EL DIOS DE PAZ, SSS 65

Kyrie/Petition (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Away In a Manger, verse 3, MUELLER, GTG 115

O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 4, ST. LOUIS, GTG 121

Gloria/Response to Forgiveness (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, verse 3, IN DULCI JUBILO, GTG 132

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!, refrain, HALLE HALLE, GTG 591

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WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Come and Fill Our Hearts, CONFITEMINI DOMINO, GTG 466

Kum ba Yah, verse 1, KUM BA YAH, GTG 472

Hymn Responding to the Word (Choose one for each Sunday of Advent.)

My Lord, What A Morning, MY LORD WHAT A MORNING, GTG 352 (Advent 1)

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn, REJOICE REJOICE, GTG 107

(Advent 1)

The Days are Surely Coming, LLANGLOFFAN, GTG 357 (Advent 1)

Isaiah The Prophet Has Written of Old, SAMANTHRA, GTG 77 (Advent 2)

Preparen el camino/Make Ready a Highway, PREPAREN EL CAMINO, SSS 76

(Advent 2&3)

Light Dawns on a Weary World, TEMPLE OF PEACE, GTG 79 (Advent 3)

When Stars Fall Down, MORNING SONG, OLOF 246 (Advent 2,3,4)

Canticle of the Turning, STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, GTG 100 (Advent 4)

EUCCHARIST

Doxology (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful, IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL, GTG 654
Come, Lord Jesus, verse 3, TALLIS CANON, LS 97

Communion Hymns and Responses (Choose one to sing throughout Advent.)

Holy, Holy, Holy, ARGENTINE SANTO, GTG 595
You Are Holy, DU AR HEILIG, GTG 596
Eat This Bread, BERTHIER, GTG 527

SENDING

Sending/Closing Hymn: (choose one for each Sunday of Advent)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, HYFRYDOL, GTG 82
Now The Heavens Start to Whisper, JEFFERSON, GTG 94
Soon and Very Soon, SOON AND VERY SOON, GTG 384
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, TRURO, GTG 93
Comfort, Comfort Now My People, GENEVAN 42, GTG 87
My Soul Gives Glory to My God, MORNING SONG, GTG 99 (Advent 4)

Benediction Response: (choose one to sing throughout Advent)

Prepare the Way of the Lord, PREPARE THE WAY, GTG 95
You Shall Go Out with Joy, THE TREES OF THE FIELD, GTG 80 (Advent 3)

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Playlist Link

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



First Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Isaiah 2:1–5 Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord.

Psalms 122 I was glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Romans 13:11–14 Salvation is near: wake up; live honorably; put on Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:36–44 The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.

Ideas

Use children's artwork as bulletin cover art. Invite children to make drawings in response to biblical stories and choose one to feature each week. You can also organize an art exhibition of children's work in a fellowship hall or other central location as a way to include children and the gifts they bring.

The color for Advent is purple or blue. Invite children to look for this color in the sanctuary during worship.

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CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 2:2-5

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.
Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The candle may be lit before, during, or at the end of the call to worship.

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

God's house will be most holy.
 People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

All nations will come to God's holy place.
 People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

People in God's holy place will not fight;
 they will grow and love.

People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

We give thanks that this place is part of God's holy place,
where we grow and love.
People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

We light the first candle,
praying for God's hope, God's coming kingdom.
People of God,
Live in the hope of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God gives us grace.
So we come to God to admit our sin
and ask for forgiveness,
praying together,

**Loving God, thank you for your grace.
You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.
Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.
Have mercy on us and show us your way
so that we can learn to do your will.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Friends, wake up! Salvation is near.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

- Isaiah 11:1–10 From Jesse’s root, a child will come with the spirit of the Lord.
- Psalms 72:1–7, 18–19 May the king rule with righteousness and defend the poor.
- Romans 15:4–13 Trust God’s promises in Scripture; rejoice and live in hope.
- Matthew 3:1–12 John calls for repentance: prepare the way of the Lord.

Idea

Place rocking chairs in the sanctuary to include families with babies or those who need movement.

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 11:1-10

People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord!
Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The candle may be lit before, during, or at the end of the call to worship.

People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord!

We follow Christ, who was covered by the Spirit of the Lord.
 People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord!

We watch for Christ, who judged with righteousness and equity.
 People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord!

We worship Christ, who still calls creation together:
 wolf and lamb, leopard and goat, cow and bear, lion and ox;
 old and young, left and right, rich and poor, you and me.
 People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord!

We wait for God’s kingdom coming,
 when no one will hurt or destroy the earth;

when all will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.
People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord.

We light the second candle,
praying for God's peace, God's coming kingdom.
People of God,
Live in the peace of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God gives us grace.
So we come to God to admit our sin
and ask for forgiveness,
praying together,

**Loving God, thank you for your grace.
You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.
Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.
Have mercy on us and show us your way
so that we can learn to do your will.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Friends, wake up! Salvation is near.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Isaiah 35:1–10	The desert will blossom; God's people will return with joy.
Psalms 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46–55	The maker of heaven and earth gives justice and reigns forever. Mary rejoices in God, who helps the poor and lifts up the lowly.
James 5:7–10	Be patient; have courage; the coming of the Lord is near.
Matthew 11:2–11	Jesus praises John, the messenger who has prepared the way.

Idea

The third week of Advent traditionally focuses on joyful celebration in anticipation of Christ's birth. This week, consider having (or creating) ribbon dancers that congregants can wave during an opening or closing hymn. If your church uses a pray-ground or invites activity in the pews, children can make their own ribbon dancers using small dowel rods, pre-cut ribbons, and tape. Encourage participants to make two: one to keep and one to share; then pass them out during a moment that makes sense for your congregation (during the offering or the final hymn).

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CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 35:1-10

People of God,
Live in the joy of the Lord.
Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The candle may be lit before, during, or at the end of the call to worship.

People of God,
Live in the joy of the Lord.

Creation yearns for the glory of the Lord,
 when the desert will rejoice and flowers will blossom abundantly.
 People of God,
Live in the joy of the Lord.

We wait for God's kingdom coming,
 when everyone will come home to God with singing;
 when all peoples will live in joy and gladness.

People of God,
Live in the joy of the Lord.

We light the third candle,
praying for God's joy, God's coming kingdom.
People of God,
Live in the joy of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God gives us grace.
So we come to God to admit our sin
and ask for forgiveness,
praying together,

**Loving God, thank you for your grace.
You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.
Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.
Have mercy on us and show us your way
so that we can learn to do your will.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Friends, wake up! Salvation is near.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple or Blue

Isaiah 7:10–16 The young woman will bear a child and name him Immanuel.

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.

Romans 1:1–7 Paul greets the saints in Rome; Jesus is the promised Son of God.

Matthew 1:18–25 Mary is with child; an angel visits Joseph; Jesus is “God with us.”

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 80

People of God,
Live in the love of the Lord.
Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The candle may be lit before, during, or at the end of the call to worship.

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People of God,
Live in the love of the Lord.

The world is weary.
And yet, we have reason to hope.
We have received God’s promise: a sign.
People of God,
Live in the love of the Lord.

We wait for God’s kingdom coming,
when God will restore us and save us.
People of God,
Live in the love of the Lord.

We light the fourth candle,
praying for God’s love, God’s coming kingdom.
People of God,
Live in the love of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God gives us grace.
So we come to God to admit our sin
and ask for forgiveness,
praying together,

**Loving God, thank you for your grace.
You have called us to walk with you, but we have not followed.
Forgive us when we ignore you and each other.
Have mercy on us and show us your way
so that we can learn to do your will.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Friends, wake up! Salvation is near.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Season
of
Christmas

Liturgy

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, you are the light of the world.
Your life shows signs of hope all around us, even in this winter season.

Thank you for...

Prayers may be invited from the congregation or the following petitions named by the worship leader.

glowing Christmas candles,
opportunities to meet new and old friends,
a meal shared together,
all that we learn from one another,
ways to serve in our neighborhoods, and
teachers, doctors, and helpers around the world.

Thank you for the people who love us and take care of us
as Mary cared for Jesus,

especially...

Prayers may be invited from the congregation or the following petitions named by the worship leader.

family members, doctors, and teachers.

Loving God, sometimes we feel afraid and overwhelmed in a world where
people are hurting.

Comfort all your children,
especially...

Prayers may be invited from the congregation or the following petitions named by the worship leader.

anyone who needs a friend,
people who are bullied, hungry, sick, or hurting,
people who don't have a safe place to live,
people suffering natural disasters or extreme weather,
and people who are far from home.

Hear our prayers and help us to be your disciples,
so that we can share your love with all your people.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray: **Our Father...**

GATHERING

Call to Worship (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child, WONDERFUL CHILD, GTG 126

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, verse 1, KINGSFOLD, GTG 159

Sing We Now of Jesus, NOEL NOUVELET, LS 19

Opening hymn (Choose one for each service during the season.)

O Come All Ye Faithful, ADESTE FIDELIS, GTG 133

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, IN DULCI JUBILO, GTG 132

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, MENDELSSOHN, GTG 119

Love Has Come, BRING A TORCH, GTG 110

Jesus, Light of Joy, LAUDA ANIMA, GTG 673 (Epiphany)

The People Who Walked in Darkness ISAIAH 9, GTG 86 (Epiphany)

Blest Be the God of Israel, MERLE'S TUNE, GTG 109

Kyrie/Petition (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom, verse 2, MERLE'S TUNE, GTG 378

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive, DETROIT, GTG 444

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Gloria/Response to Forgiveness (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, verse 3, GTG 132

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom, verse 4, MERLE'S TUNE, GTG 378

Angels We Have Heard on High, refrain, GLORIA, GTG 113

WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Open My Eyes, That I May See, verse 2 OPEN MY EYES, GTG 451

Open Our Eyes, Lord, LS, 31

Hymn Responding to the Word (Choose one for each service of the season.)

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing, SUSSEX CAROL, GTG 112

(Christmas Eve)

Angels We Have Heard on High, GLORIA, GTG 113 (Christmas Eve)

Jesus Entered Egypt, KING'S WESTON, GTG 154 (G, 1st Sunday of Christmas)

In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes, TENTH NIGHT, ACS 908

We Three Kings of Orient Are, KINGS OF ORIENT, G151

(G, Epiphany of the Lord)

What Star Is This, PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, GTG 152 (G, Epiphany of the Lord)

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways WEST MAIN, GTG 164

(G, Baptism of the Lord)

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice, ABERYSTWYTH, GTG 163

(G Baptism of the Lord)

EUCCHARIST

Doxology: (choose one to sing throughout the season)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 4, REGENT SQUARE, GTG 143

What Child Is This, verse 3, GREENSLEEVES, GTG 145

As With Gladness Men of Old, verse 3, DIX, GTG 150

Communion Hymns and Responses:

(choose one to sing throughout the season)

Feed Us, Lord, FEED US, GTG 501

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing, THE FEAST IS READY, GTG 505

Come to the Table, COME TO THE TABLE, GTG 508

SENDING

Sending/Closing Hymn (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Silent Night, STILLE NACHT, GTG 122 (Christmas Eve)

Go Tell It On the Mountain, GO TELL IT, GTG 136

Joy to the World, ANTIOCH, GTG 134

He Came Down, HE CAME DOWN, GTG 137

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring, PERSONENT HODIE, GTG 141

Baptized in Water, BUNESSAN, GTG 482 (Baptism of the Lord)

Benediction Response (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Go Tell It On the Mountain, refrain, GO TELL IT, GTG 136

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, refrain, WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, GTG 127

Playlist Link

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve

Color: White and Gold

- Isaiah 9:2–7 Light shines on people in darkness; a child has been born for us.
- Psalms 96 Sing a new song to the Lord, all the earth; declare God’s glory.
- Titus 2:11–14 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
- Luke 2:1–14 (15–20) Jesus is born in Bethlehem; angels tell shepherds the good news.

Ideas

When adults involved with Child of Blessing project have been asked to share a memory from worship as a child, one of the most frequent responses has involved lighting candles and singing “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve. This simple, accessible tradition unites all generations. Encourage young worshipers to use a real candle. Teach them how to hold it upright once it is lit. If possible, consider using children as your ushers, the ones who help spread the flame to all worshipers.

Identify a child or youth to lead the repeated prompt, “People of God,” in the call to worship, while another worship leader speaks the longer sections. This child worship leader would not need to be able to read, but could work from a visual or physical cue.

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 9:2-7

People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.
Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The candle may be lit before, during, or at the end of the call to worship.

People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
 People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

God multiplied our praise; God increased our joy!
 People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.
 People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

He is named Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

He will establish and uphold God's kingdom with justice and righteousness,
 from this time on and forevermore.
 People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

Tonight we light the Christ candle,
 praying that God's presence will fill the church,
 so that all will know God's kingdom here.
 People of God,
Live in the light of the Lord.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God gives us grace.
 So even on this night of celebration,
 we come to God to admit our sin and ask for forgiveness,
 praying together,

**Loving God, thank you for giving us grace.
 A child has been born, and authority belongs to him.
 Forgive us for trusting other authorities instead.
 Have mercy on us.
 Fill us with your endless peace and multiply our joy,
 for sin and death have lost their power.
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

We need not fear the grave: the life of Jesus is bursting into creation;
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
 Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Ideas

Consider ways to involve children in the sharing of Communion on a regular basis. Include children and their families in the preparation and clean-up of the elements before and after worship.

If some children leave the sanctuary during the service, find a way to bring them back in to participate in Communion.

Invite children to move closer to the table during worship. If your church has a practice of inviting children forward for a children's message during the service, invite children to stand in a circle around the table during that time. Let them see the elements up close. Explain what will happen later in the service.

Find times to practice the responses in the Great Thanksgiving ("and also with you") so congregants of every age will be ready to participate.

EUCCHARIST

Invitation to the Lord's Table

On this holy night, we remember with joy
the baby Mary laid in a manger: a place of feeding.
He grew up to feed the whole world with his love.
During his life on earth, Jesus shared bread
with sinners and outcasts,
with disciples and friends,
with young and old,
with anyone who was hungry,
calling all people to a new way of life.
Tonight Jesus shares the same welcome with us,
inviting us to come and eat at this table.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we give you all our thanks and praise,
for you have created the whole world and called it good.
Tonight we praise you that a child has been born for us,
a son given to us,
and that he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
In love, you sent your Son as Emmanuel: God with us.
He came into the world as a humble infant

and lived out the fullness of your love.
In his living and dying and rising, he overcame the powers of sin and death.
Tonight as we hear and share the mysteries of faith,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,
and joyfully celebrate Christ's life, death, and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming: your day of endless peace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal:
that the bread we break and the cup we bless,
may be a true sharing of the body and blood of Christ.
Make us one with Christ and make us one family in your name.
Shape us into people of hope, peace, joy, and love,
until the day we feast together with all your children, in your eternal home.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray: **Our Father...**

Words of Institution

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, you have met us at this table,
fed us with your love,
and shown us again how much you love us.
May the meal we have shared nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits,
enabling us to carry your light into the world you so love,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Sunday of Christmas

Color: White and Gold

- Isaiah 63:7–9 The people were saved not by an angel, but the Lord’s presence.
- Psalms 148 Let everything in the whole creation praise the name of the Lord.
- Hebrews 2:10–18 Jesus calls us brothers and sisters; he became human to save us.
- Matthew 2:13–23 Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt to escape persecution from Herod.

Idea

If you decide to use small percussion instruments during the call to worship, consider inviting congregants to play along with the hymns for the day as well.

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Psalm 148

People of God,
Praise the Lord! *(Make a joyful noise.)*
 Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The Christ candle may be lit before or during the Call to Worship. Those gathered may be prepared to make noise with simple percussion instruments like shakers and tambourines provided in the pews or cheers at key moments. A leader might indicate these moments by shaking their own instrument or raising their hands.

People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

Praise God in the heights! Praise God, all angels!
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, shining stars!
 Praise God, the highest skies; praise God, the waters below!
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

God spoke and made creation with just a word.
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

Praise the Lord from the earth, fishes and whales in the deep blue sea,
 Fire and hail, snow and frost, and all the winds that obey God's commands.
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

Mountains and hills, fruit trees and evergreen!
 Wild animals and farm animals, bugs and birds!
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

Kings and queens, rulers and leaders,
 All people of the earth, of all ages and sizes, quiet and loud together,
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

Let all praise the name of the Lord, for God alone is our guide.
 God has protected God's people.
 People of God,
Praise the Lord! *Prompt to make a joyful noise.*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God already forgives us before we ask,
 so we can be confident to admit our sin,
 even as we pray humbly together,

Loving God,
Thank you for coming to be with us.
You suffered and felt all the feelings we do.
We are sorry for what we think and say and do that makes you sad.
Forgive us. Show us your way.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Friends, Jesus is not ashamed of us.
 He suffered, was tested, and died in order to destroy death.
 We have been forgiven, set free, and made whole in the name of Jesus Christ.
 Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Second Sunday of Christmas/ Epiphany of the Lord

Color: White and Gold

Isaiah 60:1–6 Arise, shine; your light has come; the glory of the Lord appears.

Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14 May the king reign forever and deliver the needy.

Ephesians 3:1–12 An ancient mystery is revealed; Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ.

Matthew 2:1–12 Following a star, wise men visit Jesus and bring him gifts.

Idea

If your community holds a tradition of star words, consider giving everyone a blank star this year as a sign of unity in Christ and to make room for community members who do not read and write. A blank star can hold many words and feelings rather than just one and emphasizes the corporate experience of the practice. The star can be a reminder to look for God's presence each day.

CALL TO WORSHIP/CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 60:1-5

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

The Christ candle may be lit before, during or at the end of the call to worship.

The worship leader lifts their arms while saying, "Arise, shine."

The people respond in a similar fashion when they say, "shines upon you."

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

The Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

people are gathering together; people are coming to you.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Your children are coming from far away; little babies and toddlers, too.
Arise, shine, for your light has come.
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

You shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall rejoice because of God's abundance.
Arise, shine, for your light has come.
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

God is showering you with abundance.
Arise, shine, for your light has come.
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God already forgives us before we ask,
so we can be confident to admit our sin,
even as we pray humbly together,

Loving God,
We are sorry that we do not always follow you.
Sometimes we are afraid to do what is right
because it might not be popular.
Forgive us. Have mercy on us.
Show us your light so that we may trust in you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Friends, Jesus is not ashamed of us.
He came to help us, so he became just like us.
He suffered and was tested, and died in order to destroy death.
We have been forgiven, set free, and sanctified in the name of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Time
After
Epiphany

Liturgy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The following options for the prayers of intercession use color and/or light as visual elements in prayer. You may adapt these for your context. The prayer below may be paired with any of the options listed for using color or light, or you may use it alone.

God of night and day,
just as you led your people through the wilderness
with a pillar of fire by night and cloud by day,
you guide us still.

We give you thanks for your love and for experiences of joy.
Hear our prayers of thanksgiving. (red)

In a world of conflict, we pray for your peace.
Bring to an end conflicts that are causing pain. (blue)

We pray for your creation which humans have destroyed by greed.
Bring healing to the earth. (green)

We pray for those impacted by natural disasters around the world.
Bring support and relief. (purple)

We pray for those who are in pain, who are sick, recovering,
or living with mental or physical illness.
Bring restoration and comfort. (yellow)

Restore us with your love, which lights the night.
Guide our thoughts and actions with your love
and teach us to respond to your love by serving one another. (orange)
O Lord, hear our prayers and unite us.
With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray: **Our Father...**

Praying with colored ribbons or strips of paper

You might decide to follow this color rubric using strips of paper or ribbons. Prayer stations might offer something on which congregants can tie colored ribbons corresponding to the categories above. You might set out bowls in which they can place strips of colored paper with prayers written on them. Materials can be provided in the pews/chairs.

Sample instructions for the bulletin and/or at prayer station(s)

1

This season we share prayers using colors. During the prayers of the people, you may offer your prayers as colored ribbons. Bring ribbons to a prayer station and tie them to the branches you find there. As we bring ribbons, we watch our prayers grow.

2

During the prayers of the people, write your prayers on slips of colored paper and bring them to a prayer station/add them to collection baskets.

Praying with Candlelight

Candles are an ancient symbol of God's light. Create a space in worship for tea candles. During the prayers of the people, you may designate an older child to light a candle for each prayer named aloud or you may invite congregants to come forward to light candles themselves. Encourage the congregation to pray with their eyes open so they can see the light growing.

Provide the following instructions in the bulletin and/or at the prayer station(s): This season we share prayers using candlelight, recognizing the light of Christ that guides us. During the prayers of the people, you may come to prayer stations according to the prompts in the prayer (or you may watch as one or a few persons light candles). As we pray, we watch the accumulation of all our prayers offered to the God of light.

Music

33

GATHERING

Call to Worship (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

God Welcomes All, THEMBA AMEN, GTG 399

God Is Here Today, DIOS ESTA AQUI, GTG 411

Opening Hymn (Choose one for each service during the season.)

Come Into God's Presence, COME INTO HIS PRESENCE, GTG 413

God Is Here, ABBOT'S LEIGH, GTG 409

O Sing to the Lord, CANTAI AO SENHOR, GTG 637

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word, LIEBSTER JESU, GTG 395

Here in This Place, GATHER US IN, GTG 401

O Come and Sing Unto the Lord, IRISH, GTG 638

Come, Christians, Join to Sing, MADRID, GTG 267

Kyrie/Petition (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life, verse 1, IRISH, , GTG 421

O Lord, Hear My Prayer, HEAR MY PRAYER, GTG 471

Gloria/Response to Forgiveness (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life, verse 4, IRISH, GTG 421

Glory to God, BREAD OF LIFE, LS 20

WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, CHILDREN PRAYING, GTG 469

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People, YISRAEL V'ORAITA, GTG 453

Hymn Responding to the Word (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Will You Come and Follow Me, KELVINGROVE, GTG 726

(2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore, PESCADOR DE HOMBRES GTG 721

You Walk along Our Shoreline, WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, GTG 170,

(3rd after Epiphany)

From the Nets of Our Labor, HAMILTON, GTG 751, (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)

Live Into Hope, TRURO, GTG 772 (5th Sunday after Epiphany)

This Little Light of Mine, LATTIMER, SSS 257 (5th Sunday after Epiphany)

Bring Forth the Kingdom, G3, 734 (5th Sunday after Epiphany)

EUCCHARIST

34

Doxology (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Now Thank We All Our God, verse 3, NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, GTG 643

A Grateful Heart, verse 1, ROCKINGHAM, GTG 652

All Good Gifts Around Us, WIR PFLÜGEN, LS 102

Communion Hymns and Responses (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Come to the Table of Grace, TABLE OF GRACE, GTG 507

Eat This Bread, BERTHIER, GTG 527

As We Gather at Your Table, HOLY MANA, G3 839

SENDING

Sending/Closing Hymn (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Called as Partners in Christ's Service, BEECHER, GTG 761

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me, I'M GONNA LIVE, GTG 700

Jesus Calls Us, GALILEE, GTG 720

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples, KINGSFOLD, GTG 757

We All Are One in Mission, ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN, GTG 733

Arise, Your Light Is Come! FESTAL SONG, GTG 744 (5th Sunday after Epiphany)

Benediction Response (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Go Now in Peace, LS 108

Go With Us Lord, TALLIS' CANON, GTG 748

Playlist Link

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



JANUARY 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

Color: White

Isaiah 42:1–9	The Lord says: Here is my servant, my chosen, in whom I delight.
Psalms 29	Give glory to God; the voice of the Lord is over the waters.
Acts 10:34–43	Peter preaches: God shows no partiality; Jesus is Lord of all.
Matthew 3:13–17	Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: This is my Son.

Before worship, provide quarter sheets of paper or 3 x 5 index cards to each congregant along with their bulletin. Ushers/greeters may instruct people that they will be used in worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In baptism God pours out the gifts of the Spirit.

We bring our gifts to God.

We are many, yet we are one.

Indeed! We bring many gifts, gifts like love, joy, and peace.
You were given a piece of paper when you entered worship.
Fold your paper in half like a little tent.

*Demonstrate folding your paper on the long side to create a tent that easily stands on its own. Some children refer to this as a “hamburger fold.” Explain or demonstrate this however is most helpful in your context.
Congregants fold their papers.*

In baptism God pours out the gifts of the Spirit.

We bring our gifts to God.

We are many, yet we are one.

We bring many gifts, like the interests and skills we learn and practice.
Think about the things you like to do.

pause

Think of one skill you are proud of.

pause

Maybe you are good at sharing what you have.

Maybe you take care of animals.

Maybe you make beautiful art.

Maybe you can cook, or teach, or pray, or sing.

Think of this as a gift you can share to show Christ's love.

On the paper you were given this morning,
write or draw a picture of your gift.

Demonstrate writing a gift in large, bold letters on the paper. Better yet, have two examples prepared prior to worship – one drawn and one written. Show the congregation so they can see what this resembles and do likewise.

In baptism God pours out the gifts of the Spirit.

We bring our gifts to God.

We are many, yet we are one.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Worship leader holds up their card with their gift for all to see.
We have each been blessed with gifts that God calls us to share.
These gifts become our ministry, reflecting the love of Christ.
Sometimes we don't share our gifts but hide them instead.

Worship leader folds paper over to hide the gift.
We fold our paper as we think of the ways we might hide our gifts.
We humbly come to confess our sins to God, who is loving and gracious.

37

God, in our baptism you claim us and love us forever.

We want to follow you, but we don't always do so.

We want to offer our gifts to you, but we often hide them in fear.

Forgive us and restore us.

Call us again to follow you

and teach us to share your love with the world.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Worship leader pours water into the font and offers the following words.

In baptism, you are loved and claimed forever.

Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Nothing you do or fail to do will remove God's promises.

In Christ our sins are forgiven.

We are made new! **Amen.**

The following could also take place later in the service as part of the offering.

As a symbol of the new life in Christ, reveal your gifts!

Worship leader unfolds their paper to reveal their word.

Rise up and follow Christ!

Bring your gifts forward and place them in the basket(s).

RESPONDING TO THE WORD: REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM*from the font***Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant and Profession of Faith**

Isaiah 42:6-7

Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear God say:
 "I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason.
 I will take you by the hand and guard you."
 With joy, we remember: we belong to God.
We belong to God.

The Lord says: "I give you as a covenant to the people,
 as a light to the nations: to open blind eyes,
 set the prisoner free, and comfort those who sit in darkness."
 With joy, we remember: we belong to God.
We belong to God.

Our baptism is the sign and seal
 that we are freed from the burden of sin and joined with Christ.
 Through baptism, we are made members of God's own family.
 With joy, we remember: we belong to God.
We belong to God.

Let us renew the promises made at our baptism.
 I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin,
 to profess your faith in Jesus Christ,
 and to confess the faith of the church,
 the faith in which we were baptized.
 Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
 do you turn from the ways of sin
 and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you?
I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?
Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.
 Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
 obeying his Word and showing his love? Will you?

I will, with God's help.
 Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
 by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
 Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven; he is seated
 at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living
 and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Holy God, you loved us before we knew your name.
 You loved us before we had words to respond.
 You still loved us even when we left you.
 You love us when we doubt.
 Your love will not change, even when we forget your words of promise
 Make your love our deepest identity.
 Give us lives of grace, that we might love you in return:
 with heart, and soul, and might, all our days.
 We pray through the mercy of Jesus Christ,
 who was baptized with us and for us. **Amen.**

Remembering our Baptism

You are invited to come forward and touch the water in the baptismal font to remember that you are claimed and sealed in God's love.

39

One or a few of the following may be sung as congregants are invited to come to the font, feel the water, and/or choose a shell from it to take with them. You may also offer anointing during this time. Choose several if time is needed or repeat a single verse until all have walked forward.

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, KINGDOM, GTG 486
 I've Got Peace Like a River, PEACE LIKE A RIVER, GTG 623
 Shall We Gather at the River, HANSON PLACE, GTG 375

Closing Hymn *(choose one)*

I Was There to Here Your Borning Cry, WATERLIFE, GTG 488
 Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed, PENTECOST, GTG 489

Benediction Response *(choose one)*

You Belong to Christ, YOU BELONG TO CHRIST, GTG 492
 Baptized in Water, verse 1, BUNESSAN, GTG 482

JANUARY 18, 2026

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Color: Green

Isaiah 49:1–7 The servant of the Lord is given as a light to the nations.

Psalm 40:1–11 I waited for the Lord, who saved me; now I sing God's praise.

1 Corinthians 1:1–9 Paul writes to the church at Corinth, giving thanks for God's grace.

John 1:29–42 John says Jesus is the Lamb of God; Jesus calls Andrew and Peter.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship as one body, each bringing praise and hope. During the call to worship, I will invite you to name words of praise and words of hope out loud, all at once when prompted, as you feel led.

Children of God,
for what do you give God praise?
*Make a gesture of welcome, such as arms outstretched,
for the congregation to name responses.*

Children of God,
what do you hope for?
*Make a gesture of welcome, such as arms outstretched,
for the congregation to name responses.*

Rejoice! God meets us in the midst of our hopes.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

The worship leader brings a chair forward and sits where all can easily see their hands and feet.

Our prayer of confession today is a prayer of gestures. You may mirror my movements as we pray together. With each phrase, I will make a gesture, then leave silence for you to mirror the gesture.

As far as the North
raise one hand
 pause

is from South
lower the other hand to the floor
 pause

and the East
move left hand as far left as possible
 pause

is from West
move right hand as far right as possible
 pause

so far has God removed our sin from us.
 So let us return to God
bring hands together in prayer
 pause

and confess our sins
place hands outward with palms facing up
 pause

41

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 40

We wait patiently for you, O God.
We wait patiently for you, O God.
Long pause of silence, hands stretched out, palms up
 pause

Draw us from the desolate pit
Draw us from the desolate pit
raise hands as high as possible
 pause

and set our feet upon a rock.
and set our feet upon a rock.
raise both feet and stomp on the floor
 pause

Forgive the foolish things we have said
Forgive the foolish things we have said
cover mouth with hands
 pause

and put a new song of praise in our mouths.

and put a new song of praise in our mouths.

move hand outward and upward as if a song is exploding from the mouth

pause

Help us receive your mercy

Help us receive your mercy

move hand downward to create and open bowl shape

pause

and share it with the world

and share it with the world.

bring hands outward in an open gesture

pause

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

All around the light of Christ fills this space.

Arise and let your light shine!

Stand and invite the congregation to stand.

The love of Christ has made us new.

Jesus has given us a new song.

In Christ we are forgiven.

Amen.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Color: Green

Isaiah 9:1–4 Light shines on those who walk in darkness; the people rejoice.

Psalms 27:1, 4–9 The Lord is my light and salvation; therefore I am not afraid.

1 Corinthians 1:10–18 Paul calls for unity and proclaims the message of the cross.

Matthew 4:12–23 Jesus calls four disciples: Follow me, and you will fish for people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship as one body, each bringing praise and hope. During the call to worship, I will invite you to name words of praise and words of hope out loud, all at once when prompted, as you feel led.

Children of God,
for what do you give praise?
*Make a gesture of welcome, such as arms outstretched,
for the congregation to name responses.*

Children of God,
what do you hope for?
*Make a gesture of welcome, such as arms outstretched,
for the congregation to name responses.*

Rejoice! God meets us in the midst of our hopes.

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CONFESSION AND PARDON

We come to admit our faults and turn from sin,
letting go of our arrogance and accepting God's grace.
We trust God's promise of transformation as we pray,

**Loving God, in Christ you have made us one,
but we confess how often we forget.
We let differences divide us.
We are not always kind.
We ignore the needs of others.
Forgive us.
Change our hearts and change our lives.
Help us to love and to follow your ways of peace,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All around the light of Christ fills this space.
 The love of Christ unites us and has made us new.
 In Christ we are forgiven and given a new song.
 Arise and let your light shine. **Amen.**

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Color: Green

Micah 6:1–8 What does the Lord require? Justice, kindness, and humility.

Psalm 15 Those who do what is right live in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18–31 The foolishness of the cross shames the wisdom of the world.

Matthew 5:1–12 Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes.

44

CALL TO WORSHIP

The repetition in this call to worship is designed to help congregants memorize Micah 6:8. Modify the liturgy to fit your setting. Multiple people can lead this liturgy; ask congregants to lead from their seat, sitting or standing. The intention is for voices to pop up from different places in the space to begin worship.

God calls us to worship.
 Children of God,
 what does the Lord require of us?
To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In the city streets,
 what does the Lord require of us?
To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In the wilderness,
 what does the Lord require of us?
To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In our workplaces,
 what does the Lord require of us?
To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In our schools,

what does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

In our church community,
what does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Together, we worship God!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

from the font

The font is a place where two things can be true:

we are guilty and redeemed;

we are humbled and lifted up;

we die to sin and rise in new life.

Trusting in God's unending mercy, let us confess our sin.

**Loving God, in Christ you have made us one,
but we confess how often we forget.**

We let differences divide us.

We are not always kind.

We ignore the needs of others.

Forgive us.

Change our hearts and change our lives.

**Help us to love and to follow your ways of peace,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God's love is all around you.

You are blessed and holy.

In Christ we are forgiven.

Arise and let your light shine. **Amen.**

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Color: Green

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12) The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.

Psalm 112:1–9 (10) Those who do God's will and seek what is right will be happy.

1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16) Paul preaches Christ, crucified; the Spirit reveals God's wisdom.

Matthew 5:13–20 Jesus says: You are salt and light; I have come to fulfill the law.

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, make a joyful noise! Shout Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Make your voice sound like a trumpet!

Worship leader makes a trumpet sound or cheer,

pausing for congregants to do the same.

Bow down like grass in the wind!

Worship leader bows, pausing for congregants to do the same.

What does the Lord require of us?

to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

God calls us to take care of each other and to love our neighbors.

Then our light shall rise like the morning sun. Let us worship God.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

When we confess, we admit we listen to other voices
instead of listening for God's voice.

We come together with humility to hear about God's grace. Let us pray.

**Loving God, in Christ you have made us one,
but we confess how often we forget.**

We let differences divide us.

We are not always kind.

We ignore the needs of others.

Forgive us.

Change our hearts and change our lives.

**Help us to love and to follow your ways of peace,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God's love is all around you.

You are blessed and holy.

In Christ we are forgiven.

Arise and let your light shine. **Amen.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contributors

Melissa McNair-King
David Gambrell
Mary Margaret Flannagan
Adam Fischer
Anne McNair

Editor

Sally Ann McKinsey

Child of Blessing Advisory Committee

Kimber-lee Adams
Leigh Campbell-Taylor
David Gambrell
Hannah Garrity
Brent Ivey
Amanda Lower
Sandra McDonald
Martha Moore-Keish
Ashley Ross
Joel Schoon-Tanis
David VanderMeer

Presbyterian Association of Musicians

Office Team

Kelly Abraham, Executive Director
Gail Carter, Administrative Manager
Elizabeth Deibert, Development Manager
Charlotte Downs,
Marketing & Region Event Coordinator
Sandra McDonald, Grants Specialist
Sally Ann McKinsey,
Child of Blessing Resource Director
Melissa McNair-King,
Child of Blessing Program Manager
Lisa Myers, Event Coordinator

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