

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

64 Original Liturgies For Gathered Worship

A companion volume to Community Worship Liturgies

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Father • Son • Holy Spirit

Using This Collection

This companion volume shifts the voice of Community Worship Liturgies from personal and household prayer into gathered corporate worship. Every text uses the language of Leader and Church so that the congregation is not merely addressed but invited to speak, confess, receive, remember, and respond together.

The liturgies vary in length, rhythm, and emotional register. Some are brief openings or dismissals. Others are designed for confession, Communion, healing, lament, baptism, testimony, or the Christian year. They may be read exactly as written, adapted to the local setting, divided among several leaders, or paired with silence, music, Scripture, sacramental action, and testimony.

The collection is shaped by Wesleyan and holiness theology. Grace comes before our response, awakens faith, forgives sin, gives new birth, and continues to sanctify. Holiness is presented as a heart and life made whole in love rather than anxious performance. Personal devotion is joined to social holiness, works of piety to works of mercy, and worship to participation in the mission of God.

Scripture references are provided as anchors rather than exhaustive proof texts. Brief quotations from John and Charles Wesley are identified where they appear. The Leader should read with warmth and clarity, leaving enough space for the Church to answer as one body rather than racing through the words.

A Note on Pastoral Use

Corporate language should never be used to pressure people into disclosing trauma, offering premature forgiveness, remaining in unsafe situations, or pretending certainty they do not possess. Where a liturgy addresses reconciliation, healing, grief, or suffering, leaders should use wise pastoral judgment and make room for silence, boundaries, professional care, and the different pace at which people receive grace.

The Christian-year section follows broadly shared Western patterns. Movable observances such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost should be checked each year.

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I. GATHERING AND PRAISE

Calls that gather the church around the grace, presence, and glory of the Triune God.

1. Grace Has Already Arrived

A call to worship shaped by prevenient grace

Leader: Before we searched for God, God was already seeking us.

Church: **Grace has gone before us, awakening desire and making room for our response.**

Leader: Before we found the words to pray, the Spirit was already stirring within us.

Church: **We come because mercy has called us, not because we have made ourselves worthy.**

Leader: Let us turn toward the One who has always been turned toward us.

Church: **With grateful hearts, we receive grace and offer ourselves to God.**

Scripture anchors: John 6:44; Romans 2:4; 1 John 4:19

2. Called from Many Places

For the opening of gathered worship

Leader: We have come from quiet homes and crowded roads, from celebration and weariness, from confidence and doubt.

Church: **Christ gathers us into one body, not because we are the same, but because we belong to him.**

Leader: Bring your whole self: your gratitude, your grief, your questions, and your hope.

Church: **Nothing honest must remain outside the mercy of God.**

Leader: People of God, let us worship together.

Church: **We are here. God is present. Love will form us.**

Scripture anchors: Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 2:19-22

3. The Holy Trinity

A Trinitarian call to worship

Leader: We worship the Father, source of every good gift.

Church: **We receive our lives as grace.**

Leader: We worship the Son, the Word made flesh and the Lamb who reigns.

Church: **We follow Jesus in truth, humility, and self-giving love.**

Leader: We worship the Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of holy love.

Church: **We welcome the Spirit who comforts, convicts, sanctifies, and sends.**

Leader: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: one God, perfect communion.

Church: **Draw us into your life and make us a people of love.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

4. Behold the Lamb

A Christ-centered call to worship

Leader: Behold the Lamb of God, who carries the sin and sorrow of the world.

Church: **Jesus Christ, we turn our eyes toward you.**

Leader: Behold the faithful Son, obedient in love and victorious through the cross.

Church: **Jesus Christ, we place our trust in you.**

Leader: Behold the risen Lord, author and protector of our faith.

Church: **Jesus Christ, receive our worship and lead us in your way.**

Scripture anchors: John 1:29; Hebrews 12:1-2; Revelation 5:11-13

5. The God of Every Generation

For intergenerational worship

Leader: God was faithful before we arrived and will remain faithful after we are gone.

Church: **From generation to generation, the steadfast love of the Lord endures.**

Leader: Children, youth, adults, and elders are welcomed into the life of Christ.

Church: **Every age bears gifts; every voice may become praise.**

Leader: Let the stories of the old and the visions of the young meet in the Spirit.

Church: **Together we will remember, testify, listen, and hope.**

Scripture anchors: Psalm 100:5; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17

6. With Body and Breath

An embodied call to worship

Leader: With lungs that breathe and bodies that carry both strength and limitation, we come before God.

Church: **Our bodies are not obstacles to worship; they are places where grace becomes visible.**

Leader: Some will stand, some will sit, some will lift hands, and some will remain still.

Church: **There is room among us for reverence, joy, quiet, movement, and rest.**

Leader: Let every breath become thanksgiving.

Church: **Let our whole lives become a living offering to God.**

Scripture anchors: Psalm 150:6; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

7. A House of Living Stones

For the gathered church

Leader: This building is not the church; the people of God are the church.

Church: **Christ joins us together as living stones, built upon his grace.**

Leader: Here the lonely are given family, the weary are given shelter, and the gifted are given work to share.

Church: Here we learn to bear burdens, speak truth, practice forgiveness, and rejoice together.

Leader: Let this gathering become more than attendance.

Church: Make us a holy people in whom Jesus is at home.

Scripture anchors: 1 Peter 2:4-5; Ephesians 2:21-22; Galatians 6:2

II. CONFESSION, ASSURANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

Responses that tell the truth about sin while trusting the greater truth of redeeming grace.

8. Before the God Who Sees

A general prayer of confession

Leader: Holy God, you see beyond appearance into the hidden movements of the heart.

Church: **We confess what we have done, what we have left undone, and what we have refused to see.**

Leader: Where pride has made us defensive, where fear has made us cruel, and where comfort has made us indifferent,

Church: **Lord, have mercy and lead us into truth.**

Leader: We do not confess in order to earn love, but because love has already come near.

Church: **By the grace of Jesus Christ, forgive us, cleanse us, and make us new.**

Scripture anchors: Psalm 139:23-24; 1 John 1:8-9

9. The Sin of Hurry

Confession for distracted and hurried communities

Leader: Patient God, we have hurried past your presence and past the people placed before us.

Church: **We have treated attention as a luxury and busyness as a virtue.**

Leader: We have answered before listening, consumed without gratitude, and moved too quickly to notice pain.

Church: **Forgive the haste that diminishes love.**

Leader: Jesus, teach us your unforced rhythms of grace.

Church: **Slow us enough to become available to God and neighbor.**

Scripture anchors: Mark 6:31; Luke 10:38-42; James 1:19

10. Our Illusion of Self-Sufficiency

A confession of dependence

Leader: God of all life, we confess that we prefer to need you in theory rather than in practice.

Church: **We have trusted our plans, resources, intelligence, and control more than your care.**

Leader: We have hidden weakness, resisted help, and confused independence with maturity.

Church: **Deliver us from the lonely burden of pretending to be enough.**

Leader: Christ, you are the vine and we are the branches.

Church: **Apart from you we cannot bear the fruit of holy love.**

Scripture anchors: John 15:4-5; 2 Corinthians 12:9

11. For a Divided Church

Confession and prayer for Christian unity

Leader: Lord Jesus, you prayed that your people would be one.

Church: We confess the pride, suspicion, rivalry, and contempt that fracture your body.

Leader: We have defended our traditions without humility and pursued unity without truth.

Church: Forgive us for speaking of other Christians as enemies rather than siblings.

Leader: Holy Spirit, make us neither careless about conviction nor addicted to conflict.

Church: Form in us the patient, courageous unity of Christ.

Scripture anchors: John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6

12. Mercy at the Cross

Confession beneath the cross of Christ

Leader: At the cross, human sin is exposed and divine love is poured out.

Church: We bring the fear that abandons, the power that condemns, and the silence that looks away.

Leader: Jesus does not answer violence with violence or hatred with hatred.

Church: Lamb of God, have mercy on us and teach us your way.

Leader: The cross is not permission for abuse; it is God's judgment upon cruelty and God's solidarity with the wounded.

Church: Crucified Christ, free us from sin and form us in self-giving love.

Scripture anchors: Luke 23:33-34; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 Peter 2:21-24

13. Assurance of New Birth

An assurance of pardon and regenerating grace

Leader: Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, sin does not receive the final word.

Church: The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God.

Leader: Those who turn toward Christ are forgiven, welcomed, and made alive by grace.

Church: We receive not only pardon for the past, but new life for the present.

Leader: Old names do not define us. Old chains do not own us.

Church: In Christ we are a new creation, learning to walk in freedom and love.

Scripture anchors: John 3:3-8; Romans 8:15-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17

14. The Peace of Christ Between Us

For reconciliation before prayer or Communion

Leader: The peace of Christ is not shallow politeness or the avoidance of truth.

Church: It is the reconciling presence of Jesus among people who need grace.

Leader: Where apology is ours to offer, give us courage.

Church: Where forgiveness is beginning, give us patience.

Leader: Where safety requires wise boundaries, give us clarity.

Church: As far as it depends upon us, make us people who pursue peace.

Scripture anchors: Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18; Colossians 3:12-15

III. HOLINESS AND FORMATION

Liturgies for sanctification, Christian maturity, and the Wesleyan hope of a heart made whole in love.

15. Entirely Yours

A prayer of consecration

Leader: God of holy love, we offer more than selected rooms of our lives.

Church: **We open to you our desires, habits, relationships, resources, wounds, and plans.**

Leader: Take what is divided within us and gather it beneath the lordship of Jesus.

Church: **Purify our motives, reorder our loves, and make us entirely yours.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, fill every surrendered place with the love of God.

Church: **Sanctify us through and through, so that our lives may become available to grace.**

Scripture anchors: Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

16. Perfect Love, Not Perfect Performance

A Wesleyan liturgy of Christian perfection

Leader: God does not call us to anxious flawlessness, but to a heart made whole in love.

Church: **Deliver us from perfectionism that hides weakness and from excuses that resist transformation.**

Leader: Let love for God become the governing desire of our lives.

Church: **Let love for neighbor become visible in patience, truth, mercy, justice, and courage.**

Leader: When we fail, return us quickly to grace; when we grow, keep us humble.

Church: **Holy Spirit, perfect your love in us and make us more like Jesus.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 5:48; 1 John 4:16-18; Philippians 3:12-14

17. The Means of Grace

For prayer, Scripture, fellowship, fasting, and the sacraments

Leader: God meets us through ordinary practices made alive by the Spirit.

Church: **We receive prayer, Scripture, fellowship, fasting, Communion, and baptism as gifts of grace.**

Leader: Keep us from treating these practices as ladders by which we climb toward God.

Church: **They are places where the God who has come near continues to form us.**

Leader: Give us disciplined lives without spiritual pride.

Church: **Through the means of grace, make us attentive, receptive, and fruitful in love.**

Scripture anchors: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Timothy 4:7-8

18. Holiness in the Common Hours

For everyday discipleship

Leader: Holiness is not reserved for platforms, crises, or dramatic moments.

Church: **The Spirit forms Christ in kitchens, offices, classrooms, hospital rooms, workshops, and roads.**

Leader: Make us faithful in the small decision, the repeated task, the unseen kindness, and the honest word.

Church: **Let ordinary obedience become the steady shape of holy love.**

Leader: God of common hours, receive this day.

Church: **Make every place a sanctuary and every task an offering.**

Scripture anchors: Colossians 3:17, 23-24; Luke 16:10

19. Search Us and Lead Us

A responsive prayer of examination

Leader: Holy Spirit, where our words are gentle but our motives are proud,

Church: **Search us and lead us in the everlasting way.**

Leader: Where our convictions are strong but our compassion is weak,

Church: **Search us and lead us in the everlasting way.**

Leader: Where fear disguises itself as wisdom and comfort disguises itself as peace,

Church: **Search us and lead us in the everlasting way.**

Leader: Where love is already taking root,

Church: **Strengthen it until our lives bear the likeness of Christ.**

Scripture anchors: Psalm 139:23-24; Galatians 5:22-25

20. The Mind of Christ

A prayer for Christlike character

Leader: Jesus Christ did not grasp for status, but emptied himself in love.

Church: **Give us the mind of Christ.**

Leader: He welcomed the overlooked, confronted hypocrisy, touched the unclean, and washed his friends' feet.

Church: **Give us the mind of Christ.**

Leader: He spoke truth without contempt and carried authority without domination.

Church: **Give us the mind of Christ.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, shape our instincts until the way of Jesus becomes our way.

Church: **Let his humility, courage, and compassion live in us.**

Scripture anchors: Philippians 2:5-11; John 13:1-17

21. No Holiness but Social Holiness

Inspired by John Wesley's 1739 preface to Hymns and Sacred Poems

Leader: John Wesley wrote that the gospel knows 'no holiness but social holiness.'

Church: **We cannot learn the love of God while refusing the difficult grace of community.**

Leader: Save us from a private faith that leaves our relationships, systems, and neighbors untouched.

Church: **Join works of piety to works of mercy, devotion to justice, and prayer to practical love.**

Leader: Make the church a school of holiness where truth and grace are practiced together.

Church: **Sanctify us in community, for the sake of the world Christ loves.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 5:13-16; Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 5:6

IV. WORD, PRAYER, TABLE, AND SACRAMENT

Responses for the central practices through which the gathered church receives and embodies the grace of God.

22. Before the Reading of Scripture

A prayer of illumination

Leader: The words of Scripture come to us through ancient languages, particular people, and the faithful witness of the church.

Church: **Holy Spirit, open our minds without separating understanding from obedience.**

Leader: Keep us from using the Bible to avoid Jesus, defend pride, or wound our neighbor.

Church: **Teach us to read with reverence, wisdom, humility, and love.**

Leader: Speak, Lord, through the written Word.

Church: **Form in us the living Word, Jesus Christ.**

Scripture anchors: Luke 24:27, 32; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

23. After the Reading of Scripture

A response to the Word

Leader: We have heard the witness of Scripture.

Church: **Let the word of Christ live richly among us.**

Leader: Where it comforts, help us receive comfort. Where it confronts, help us remain present.

Church: **Where it calls, give us courage to obey.**

Leader: Do not let us become hearers who quickly forget.

Church: **By the Spirit, let the Word become flesh in our life together.**

Scripture anchors: James 1:22-25; Colossians 3:16

24. For Preaching and Listening

Before the sermon or homily

Leader: God of truth, guard the one who speaks from vanity, fear, and the temptation to perform.

Church: **Give the preacher clarity, humility, courage, and love.**

Leader: Guard the congregation from passive hearing and defensive certainty.

Church: **Give us attention, discernment, patience, and a willingness to change.**

Leader: Let no personality eclipse the presence of Christ.

Church: **May Jesus be proclaimed, the church be formed, and the world be served.**

Scripture anchors: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

25. Remembering Our Baptism

For baptism or reaffirmation

Leader: In baptism, grace names us before achievement and joins us to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Church: We remember that we belong to Christ and to his body.

Leader: We renounce sin, the powers that deform life, and the false identities that diminish love.

Church: We turn again toward Jesus, trusting his mercy and following his way.

Leader: Holy Spirit, awaken the life signified in these waters.

Church: Make us a baptized people: forgiven, courageous, holy, and sent.

Scripture anchors: Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28

26. At the Table of the Lord

For Holy Communion

Leader: This is the table of Jesus Christ, who gives himself before we understand the cost.

Church: We come hungry for grace, not claiming worthiness of our own.

Leader: Here the proud are humbled, the ashamed are welcomed, and strangers are made one body.

Church: Let the bread we receive become mercy we share.

Leader: Let the cup of the covenant become courage for costly love.

Church: Christ our host, feed us into your likeness and send us for the life of the world.

Scripture anchors: Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26

27. The Offering of Our Lives

For tithes, offerings, and generosity

Leader: Everything we hold has first been received: breath, time, ability, relationship, opportunity, and material provision.

Church: We give in gratitude, not to purchase favor or display virtue.

Leader: Receive these gifts and the lives from which they come.

Church: Use them to proclaim good news, care for people, resist injustice, and strengthen the church.

Leader: Free us from fear, hoarding, manipulation, and waste.

Church: Make us wise, joyful, transparent, and openhanded.

Scripture anchors: 1 Chronicles 29:14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:6-8

28. The Prayers of the People

A framework for corporate intercession

Leader: For the church throughout the world, that we may be holy, humble, and faithful,

Church: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For nations, leaders, and communities, that justice and peace may be pursued,

Church: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the sick, grieving, displaced, imprisoned, lonely, and afraid,

Church: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For our enemies, our neighbors, and those entrusted to our care,

Church: Lord, make us part of the answer to our prayer.

Scripture anchors: 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Ephesians 6:18

V. MISSION, MERCY, AND SENDING

Liturgies that join worship to witness, works of mercy, justice, vocation, and participation in the mission of God.

29. All the World Is Our Parish

Inspired by John Wesley's letter of March 20, 1739

Leader: John Wesley wrote, 'I look upon all the world as my parish.'

Church: **The good news of Jesus cannot be confined to our preferred rooms or familiar people.**

Leader: Send us across the distances created by fear, class, race, generation, culture, and resentment.

Church: **Give us courage to speak of Christ and humility to listen for grace already at work.**

Leader: The world is not our market or our possession.

Church: **It is the beloved field of God's mission, and we go as servants.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

30. Sent in the Peace of Christ

A brief dismissal

Leader: We have gathered in the presence of God.

Church: **Now we carry that presence into the world.**

Leader: Go without fear, for Christ goes before you.

Church: **We will walk in grace, speak truth, and practice peace.**

Leader: Go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Church: **We are sent to love God and neighbor with our whole lives.**

Scripture anchors: John 20:21-22; Luke 10:1-9

31. Works of Mercy

For service, compassion, and local mission

Leader: Jesus meets us among the hungry, thirsty, sick, imprisoned, displaced, and overlooked.

Church: **Do not let our worship remain safely inside this room.**

Leader: Open our hands to feed, visit, advocate, mentor, shelter, repair, and accompany.

Church: **Make compassion practical and justice personal.**

Leader: Save us from helping in ways that protect our pride or ignore another person's dignity.

Church: **Teach us to serve with humility, wisdom, partnership, and enduring love.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 25:31-40; James 2:14-17

32. Justice and Compassion

A prayer for public faithfulness

Leader: God of justice, you hear the cry of the oppressed and see the suffering hidden by power.

Church: **Make us attentive to people whose pain is easy for us to overlook.**

Leader: Keep us from compassion without truth and justice without mercy.

Church: **Teach us to protect the vulnerable, confront harm, repair what can be repaired, and refuse contempt.**

Leader: Let holiness reach our institutions, spending, speech, voting, labor, and common life.

Church: **May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.**

Scripture anchors: Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:17; Luke 4:18-19

33. Good News Without Coercion

For evangelism and witness

Leader: Jesus, you invite people to follow; you do not manipulate them into fear.

Church: **Make our witness truthful, clear, patient, and free of coercion.**

Leader: Give us courage to name the hope within us and humility to honor every person's dignity.

Church: **Keep us from treating people as projects or arguments to win.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, prepare hearts in ways we cannot control.

Church: **Let our words and lives point faithfully toward Jesus Christ.**

Scripture anchors: 1 Peter 3:15-16; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7

34. For the Work of Our Hands

A liturgy of vocation

Leader: Creator God, bless the paid and unpaid work through which life is sustained.

Church: **Receive caregiving, teaching, building, cleaning, creating, repairing, leading, learning, and rest.**

Leader: Where our work serves life, give endurance. Where it contributes to harm, give courage to change.

Church: **Save us from making work an idol or treating workers as machines.**

Leader: Let skill become service and influence become responsibility.

Church: **Whatever we do, may it become an offering of love to God and neighbor.**

Scripture anchors: Genesis 2:15; Colossians 3:23-24

35. A Benediction of Holy Love

For the close of worship

Leader: May the love of the Father ground you more deeply than fear.

Church: **We receive the love from which all holy living begins.**

Leader: May the grace of Jesus free you to repent, forgive, serve, and begin again.

Church: **We follow Christ, whose mercy is stronger than our failure.**

Leader: May the Holy Spirit fill you with power for perfect love.

Church: **We go to become the people of God in the places God sends us.**

Scripture anchors: 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 3:16-19

VI. PASTORAL MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Liturgies for lament, healing, grief, testimony, and life together across difference.

36. When the Church Laments

For tragedy, violence, disaster, or communal sorrow

Leader: God of compassion, we refuse to rush past grief or cover pain with easy answers.

Church: Receive our sorrow, anger, confusion, and silence.

Leader: We remember those whose names are known and those whose suffering remains unseen.

Church: Hold the wounded, strengthen caregivers, guide leaders, and expose every hidden harm.

Leader: Keep lament from becoming despair and hope from becoming denial.

Church: Teach us to weep, pray, act, and remain near in the love of Christ.

Scripture anchors: Psalm 13; Romans 8:22-27; John 11:33-36

37. A Prayer for Healing

For services of healing or anointing

Leader: Jesus Christ, healer of bodies, minds, relationships, and communities, draw near.

Church: We ask boldly for healing and humbly entrust the form of that healing to you.

Leader: Bless medicine, counseling, rest, surgery, therapy, friendship, prayer, and wise care.

Church: Keep us from blaming those who remain ill or measuring faith by outcomes.

Leader: Where cure is not yet given, grant presence, courage, relief, and sustaining grace.

Church: Make us a community that carries one another with patience and hope.

Scripture anchors: Mark 2:1-12; James 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

38. For Grief and Remembrance

For memorials or congregational remembrance

Leader: God of the living, we remember those we love who have died.

Church: Their absence has weight, and their love still shapes us.

Leader: Jesus entered death and broke its claim to finality.

Church: We grieve with hope, without pretending that hope removes the ache.

Leader: Holy Spirit, carry memories, regrets, gratitude, and unanswered questions.

Church: Hold the departed in mercy and hold us until all things are made new.

Scripture anchors: John 11:25-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-5

39. Testimony and Thanksgiving

For celebrating the work of God

Leader: We give thanks for grace made visible in changed lives, answered prayer, enduring faith, and unexpected provision.

Church: Every good gift comes from God, and no faithful story belongs to one person alone.

Leader: Keep testimony from becoming comparison or performance.

Church: Let every story magnify Jesus and strengthen those who are still waiting.

Leader: For what God has done, we give thanks.

Church: For what God is doing unseen, we continue in hope.

Scripture anchors: Psalm 107:1-2; James 1:17; Revelation 12:11

40. One Body Across Difference

For congregations navigating disagreement

Leader: We are not united because every question is settled or every preference is shared.

Church: We are united because Jesus Christ has received us and made us one body.

Leader: Teach us to distinguish conviction from contempt and unity from forced sameness.

Church: Give us courage to speak honestly, humility to learn, and patience to remain at the table.

Leader: Where harm must be confronted, make us truthful. Where misunderstanding can be repaired, make us gentle.

Church: Let our life together become a credible witness to reconciling grace.

Scripture anchors: Romans 14:1-19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

VII. THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

Seasonal liturgies organized through the church year. Movable dates should be checked annually.

41. New Year: Grace for Another Beginning

January 1

Leader: A new year begins, but our hope does not rest in a calendar.

Church: **Our hope rests in the mercy of God, new every morning.**

Leader: We bring gratitude, unfinished work, old wounds, fresh questions, and small hopes.

Church: **Receive the year before we can control it.**

Leader: Jesus, Lord of time, teach us to begin again without pretending we have never failed.

Church: **Make us more like you, one ordinary yes at a time.**

Scripture anchors: Lamentations 3:22-24; Philippians 3:12-14

42. Epiphany: Light for the Road

January 6 or the Sunday of Epiphany

Leader: The magi were not given the whole map; they were given light for the next faithful step.

Church: **Jesus, Light of the world, guide us beyond fear and familiarity.**

Leader: Keep us from following every glittering thing or confusing your glory with our ambition.

Church: **Lead us to Christ, where wisdom kneels and worship gives freely.**

Leader: When obedience requires a different road home,

Church: **Give us courage to return changed by the face of Jesus.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 2:1-12; John 8:12

43. Baptism of the Lord: Beloved Before Achievement

First Sunday after Epiphany

Leader: At the Jordan, the Father named Jesus beloved before his public work began.

Church: **Love is not wages, and belonging is not a prize for productivity.**

Leader: Jesus entered the water in solidarity with sinners.

Church: **He joins himself to us and leads us through death into life.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, drown the false names we have accepted.

Church: **Raise us to live as beloved people who are free to love.**

Scripture anchors: Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 6:3-4

44. Transfiguration: Listen to Him

Last Sunday after Epiphany or August 6

Leader: On the mountain, the glory of Christ shone through what had always been true.

Church: We receive holy moments as gifts, not possessions.

Leader: The voice from the cloud directs us away from spectacle and toward Jesus.

Church: We will listen to him.

Leader: When the brightness fades and the road descends toward people in pain,

Church: Carry the light into our ordinary obedience.

Scripture anchors: Matthew 17:1-9; 2 Peter 1:16-18

45. Ash Wednesday: Dust and Breath

Ash Wednesday

Leader: Remember that you are dust: limited, mortal, unable to secure yourself against loss.

Church: Remember that you are breath-filled: loved, sustained, and alive by a gift you did not create.

Leader: We confess our sin without disguise and our need without shame.

Church: Merciful God, create clean hearts within us.

Leader: From dust we came, and to dust we return.

Church: Even the dust belongs to God, and resurrection is held in Christ.

Scripture anchors: Genesis 2:7; Psalm 51:10-12; Ecclesiastes 3:20

46. Lent: Into the Wilderness

For the season of Lent

Leader: Jesus entered the wilderness where false promises became audible.

Church: We know the voices that offer satisfaction without trust, power without surrender, and certainty without faith.

Leader: Let fasting uncover our hunger and prayer redirect our desire.

Church: Let repentance become a doorway, not a prison.

Leader: Lead us toward the cross with less illusion and more love.

Church: In the wilderness, make room in us for God.

Scripture anchors: Matthew 4:1-11; Joel 2:12-13

47. Palm Sunday: The King Who Comes Gently

Palm Sunday

Leader: Jesus enters Jerusalem without armor, domination, or fear.

Church: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: We confess how easily we praise the Jesus who serves our plans and resist the Jesus who leads us toward enemy-love.

Church: Hosanna. Save us from following you poorly.

Leader: Enter the crowded city of our hearts and overturn every table of self-serving religion.

Church: Teach us the authority of gentleness and the power of sacrificial love.

Scripture anchors: Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:28-40

48. Maundy Thursday: The Towel and the Table

Maundy Thursday

Leader: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus did not grasp for control. He took a towel.

Church: Teach us to receive grace from another person's hands.

Leader: Then teach us to rise, kneel, and serve without performance.

Church: Turn love from a beautiful idea into a concrete action.

Leader: At the table, Christ gives himself before anyone understands the price.

Church: Command us again to love with basin, bread, patience, truth, forgiveness, and courage.

Scripture anchors: John 13:1-17, 34-35; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

49. Good Friday: Beneath the Cross

Good Friday

Leader: We come beneath the cross without trying to make suffering beautiful.

Church: Here violence exposes itself, and love remains faithful to the end.

Leader: We are not only spectators; the fear that abandons and the silence that looks away live among us.

Church: Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus entrusts himself to the Father, welcomes the condemned, and refuses revenge.

Church: Crucified Lord, tell the truth about our sin and the greater truth about your love.

Scripture anchors: Luke 23:32-49; John 19:25-30

50. Holy Saturday: The Holiness of Not Yet

Holy Saturday

Leader: The tomb is sealed. The worst has happened, and the new thing cannot yet be seen.

Church: We know the landscape between grief and dawn.

Leader: Jesus has entered death completely; no depth of darkness is untouched by his presence.

Church: Keep watch with us in the silence.

Leader: We will not force hope into a shape we can control.

Church: The tomb is not beyond the reach of God.

Scripture anchors: Matthew 27:57-66; 1 Peter 3:18-19

51. Easter: The Garden Has Changed

Easter Sunday

Leader: The stone is moved. The grave is open. Christ is risen.

Church: He is risen indeed. The garden has changed.

Leader: The risen body still bears wounds, but wounds are no longer the whole story.

Church: Death is real, but it does not receive the final word.

Leader: Holy Spirit, breathe resurrection into exhausted hearts and fearful communities.

Church: Make us people who practice resurrection through mercy, repair, courage, welcome, and hope.

Scripture anchors: John 20:1-18; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

52. Eastertide: Learning Resurrection Slowly

Easter through Pentecost

Leader: Easter is not a single morning we leave behind; it is a new world we learn to inhabit.

Church: Yet we carry old reflexes of fear, scarcity, suspicion, and shame.

Leader: Risen Christ, call us from the tombs that still feel familiar.

Church: Loosen the grave clothes of resentment, numbness, and despair.

Leader: Teach us resurrection slowly.

Church: Let mercy after offense, courage after disappointment, and hope after grief become holy muscle memory.

Scripture anchors: John 20:19-29; Colossians 3:1-4

53. Ascension: Christ Reigns

Forty days after Easter

Leader: Jesus ascends beyond the reach of his friends, yet not beyond relationship.

Church: Christ has not abandoned the world; he reigns over it.

Leader: Lift our vision beyond the urgent and immediate.

Church: Keep our feet on the earth, ready for witness and service.

Leader: Every lesser power is temporary, and no act of love is wasted.

Church: Jesus Christ is Lord. We wait, work, pray, and hope beneath his reign.

Scripture anchors: Acts 1:6-11; Ephesians 1:20-23

54. Pentecost: Breath, Fire, and Courage

Fifty days after Easter

Leader: Holy Spirit, move through the closed rooms of our fear.

Church: Breath of God, make us alive to the mission of Jesus.

Leader: At Pentecost, difference was not erased; understanding became possible.

Church: Give us language that carries good news across cultures, generations, and divisions.

Leader: Where the church is timid, breathe. Where it is controlling, purify. Where it is divided, reconcile.

Church: Make our lives combustible with holy love.

Scripture anchors: Acts 2:1-21; Joel 2:28-32

55. Trinity Sunday: The Life of God Is Love

First Sunday after Pentecost

Leader: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: your life is not lonely power but eternal communion.

Church: Love is not something you occasionally do; love is who you are.

Leader: Draw us into a unity that does not erase difference and a diversity that does not destroy belonging.

Church: Heal us from domination and teach us communion.

Leader: Holy Trinity, mystery beyond explanation and presence nearer than breath,

Church: Make our life together an echo of your love.

Scripture anchors: Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

56. Ordinary Time: Green Things Grow Slowly

The season after Pentecost

Leader: The long green season does not offer constant drama. It offers growth.

Church: Much of grace is too slow to watch and too quiet to measure.

Leader: Bless prayer without fireworks, meals shared, work completed, promises kept, and forgiveness attempted again.

Church: Do not let us despise small beginnings.

Leader: Spirit of God, cultivate fruit that cannot be rushed.

Church: We trust that holy love is growing, even beneath the surface.

Scripture anchors: Mark 4:26-32; Galatians 5:22-23

57. All Saints: Surrounded by Witnesses

November 1 or the following Sunday

Leader: We remember saints known by many and saints known only to God.

Church: Through their preaching, praying, parenting, serving, creating, resisting, and enduring, grace became visible.

Leader: We do not pretend they were flawless; holiness was grace received and embodied through struggle.

Church: Make us grateful heirs rather than nostalgic spectators.

Leader: When discipleship feels lonely, remind us that we are surrounded.

Church: May our own small faithfulness become a gift to generations we may never meet.

58. Christ the King: A Kingdom Unlike Ours

Last Sunday before Advent

Leader: Jesus Christ reigns from a throne shaped like a cross.

Church: His power is truth, mercy, justice, servanthood, and self-giving love.

Leader: Expose every nation, party, leader, ideology, and desire that asks for the worship belonging to God.

Church: Free our public life from fear, contempt, and idolatry.

Leader: Christ the King, rule our loyalties, speech, spending, and treatment of opponents.

Church: Let your kingdom come in us as it is in heaven.

Scripture anchors: John 18:33-37; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 1:4-6

59. Advent Hope: A Candle Against Despair

First Sunday of Advent

Leader: Hope is not pretending the night is bright.

Church: Hope lights a candle because darkness is not final.

Leader: We name the conflict, illness, grief, injustice, and unanswered prayer that strain our imagination.

Church: God of promise, keep despair from masquerading as wisdom.

Leader: Give us hope sturdy enough for action and patient enough for waiting.

Church: Until Christ comes in fullness, keep the candle burning in us.

Scripture anchors: Isaiah 9:2-7; Romans 8:18-25

60. Advent Peace: Making Room for Wholeness

Second Sunday of Advent

Leader: Prince of Peace, give us more than quiet. Give us shalom.

Church: Bring wholeness rooted in justice, truth, mercy, and right relationship.

Leader: Where anxiety has filled the room, bring breath. Where resentment has taken a chair, bring truthful grace.

Church: Where our habits create conflict, give us courage to change.

Leader: Make room in us for the One who comes without force.

Church: Teach us the peace no weapon can create.

Scripture anchors: Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 1:76-79

61. Advent Joy: The Deep Gladness

Third Sunday of Advent

Leader: Joy is not constant cheerfulness or the denial of sorrow.

Church: Joy is the deep knowledge that we are loved, accompanied, and not abandoned.

Leader: Mary sang before the world was safe, and hope stirred within ordinary bodies.

Church: Holy Spirit, awaken delight beneath circumstance.

Leader: Let gratitude interrupt complaint and beauty become a gift we can receive.

Church: Let joy resist every power that claims fear and death are ultimate.

Scripture anchors: Luke 1:39-55; Philippians 4:4-7

62. Advent Love: God Comes Near

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leader: The love of God did not remain distant.

Church: In Jesus, love came near: vulnerable, present, truthful, and full of grace.

Leader: Show us where love requires a meal, an apology, a boundary, a gift, a visit, or patient presence.

Church: Keep us from romanticizing love or using it to excuse harm.

Leader: Come near to us, Emmanuel.

Church: Make us people through whom others experience the nearness of God.

Scripture anchors: Matthew 1:18-25; 1 John 4:9-12

63. The Longest Night: God in the Dark

For a Blue Christmas or Longest Night service

Leader: This season is bright for many and painful for many others.

Church: Some lights sharpen the outline of an empty place.

Leader: We bring loneliness, infertility, miscarriage, illness, family tension, financial fear, trauma, and grief.

Church: We will not force sorrow into holiday cheer.

Leader: Jesus was born into danger and displacement. Holy Spirit, become comfort that does not hurry.

Church: Darkness is not evidence of God's absence. Keep watch with us until morning.

Scripture anchors: Psalm 42; John 1:5; Romans 8:26

64. Christmas: The Holy Nearness

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Leader: The eternal Word enters time, and the One whom heaven cannot contain is held in human arms.

Church: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Leader: The night is not polished: there is fatigue, limited space, political power, and ordinary people making room.

Church: Into that world, and into ours, Christ comes.

Leader: We release the pressure to create a perfect celebration.

Church: Let love be present, peace settle, and good news reach the overlooked.

Scripture anchors: Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-18

Sources for Quoted Lines

John Wesley, Preface to Hymns and Sacred Poems (1739): the phrase commonly rendered, 'no holiness but social holiness.' In its original setting, Wesley resists a solitary form of Christianity and joins faith to love practiced in community.

John Wesley, letter to James Hervey, March 20, 1739: 'I look upon all the world as my parish.'

Charles Wesley, 'O for a Heart to Praise My God' (1742): 'A heart in every thought renewed, and full of love divine.' The line informs the collection's language of holy love, though the hymn text is not reproduced as a full liturgy.

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