

Transforming Worship

A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship: Session 3

A Sample Service of the Word

*Designed for use in Ordinary Time when all ages might be present.
Readings are taken from Principal Service, Trinity 8, Year A*

Preparation: *We gather to worship God*

Greeting

Leader Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

All This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Words of welcome and introduction may follow.

Opening Prayer

All Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

All sing Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.**

Walter Chalmers Smith.

Prayers of Penitence: *We say sorry to God*

Leader We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

All

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

All

Hymn

All sing **Speak, O Lord as we come to You
to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all Your purposes, for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
as the earth is filled with Your glory.**

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, © 2005 Thankyou Music

The Word of God

First Reading: 1 Kings 3. 5 – 12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.'

And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 119. 129 – 136

All **Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.**

Leader Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

All **The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.

All **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love your name.**

**Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.**

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

All **Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments.**

Show the light of your countenance upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

All **My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your law.**

Glory be the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.**

Second Reading: Matthew 13. 31 – 33, 44 – 52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Talk

The Creed

Leader Let us declare our faith in God

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Hymn

All sing **There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.**

**For justice, for freedom,
for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.**

There is a longing...

**For wisdom, for courage,
for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.**

There is a longing...

**For healing, for wholeness,
for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.**

There is a longing...

**Lord, save us, take pity,
light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait:
be near, hear our prayer, O God.**

There is a longing...

Anne Quigley, © 1992, Anne Quigley, published by OCP.

Prayer

Thanksgivings and Intercessions

The prayers may include one of these responses

Leader Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

(or)

Leader Lord, hear your people
All **and answer our prayers.**

The prayers may end with

Leader Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

A Collect

Leader Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Leader Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Conclusion: *Going out to serve God*

Hymn

All sing

**Hope of our calling: hope through courage won
by those who dared to share all Christ had done.
Saints of today, Christ's banner now unfurled,
will bring his gospel to a waiting world.**

**Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,
inspired by all that we have seen and heard;
this call is ours, for we are chosen too,
to live for God in all we say and do.**

**Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,
from death's despair the gift of life restored;
our call to serve, to wash each other's feet,
to bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.**

**Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold
to sow God's righteousness throughout the world;
bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,
the kingdom's harvest from the kingdom's seeds.**

**Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,
old joys remembered and new purpose found,
our call refreshed by sacrament and word,
we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

Ally Barrett, © 2006 Ally Barrett, Tune: Woodlands

A Closing Prayer

Leader

Everlasting God,
our beginning and our end,
continue with us on this day's journey.
Take us and use us
to love and serve
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

The Grace

All

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

All texts are taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, © The Archbishops' Council, 2000 and New Patterns for Worship, © The Archbishops' Council, 2002

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