

Common Worship

Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book & Enriching Our Worship
http://www.liturgy.co.nz/resources/NZPBHKMA/A_New_Zealand_Prayer_Book.epub
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/enriching-our-worship-1/enrichingourworship1.pdf>

Except for the Great Thanksgiving, the service may be led by any member of the gathered community.
All speak the words in boldface.
A gathering song may be sung.

The heralds of God keep us through the coming night,
and quiet the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to joy.

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety. For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.
(silence)

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

God, thank you for all that is good, for our creation and our humanity, for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth, for the gifts of life and of one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O most holy and beloved Companion, our guide upon the way, our bright evening star.

We turn from the wrongs we have done:
(silence)

We have wounded your love.
O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.
Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home, and you ours.
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and may be is open to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame, burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God who is Love.

Psalm or other song
Scripture Reading
Afterwards the reader says
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Thanks be to God

Credal Meditation:
We open ourselves, inquisitively, to the teachings of the ancient creeds:
—that we and all others are beloved offspring of the Beginning, Way and End of all things—God;
—that God engages us especially in the story of Jesus' beginning, way and end—and new beginning;
—that with this story our own conflicted stories are becoming forever and diversely one in Spirit.
Silence

I ask your prayers, silent or spoken, for the universal faith community ...
the welfare of this land and of those entrusted to lead us ...
the welfare of the world ...
the concerns of this community ...
those who suffer and those in any trouble ...
the departed ...

(Prayers are deeply personal expressions. Don't disparage others' words. Try words that fit you. No words are totally adequate.)

Concluding Collect
God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**
(source: Veronese Sacramentary)

The Peace

The 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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. ELW 190

The Presider continues, recalling God's saving deeds, reciting Jesus' words of institution and calling upon the Holy Spirit to sanctify this sacred meal. The people respond with:
AMEN

The Lord's Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)
As our Savior Christ inspires us, we now pray:
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread.
Silence

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. "Your mystery is laid on the table. Your mystery you receive. Be what you see, and receive what you are" (St. Augustine).

The Bread and Cup are shared.

Concluding Prayers

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.
Keep me, O God, as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.

Living Word, night comes. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in your presence. Night comes after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done. Let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen**

A sending song may be sung.

Benediction

People and Presider

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you.
May God give you grace never to sell yourself short,
Grace to risk something big for something good,
Grace to remember that the world is now too
dangerous for anything but truth, and too small
for anything but love.
So may God take your minds and think through
them,
May God take your lips and speak through them.
May God take your hearts and set them on fire.
—William Sloane Coffin

Presider

Holy Eternal Majesty, Holy Incarnate Word, Holy Abiding Spirit + bless you forevermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace.

We go in the name of Christ.

GraceUnlimited*

is an adventurous community of faith
that is all-inclusive,
living out the all-embracing love of God
in Jesus Christ.

What makes us distinctive? Our Core Values. **We are...**

Progressive: We are open to new insights. God encounters us not only through the Scriptures and traditions of our past, but also through today's experience and critical thinking.

Traditional: We stand in continuity with generations before us who have encountered God in the life, death and risen life of Jesus Christ. Their past experience is an essential part of who we are today. We are especially informed by the broadly catholic traditions of Anglicanism and Lutheranism.

Inclusive: Whatever your ethnicity, gender, orientation, gender identity or class, whether you are devoutly religious or unapologetically secular, you are welcome to explore and express the unique and irreplaceable gift that you are to us. You are also eligible for election to our leadership team.

Biblical: We listen to the Bible not as a magical answer book, but as a living Word awakening us to God's movement among us today. We also listen to what the best of current biblical scholarship can tell us about the Bible.

Contemplative: We open ourselves in prayer and contemplation to the all-enlivening, all-sustaining, all-embracing presence of God in our lives, trusting that opening ourselves in this way always makes a wholesome difference in the world around us.

Justice-Seeking: Just as the Word became flesh in Jesus long ago, God's common life with us calls for embodiment in just and peaceable relationships here and now. We are drawn to make a difference, and so we encourage involvement in movements for the common good.

*GraceUnlimited is an Indianapolis campus ministry supported by the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and other people of faith and goodwill. Contact: Fr. Charles Allen 317-319-7736; charlesallen5@yahoo.com www.graceunlimitedin.org

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**Hosted by
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