



Liturgical Planning Guide

Many churches don't think of engaging **Church History** when thinking through how we worship and gather together. This tool helps to encourage a practice of more biblical, historical, and theological reflection in an approach to how worship **forms us**.

The following document is laid out in a specific way. In the Old Testament the Temple had 3 "spaces": The outer courts, the inner courts and the Holy of Holies.

- **The Outer Courts** ... this space was where the people were welcomed in, confessed their sins, received forgiveness and they were washed clean in the laver.
- **The Inner Courts** ... this was where the priest alone would enter for the partaking of the lighted Word, the Table and the prayers.
- **Holy of Holies** ... this was where only the High Priest could enter once a year to pour blood on the Ark of the Covenant to pay for all the sins of the people.

God still includes these elements in Worship, though Jesus changes how we relate to these "spaces." He still welcomes us into His presence, we confess our imperfections, He affirms His forgiveness of us, and we are washed in His love. Through Jesus, and because of Jesus' work, ALL believers now have a role of meeting with God as we gather together. We together are the "priesthood" under one High Priest—Christ. We are to hear, understand, and live out the Word of God in Christ's strength; to join in His meal (Communion or Eucharist), and to approach God boldly in prayer.

Jesus now stands as our High Priest in the Holy of Holies in heaven. He made ONE sacrifice for us, and now we can approach Him, know Him, and worship Him confidently.

A form and shape pervades all the liturgical (rhythmic) developments of church history. Generally throughout church history we find that within all the Church Father's writings and documentation there is preserved some basic practices though they may bear some unfamiliar names. In most traditions, the flow of approaching the Lord, and the flow of God meeting with His people contains a Gathering Section, a Word Section, a Tabling section, and a Dismissal to Mission Section. Though this document does not attempt to "affirm" that all church traditions are correct or even useful, we by great measure can learn from those who have gone before us in order to glean their wisdom for today. These historical

snippets of wisdom guard us in keeping our worship services rounded and committed to the essentials of biblical worship.

Those who engage in Christian worship, or those helping to facilitate spiritual formation in gathered worship in their local church, can use this planning guide to interact with different historical developments in the church, as well as the global church calendar. Each section gives a brief explanation of the historical elements, and a place to make notes, to plan, and to work these items creatively, beneficially, and worshipfully into the life of one's own local church gathering.

The Outer Courts

Altar

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Invocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call to Worship and a Welcome of God's filling Spirit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eph. 5:18; Rom. 10:17; 1 Jn. 5:14-15; Ps. 95:1-2, 100:1-4 105:1-3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filled with the Spirit 		
Scriptural or Extemporaneous Call to Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer or Scripture Reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Th. 2:4; 2 Th. 3:18; Rm. 1:7, 2 Cor. 13:14; 2 Pt. 1:2 2 Tim. 1:2; Rev. 1:4-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer or Scripture Reading 		
Hymn of Praise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading or Singing a Psalm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ps. 103:1-6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Creatures of Our God and King 		
Introit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrance or Ascent Read as soon as people gather to meet the Trinity in worship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ps. 20:1-9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Patri <i>Glory to the Father the Source of all being, and to the Son the Eternal Word, and to the Holy Spirit who is the Perfecter of all things, as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.</i> 		
Sanctus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praise adapted from Isaiah 6:3. Introduced by the expression and desire of the community to unite itself with the heavenly Angelic liturgy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt. 21:9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy, Holy, Holy immediately followed by the Benedictus taken from Matthew 21:9. 		
Antiphonal/Response Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically a call and response and alleluia to the readings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt. 21:9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reading from the OT and the Gospels/NT 		

Confession

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Confession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal or internal confession and recognition of sins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book of Common Prayer. 		
Litany/Kyrie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Greek word meaning "supplication." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lk. 18:9-14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyrie "Lord have mercy on us." 		
Collect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective Written Proclamation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rom. 15:5-7 	<p>Anglican Collect</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An address to God. Refer to some attribute of God, or to one of saving acts. The petition The reason for which we ask The conclusion. 		
Creed or Confession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the Core beliefs through history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ps. 40:11-13, 51:1-4; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jhn. 1:8-9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apostles Creed Heidelberg Catechism Westminster Conf. Nicene Creed 		

Assurance

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Sursum Corda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liturgical Greeting and Affirmation of Grace and Forgiveness in Christ. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul's Greetings: Mic. &:18-19; rom. 5:8-9; 1 Pt. 2:24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" Classic call and response ties together the response of the pastor and congregation to the Glory of God. Then the pastor exhorts those participating in the liturgy to lift up their hearts. When they express their agreement ("We lift them up to the Lord"), He then introduces the great theme of thanksgiving, in Greek εὐχαριστία (eucharistia), saying: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." 		
Scripture/Responsive Hymn of Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Greek word meaning "supplication." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eph. 1-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agnus Dei 		

Thanksgiving

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Various Expressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anything that expresses a response to God's Grace. 	<p>Neh. 12:46-47; Ps. 95:2-3; 1 Cor. 1:4-5; 2 Cor. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 9:11-12; Eph. 1:15-16; 1 Tim. 4:4-5; 1 Chr. 16:34; Ps. 7:17; Ps. 28:7; Ps. 100:4; Ps. 106:1; Is. 12:4; Jer. 33:11; Rom. 16:6; Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands Raised Knees Bowed Clapping Singing Prostrate Kneeling 		

Petitions and Intercessions

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Elder Led Prayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liturgical or Extemporaneous prayers by the leader. 	1 Timothy			
Silent Personal Prayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be a prayer or Scripture Reading. 	Psalm 46:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands Raised Knees Bowed Clapping Singing Prostrate Kneeling 		

The Inner Courts

Preaching & Teaching of the Word

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Testimony, Message, Scripture Presenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liturgical or Extemporaneous 	Rom. 10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expository Preaching Series Testimony Scripture Presenting, Dramatization or Reading Discussion 		
Commissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laying on of hands and sending out of leaders by Eldership. 	1 Tim. 4:14, 5:22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion 		
Creed/Faith Affirmations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the Core beliefs through history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ps. 40:11-13, 51:1-4; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jhn. 1:8-9 	Apostles Creed Heidelberg Catechism Westminster Conf. Nicene Creed		

Table

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Anaphora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucharist Prayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt. 26:26-29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus took bread; blessed; broke— then He gave thanks. 		
Sursum Corda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liturgical Greeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Above 		
Preface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great prayer of thanksgiving for salvation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heb. 12:28-29; Ps.28:7, 34:1, 69:30; 95:1-6, 100:4, 107:29-32; 1 Chr. 16:8, 34; Col. 2:6-7; 3:15; Jonah 2:9; Eph. 5:3-4; 1 Tim. 4:4-5; 1 Thess. 5:189 			
Sanctus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Above 		
Final Words of Eucharistic Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgment of God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heb. 12:28-29; Ps.28:7, 34:1, 69:30, 95:1-6, 100:4,107:29- 	<p><i>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i></p> <p><i>Hosanna in the highest</i></p>		
Post Sanctus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer linking Sanctus with following part. 				
Institution Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account and pronouncement of Last Supper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lk. 22:19; Mt. 26:26; 1 Cor. 11:24; Acts 27:35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Anaphora 		
Anamnesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Character of the Eucharist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lk. 24:27, 30-31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reenacting God's Story 		
Oblation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering to the Lord of the Sacrifice of the Eucharist... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Preface Verses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reenacting God's Story 		
				Alms or Offering Mt. 6:1-4	

Charge & Blessing

	Description	Scripture	Example	Church Calendar	Plan Items
Passing the Peace	<p>... People needing salvation should approach <u>God</u>.</p> <p>... People responding to <u>God</u> in giving generously, taking communion, coming forward in baptism, or pronouncing a vow before an elder.</p> <p>... People needing to confess a thanksgiving, a praise, an encouragement should approach any person.</p> <p>... People needing to confess a sin, a wrong, or an act of reconciliation .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jm. 5:14; 1 Jn. 1:9; Col. 3:16; Mt. 5:24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Rightly discern the body of Christ.” This is a statement of mission, not of self-reflection, as it should be read in the context of 1 Cor. 10 concerning the Lord’s Supper. 		
Benediction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A committed blessing 	Num. 6:24-26; Ps. 23:6; Eph. 3:16-21; Rom. 15:13; Col. 3:15-17; Heb. 13:20-21	Aaronic Blessing: May the Lord bless and keep you, etc.		
Doxology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is a solemn hymn of response to the Trinity. 	<p>Concludes songs Ex. 15:18; Ps.146:10),</p> <p>Concludes Prayers Mt. 6:13),</p> <p>Concludes Psalter Ps. 41:13; Ps. 72:19; Ps. 89:52; Ps. 106:48 Ps. 150:1 serves as a sort of doxology to the entire collection.</p> <p>Concludes NT Books Ro. 11, 16:27; Phil. 4:20; 1 Tim. 6:16; 2 Tim. 4:18; Heb. 13:21; 1 Pt. 5:11; 2 Pt. 3:18; Jude 1:25 Rev. 1:6, 4:8, 5:13, 7:12</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solo singing or recitation. Doxologies conclude four of the five divisions of the Psalter Gloria in excelsis Deo (“Glory to God in the highest,” an expansion of Luke 2:14 which is often called the “Greater Doxology”). Gloria Patri (“Glory be to the Father,” the “Lesser Doxology”), and Thomas Ken's “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (familiarily known simply as “The Doxology”). 	