

# **What's Happening in Worship in the Chapel?**

First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

## **GATHERING MUSIC\***

The prelude is our invitation to breathe deeply, to center our time on worship of God, and to ready ourselves to hear the good news.

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

### **Welcome**

Like being greeted when you arrive at a friend's house, a pastor welcomes everyone who has come to join in worship that day.

### **Song of Praise**

We sing a song of praise to remind ourselves one of the main reasons why we're even here: to worship God, because God is amazing, awesome, and can do all things! Our awe is so big that words can't even express it with just words so we sing about it, because singing sometimes lets us say things in a bigger way than speaking does.

### **Song of Preparation**

We sing to prepare us for what's coming and settling ourselves down into a readiness to wonder, learn and grow together. Entering into this song is like silencing your phone before the movie starts, folding your hands before praying, or brushing your teeth before bed. We

know we're going to experience something special and we want to make sure we're good and ready to take it all in.

## **Confession of Sin**

We confess together as a community of believers in Jesus because we know that we don't always get it right, so we ask God for forgiveness and help in doing things with more love. And we are reminded that, even though we aren't always loving, Jesus has told us that God forgives us no matter what. Because we believe Jesus, we know we can share with God the things we wish we had done better without fear.

So, with trust in Jesus and with hearts that hope to do better, we confess to God.

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

After we have shared with God the things we want to do better, we are reminded again that we are so very loved by God and given new chances to do better again and again and again.

## **Song of Response**

We stand and sing because we are **so** thankful that God forgives us again and again. Even though the promise of forgiveness was made a long time ago, it never stops being incredible, so we say "THANK YOU

GOD” and “YOU ARE AMAZING, GOD,” and even sometimes “we find it hard to really believe God forgives us, but God DOES!” and we just can’t sing about it enough.

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

We stand and share handshakes and other friendly gestures as a sign that, no matter our different opinions on things, we share the same belief in Jesus Christ as the one who has come to teach us how to love God and one another well.

This is one section of the service where people are trying to concentrate so we do our best to use our quietest voices during the Prayer for Illumination, the First and Second Readings from Holy Scripture, and the Meditation.

## **Prayer for Illumination**

The prayer before we hear scripture asks the Holy Spirit to help us understand what God is trying to say to us today through the readings from the Bible and the sermon. We believe that it is the Holy Spirit who helps us take what we hear so we can live lives closer to what God hopes for us.

## **First Reading from Holy Scripture**

## **Second Reading from Holy Scripture**

The Bible stories belong to all of us so anyone can read the stories for the day for everyone to hear. Our part as listeners is to concentrate on the stories, to use our imaginations as we hear them, and to expect that Holy Spirit will help us understand them.

## **Children's Message**

The Word for the Children is a sharing of the main message of the sermon that will be spoken so that kids and adults alike might be helped in preparing to listen to the sermon.

## **Song for Reflection**

The Song for Reflection can be many things.

Sometimes it's a chance for us to sing and think about the scripture verses we just heard; sometimes it's another moment, like the Song of Preparation, to get ourselves ready to hear the meditation or sermon.

Sometimes it's just a chance to wonder and pray while listening to people play a song without words.

## **ENCOUNTER WITH THE WORD**

### **Meditation**

The meditation is the preacher's explanation of how, in their reading of the scriptures and studying of other writings, they understand the way the readings help each of us recognize the good news that Jesus came to share, the way the readings encourage us to live like Jesus so we can make this world more like heaven, and the way the readings can encourage, challenge, and comfort us.

### **Song of Affirmation**

After hearing the good news, together we stand and sing words that show we trust in the good news we heard and we have faith in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Sometimes these words come from other parts of the Bible, from other church readings that explain what we believe, or sometimes from readings that share the good news in another way.

### **Offering Our Lives and Resources**

We believe that everything we have has been given by God and so, as a way of showing our thanks to God, we give back from our lives. For some people, what they give is their time to church activities; for others, they use their skills to help the church do good in the world; and others share their money to help the church make

the world a better place.

If you have brought some of your own money to give, this is when you can put it in the My Youth Offering envelope in your Worship Kit and then put it in the offering plate as it is passed to you. What we give is meant to help care for all of God's creation, creatures big and small, including other people.

### **Offertory Song**

Often the Offertory Song is a chance for the musicians who spend so much practice time getting better at their instruments to offer a special piece of music to God, and for the enjoyment of those sitting in the congregation. It's also another way of thanking God for giving each of us different gifts that we can share with each other, and another chance to sit in wonder.

### **Dedication Prayer**

We ask God to use our offerings of our lives to be useful for the healing of the world.

### **Table Talk**

As people share news of their lives around their lunch tables and at dinner tables, we share the news of the church from the communion table during Table Talk.

This is another place in worship where people are trying to concentrate so we do our best to use our quietest voices during the Prayers of the People. We very much want to hear you during the Lord's Prayer!

### **Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

As part of our response to the good news we heard in the readings and in the meditation, we pray together for the world which God loves so very much, and for all the ways in which the world is hurting and being healed. Then we close our prayers with the prayer Jesus taught us, the Lord's Prayer.

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.



## **Song of Sending**

This can often be a big song – either louder or faster or with more energy – which can remind us of what we’ve just heard and experienced. It can also be a reminder that church is not over! A really important part of being “church” happens when we leave this building and have the chance to help people and share God’s love. Often you will hear words like, “GO,” “DO,” and “BE,” active words that inspire us to get out and take what we’ve learned into the world.

## **Charge & Blessing**

We are reminded one last time that we are called to help make this world look more like heaven and we are reassured that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will help us. We stand to receive the charge and blessing as a sign that we are ready to go out into the world.

## ***\*Why is there so much music?***

The songs we sing and the songs that choirs sing and play change every week so we need to check the bulletin to see what’s happening. We sing a lot in worship because we believe music is a gift from God and we remember that the Bible encourages us to sing to God.

Psalm 98:4-6 says:

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

Be happy!

Rejoice out loud!

Sing your praises!

Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—  
with the lyre and the sound of music.

With trumpets and a horn blast,

shout triumphantly before the Lord, the king!

In fact, “psalm” is an ancient word for song...and there are 150 of them in the Bible! Singing is very much a part of our relationship with God and so we like to make music for God and about God often and in a lot of different ways!