

What's Happening in Worship in the Sanctuary?

First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

THE GATHERING

Prelude*

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.

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.

Call to Worship

We stand and speak words together that help us remember that worship is a time to come close to God, our Creator.

Prayer of Confession

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 together, first out loud and then in silence so we can add any specific mistakes of our own in our prayers.

At the end of the silence, we say “**Christ, have mercy upon us,**” when the leader says “Lord, have mercy upon us.” We find God’s people asking for mercy with these words throughout the Bible and so our prayers join those who have said the same thing for generations and generations.

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.

Gloria Patri (meaning “glory to the Father”)

#581 in the purple hymnal

We stand and sing because we are happy that God has forgiven us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. A-men, a-men.

Summary of the Law

Sometimes when we worship, we stand and say together words found in Matthew 22:37-40 in the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible to remind ourselves how Jesus explained the meaning of all of scripture.

[Other readings often come from the Common English Bible (CEB).]

Passing the Peace

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.

THE WORD

This is one section 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 Sermon.

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.

Word for the Children

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.

Sermon

The sermon 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.

THE RESPONSE

Affirmation of Faith

After hearing the good news, together we stand and speak 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.

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.

Invitation to Discipleship

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.

To come to God as open as we can be to sharing what we have, we begin by saying what is known as the *Sursum Corda* (SIR-some CORE-duh). The worship leader starts and we respond with the words that are **bold**.

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.

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.

Doxology

#608 in the purple hymnal

We stand and sing our thanks to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit for all we have received.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God whom we adore. A-men.

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 and Dedication. We very much want to hear you during the Lord's Prayer!

Prayers of the People, Dedication, and Lord's Prayer

As part of our response to the good news we heard in the readings and in the sermon, 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. We ask God to use our offerings of our lives to be useful for the healing of the world. 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.

THE SENDING

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 together and the songs that choirs sing and play change every week so we need to check the bulletin to see what exactly is 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!