



GUIDE TO  
CHURCH  
SERVICES

BRENDON NAICKER

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## ***DEDICATION***

There are Christians in God's service who offer their ministry without the heralding of the media. They take no salary, nor do they request remuneration for their works of service to God. They have no papers that show off their accolades or accreditations, but their fruits are in the abundance of God's provision and blessing. This book contains easy to use Orders of Service which are guides for various services. They are valuable, but in no way should they replace the leading of the Holy Spirit. We pray that God blesses your ministry and gives you abundant grace to drink of the cup apportioned.

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## Introduction

There is a common, yet false, belief that Jesus did not introduce any dogma or doctrine to his followers. Those who ascribe to this understanding consider all that is necessary for ministry and service is to “just love people”. Oblivious to this deceptive philosophy, they state “no doctrine but Jesus”. Yet this statement is, in itself, a doctrine. It sounds reasonable and justifies the work of those unable to divine rightly the meaning of the Scriptures. However, it is important to note that Jesus did not have to teach doctrine because the people he addressed already knew the traditions of Israel, its history, its laws, its prophets, its Psalms and principles.

“Doctrine”, and eventually “dogma”, arose a century or two later, when Christianity was forced to define and defend itself over and against other religious and spiritual movements, such as Gnosticism. This was a kind of “New-Age movement of the time which some mistook for Christianity, but which Christians regarded as downright poisonous in its teachings and beliefs.

Thus, “doctrine” became a necessary unifying force for the Church; for, if Christians were prepared to die for their faith, they certainly had to know the basic principles of what they believed and did not believe. If we do not know what we believe and why we believe it, how can we avoid being blown about by “every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14) and then find ourselves in a worse place than where we started?

The Bible is very clear that the Church should hold certain doctrinal truths, “a common faith” (as noted in Titus 1:4; 2 Peter 1:1) which is “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). In order to preserve the “unity of the faith” (Ephesians 4:13), the apostles urged believers to uphold sound teaching (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:13) and to counteract false teaching and false teachers (1 Timothy 1:3; 4:1, 6; Titus 1:9-11).

Sound doctrine is essential for exposing false teachings (1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:17; 4:19; cf. Philippians 4:2, 3). Even John, the apostle of love, and Jude, possibly the brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, found it necessary to call attention to those who were departing from the teachings of the apostles (3 John 9, 10; Jude). The Christians in Berea were commended for subjecting the teachings of the apostle Paul to the scrutiny of Scripture (Acts 17:11).

The word “Gospel” means Good News, and the word “doctrine” means teaching. The Gospel is the whole and the doctrines are an explanation of what the Gospels are about. In other words, the more we understand the doctrines, the more meaningful the Gospel becomes to us!

Therefore, those who truly understand the Gospel will not downplay doctrine because to do so is to minimise knowledge of the Gospel. Could it be that those who argue for the “Gospel” at the expense of “doctrines” are simply trying to find a way to justify their opposition to some of our distinctive beliefs, or perhaps avoiding disclosing their ignorance?

## Scriptures for Opening a Service

*The minister may choose any of these*

### **Psalm 95:6–7**

- [6] Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- [7] For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.  
Today, if only you hear his voice.

### **Psalm 9:1–2**

- [1] I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
- [2] I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

### **Psalm 57:9–10**

- [9] I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- [10] For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

### **Psalm 106:1–2**

- [1] Praise the LORD!  
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!
- [2] Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise?

## **Scriptures for Exhortation to Faith**

### **Joshua 1:9**

[9] “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

### **Lamentations 3:22–24**

[22] The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;

[23] they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

[24] “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore, I will hope in him.”

### **John 8:12**

[12] Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

### **Hebrews 12:1–2**

[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Revelation 3:20**

[20] Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

### **Psalms 5:1–3**

[1] Give ear to my words, O LORD;  
consider my groaning.

[2] Give attention to the sound of my cry,  
my King and my God,  
for to you do I pray.

- [3] O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;  
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

**Psalm 18:1–3**

- [1] I love you, O LORD, my strength.  
[2] The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold.  
[3] I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
and I am saved from my enemies.

**Psalm 19:1–4**

- [1] The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.  
[2] Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.  
[3] There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.  
[4] Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them he has set a tent for the sun.

**Psalm 19:7–11**

- [7] The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;  
[8] the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;  
[9] the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
[10] More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

- sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.  
[11] Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**Psalm 24:1–6**

- [1] The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
[2] for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.  
[3] Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
[4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
[5] He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
[6] Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

**Psalm 29:1–2**

- [1] Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
[2] Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness.

**Psalm 32:8–10**

- [8] I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should  
go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
[9] Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.  
[10] Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who  
trusts in the LORD.

**Psalm 52:8–9**

- [8] But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.
- [9] I will thank you forever,  
because you have done it.  
I will wait for your name, for it is good,  
in the presence of the godly.

**Psalm 56:3–4**

- [3] When I am afraid,  
I put my trust in you.
- [4] In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.  
What can flesh do to me?

**Psalm 61:1–3**

- [1] Hear my cry, O God,  
listen to my prayer;
- [2] from the end of the earth I call to you  
when my heart is faint.  
Lead me to the rock  
that is higher than I,
- [3] for you have been my refuge,  
a strong tower against the enemy.

**Psalm 62:1–2**

- [1] For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.
- [2] He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

**Psalm 66:1–2**

- [1] Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
- [2] sing the glory of his name;  
give to him glorious praise!

**Psalm 66:16–20**

- [16] Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.  
[17] I cried to him with my mouth,  
and high praise was on my tongue.  
[18] If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
[19] But truly God has listened;  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.  
[20] Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me!

**Psalm 72:5–7**

- [5] May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!  
[6] May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!  
[7] In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**Psalm 72:12–14**

- [12] For he delivers the needy when he calls,  
the poor and him who has no helper.  
[13] He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
[14] From oppression and violence he redeems their life,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

**Psalm 72:18–19**

- [18] Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.  
[19] Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!  
Amen and Amen!

**Psalm 77:13–15**

- [13] Your way, O God, is holy.  
What god is great like our God?
- [14] You are the God who works wonders;  
you have made known your might among the peoples.
- [15] You with your arm redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

**Psalm 89:1–2**

- [1] I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to  
all generations.
- [2] For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

**Psalm 92:1–2**

- [1] It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- [2] to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night

**Psalm 95:1–5**

- [1] Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of  
our salvation!
- [2] Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with  
songs of praise!
- [3] For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.
- [4] In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- [5] The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

**Psalm 96:1–3**

- [1] Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- [2] Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- [3] Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples!

**Psalm 100**

- [1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- [2] Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!
- [3] Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- [4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- [5] For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Psalm 103:1–5**

- [1] Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!
- [2] Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,
- [3] who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- [4] who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- [5] who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Psalm 105:1–4**

- [1] Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!
- [2] Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!
- [3] Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- [4] Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!

**Psalm 111:2–5**

- [2] Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.
- [3] Full of splendour and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.
- [4] He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
- [5] He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

**Psalm 111:7–8**

- [7] The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- [8] they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**Psalm 113:1–3**

- [1] Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD!
- [2] Blessed be the name of the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore!
- [3] From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

**Psalm 116:1–7**

- [1] I love the LORD, because he has heard  
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
- [2] Because he inclined his ear to me,

- therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- [3] The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Shell laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.
- [4] Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”
- [5] Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.
- [6] The LORD preserves the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- [7] Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

### **Psalm 121**

- [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?
- [2] My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.
- [3] He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- [4] Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- [5] The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- [6] The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- [7] The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- [8] The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

### **Psalm 122**

- [1] I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- [2] Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- [3] Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together,

- [4] to which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- [5] There thrones for judgment were set,  
the thrones of the house of David.
- [6] Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
“May they be secure who love you!
- [7] Peace be within your walls  
and security within your towers!”
- [8] For my brothers and companions’ sake  
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
- [9] For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Psalm 134**

- [1] Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,  
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!
- [2] Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless the LORD!
- [3] May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
he who made heaven and earth!

**Psalm 139:1–4**

- [1] O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- [2] You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- [3] You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- [4] Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

**Psalm 145:8–13**

- [8] The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- [9] The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- [10] All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,

and all your saints shall bless you!

[11] They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

[12] to make known to the children of man your mighty  
deeds,

and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

[13] Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all  
generations.

[The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.

## Scriptures for Closing a Service

*The minister may select any of the following*

### **Numbers 6:24–26**

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you; [25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; [26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

### **2 Corinthians 1:13–14**

[13] For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand—[14] just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

### **Hebrews 13:20–21**

[20] Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Jude 24–25**

[24] Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, [25] to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

### **Romans 15:13**

[13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**Romans 16:25–27**

[25] Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages [26] but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—[27] to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**Ephesians 3:20–21**

[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23–24**

[23] Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**2 Thessalonians 3:16**

[16] Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

**1 Peter 5:10–11**

[10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## The Communion Service

*The Communion is a celebration of the finished work of Jesus Christ. The bread and the drink do not change into anything more than they are - they serve as symbols. Once the elements have been distributed, members of the Congregation consume them together. This ritual is a remembrance of what Jesus Christ did with his disciples on the night before his death. It also serves to bring to the present his saving work of cleansing and uniting people in His body. At the same time, the Church looks to the future as we proclaim His return.*

### **PROPOSED ORDER**

- ~ A Brief Exposition
- ~ Invitation to Communion [to those who have been born-again]
- ~ Prayers of Reflection, Confession, and Forgiveness
- ~ Declaration of Faith [Creed]
- ~ Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Bread and the Cup
- ~ Breaking of the Bread [wait to eat together]
- ~ Distribution of the cup [wait to drink together]
- ~ Sing together

### ***The Communion Is Recorded In The Scriptures:***

#### **Matthew 26:26–30**

[26] Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” [27] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, [28] for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [29] I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” [30] And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Mark 14:22–26**

[22] And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”

[23] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. [24] And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. [25] Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” [26] And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Luke 22:14–20**

[14] And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. [15] And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. [16] For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” [17] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. [18] For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” [19] And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” [20] And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26**

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” [25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

## **WORDS OF INVITATION**

*The minister says:*

All you who truly and earnestly love the Lord Jesus Christ, who know that you are sinners saved by grace, and are in fellowship with His Church, are welcome to share in this feast of love and sacrifice by Christ, who so loved the Church that He gave His life so that we may live. Let us call to memory Jesus seated with the disciples, and remember that He is the Passover Lamb, sacrificed for us.

Here and now, we encounter the risen Lord Jesus Christ who has promised to be with us always - to the very end of the age. This is an opportunity for fellowship with others in Christ's body, the Church. It is a time when we look forward with delight to His coming again. Therefore, we come in faith, repenting of our sins, and with longing to live in holiness and righteousness.

## **CONFESSION**

*One or more of the following may be used:*

### **1 Corinthians 11:27–28**

[27] Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. [28] Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

### **1 Corinthians 5:7–8**

[7] Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. [8] Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## Psalm 51

- [1] Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- [2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!
- [3] For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.
- [5] Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- [6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- [7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- [8] Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- [9] Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- [10] Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- [11] Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- [12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- [13] Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- [14] Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your  
righteousness.

- [15] O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- [16] For you will not delight in sacrifice,  
or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- [17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will  
not despise.
- [18] Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- [19] then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### **1 John 1:9–10**

[9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### **Psalm 103:11–12**

- [11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who  
fear him;
- [12] as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

### **Jeremiah 31:34**

[34] And no longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

### **Hebrews 13:5–6**

[5] Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” [6] So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?”

**Isaiah 53:5–6**

[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us  
peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.  
[6] All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

**Romans 5:8–11**

[8] ...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. [10] For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. [11] More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**John 3:16–17**

[16] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.  
[17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Matthew 11:28–30**

[28] Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### **Revelation 3:20**

[20] Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

### **John 6:51**

[51] I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

### **1 Corinthians 10:16–17**

[16] The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? [17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The minister may choose one of the following:*

### **Matthew 26:17–30**

[17] Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” [18] He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” [19] And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. [20] When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. [21] And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” [22] And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” [23] He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. [24] The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” [25] Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” [26] Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after

blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” [27] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, [28] for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [29] I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” [30] And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Mark 14:22–26**

[22] And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” [23] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. [24] And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. [25] Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” [26] And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Luke 22:14–20**

[14] And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. [15] And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. [16] For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” [17] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. [18] For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” [19] And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” [20] And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26**

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” [25] In

the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

### **THANKSGIVING**

*An elder or deacon may lead prayers of thanksgiving for the bread and cup, for God’s creative and redemptive work.*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD**

*The minister will explain the process to the people.*

*An elder or deacon may distribute the bread and the cup.*

*One of the following options may be chosen:*

#### **Option 1.**

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving - He is the Bread of Life.

#### **Option 2.**

Let us eat this bread in remembrance that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, and the life we now live, we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

#### **Option 3.**

Jesus said, “This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me”.

#### **Option 4.**

The body of the Lord Jesus Christ preserve and keep you unto everlasting life. Take and eat this, remembering, “He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed”.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE CUP**

*Brief instructions should be given as to the taking of the cup:*

Please retain the cup as we shall drink together when all have received, as a sign of our unity in Christ's family.

*The wine is distributed and drunk, and one of the following may be used:*

### **Option 1.**

Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

### **Option 2.**

Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me".

### **Option 3.**

By His shed blood we are kept in everlasting life. He took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, do this in remembrance of Me".

Let us drink with thanksgiving.

## **DECLARATION OF FAITH**

*The Creed is said together.*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to  
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy one Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Leader**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.  
Your resurrection, we confess.  
Your final coming, we await.  
Glory be to you, O Christ

**Response**

Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

**PRAYER OF FELLOWSHIP**

*The minister leads the people in intercessory prayer for the needs  
of the world, at home and abroad.*

**PRAYER OF DISMISSAL**

*The minister says:*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

*The Grace may be said by the whole congregation.*

## The Lord's Supper

### Guidance for conducting the service

*This guide is to provide participation by all in what is said and done. Copies or a projector are required to display the words.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Leader**

We gather around this table in faith with thanksgiving to share in this bread and cup. In doing so, we share a symbolic representation of Jesus's broken body and His shed blood. We do this because Jesus told His first followers to continue to meet in this way to remember Him.

We come not out of a sense of compulsion or duty but because we value this privilege and want to express our love and devotion to our Lord. As we celebrate together, we also proclaim the everlasting nature of all Jesus has done for us, and we receive God's grace to empower us to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

### **RESPONSES**

#### **Leader**

The risen Lord is here among us.

#### **All**

The Holy Spirit dwells within us.

#### **Leader**

The risen Lord shares His life with His people.

#### **All**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be Holy People

### ***THE APPROACH***

#### **All**

Father God,  
our hearts lie open to You,  
all our desires are known to You,  
and there is nothing hidden from You.  
Help us to remove and put aside  
all that is not good and pure,  
so that You may cleanse  
and empower us by Your Holy Spirit,  
work within us and bring  
glory to Your Holy name. Amen.

### ***THE CONFESSION***

#### **Leader**

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who believe in Him and bring them to eternal life. Having completed His saving work, Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father and intercedes on our behalf. He understands our weaknesses and there is no sin that cannot be overcome; no bondage that cannot be broken. However, we confess we have deliberately and wilfully entered into sin. Let us confess our sins and receive strength to turn from all that would bring shame to our Father and the Body of Christ. Let us resolve to keep communion with the Holy Spirit who empowers us to put away all that dishonours our Saviour's name.

#### **All**

Father God,  
we have sinned against You and others.  
We have sinned in our thoughts.  
We have sinned in our words.  
We have sinned in our deeds.  
At times through negligence;  
at times through deliberate

gratification of our passions.  
As we come before You now,  
we repent and turn from all that is wrong.  
Holy Spirit,  
do not allow our hearts to become hardened;  
may the conviction of sin be real  
so that we may put it away.

Looking to Jesus, who died for us,  
we ask forgiveness for all that is past.  
We ask that You wash us and cleanse us  
that we become vessels ready  
for service in your ministry.  
We surrender all that we hold dear,  
all that which charms us most,  
and we sacrifice them unto You.

**Leader**

We have confessed our sins and know that God is faithful to His Word, that He will separate them as far as the east is from the west; though they are crimson - He will make them white as snow. Be set free and walk in Christ, putting on Christ, leaving no room for the lusts of the eyes, the flesh, and pride.

***CONFESSIO OF FAITH***

**Leader**

Our sin estranged us from God. Now that we have confessed our sin, we are brought near to the Father

Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

***THE APOSTLES' CREED***

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty,  
from where He will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the one holy Church  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

*To be read by the leader:*

#### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26**

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” [25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

## **EXHORTATION TO FAITH**

### **Leader**

We acknowledge that God is here, we remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection - it is Jesus Christ who instituted this meal; a reminder of the promise that we will be seated in our Father's house. That time draws near and is already here when we join Him for this spiritual nourishment. Let us now examine our lives - not seeing how deserving we are but how wonderful is our Saviour's love that He extends His open arms, saying, "Come! Let's eat together; your feet have been washed - you have drunk of the Holy Spirit. Come now and share in my Body and Blood!"

### **All**

Father,  
we thank you for loving us so much  
that you sent Jesus the Christ for us.  
Thank you that we are part  
of this local Body of Christ.  
May your love, Father,  
flow from my life to grow the Church.

Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus,  
thank you for the grace bestowed on us  
because of what you have done.  
You showed grace when it was not deserved.  
You took our dead lives and gave us Your life.

Precious Holy Spirit,  
thank you that you are here,  
that you now live our hearts,  
that you lead, teach and counsel us.  
Guide us through our pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

We receive this bread and cup  
with thanksgiving in our hearts  
and offer you all praise and glory. Amen

**Leader**

We share this bread remembering that the body of Jesus was given for us. He who was without sin, took on sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. We now belong to the Body of Christ - we are not our own.

**All**

We share this bread as individuals,  
acknowledging that we are part of one body,  
God's people, the Church.

**Leader**

Will you deny yourself, take up the cross and follow Jesus?

**All**

Yes, we will, with the enabling of the Holy Spirit.

***DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS***

*See above notes for options on the distribution.*

***DISMISSAL AND BLESSING***

**Leader**

Numbers 6:24–26

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace.

**All**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God the Father  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
rest on us and remain with us always. Amen.

**Leader**

Go now in peace to serve our God in the power of His might!

**All**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we go!

## Thanksgiving Following a Birth

### Guidance for conducting the service

*It should be made clear that this service is a thanksgiving and not a baptism or dedication.*

*This service is not meant to be definitive in any way and should be adapted to suit local situations, circumstances and practices. Normally, it is that this thanksgiving service would be in the context of regular public worship. However, this framework could be adapted, if necessary, to an informal setting such as a family home or hospital.*

*The service requires less commitment than those of dedication and baptism. Therefore, it can be used where there is likely to be no Christian commitment on the part of the parents of the child. It is common for many people, even those with minimal religious convictions, to want to give thanks for the arrival of a new child, and this service provides a way to do this.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The leader addresses the congregation:*

We have gathered together today to thank God for the gift of *Name of child*.

### **PRAYER**

Father God,  
maker of all that is.  
We praise You for the wonder of Your creation.  
We thank You for the gift of life  
and especially for *Name*.  
We thank You for a safe birth,

the growth that has continued  
and for all the potential that  
You have put into this small person.  
Thank You that You love this child,  
have a plan for his/her life  
and that he/she may grow to love you  
and walk in your commandments.

We pray that You will accept our thanks  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **READING**

#### **Psalm 100**

- [1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
[2]     Serve the LORD with gladness!  
       Come into his presence with singing!  
[3] Know that the LORD, he is God!  
       It is he who made us, and we are his;  
       we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
[4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
       and his courts with praise!  
       Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
[5] For the LORD is good;  
       his steadfast love endures forever,  
       and his faithfulness to all generations.

We remember that Jesus always had time for everyone, even those who society thought should be kept in the background. The Gospels record one specific event where children were brought to Jesus:

Matthew 19:13-15 or Mark 10:13-16 or Luke 18:15-17

### **THE PROMISES**

*The parents may be invited to stand or move to the front of the congregation, bringing the child with them.*

**Leader**

In thanking God for this child, do you accept the responsibilities of your life being a good testimony in word and deed?

**Parent:**

I/We do

**Leader**

Do you promise not to become a hindrance to the Gospel message?

**Parent:**

I/We do

**Leader**

*Addressing any family and friends:*

The care and responsibility for the nurture of any child extend beyond its parents to family and friends. Do you undertake to support them as they bring up this child?

**Family and Friends:**

We do

**Leader**

*Addressing the congregation:*

Do you undertake to support this family as far as you are able, as representatives of the wider Church; to maintain a Christian fellowship of worship, teaching and care; and to pray for this family?

**Congregation**

Yes, we do

## **PRAYERS**

Father God,  
we pray that You will bless the home of *Name*.  
Help them to live together as  
a loving and God-fearing family.  
Guide them into your way of truth.  
Grant them wisdom and understanding;  
surround them with the light  
of your Word and the comfort of your love.

We acknowledge that you are God  
and that all life is in held your mighty hands.  
We pray for *Name* may he/she  
come to a revival service  
to be born-again and to experience  
the grace and the newness  
of life found in Jesus Christ.

We pray for all who will care for *Name*.  
Guide them by your Holy Spirit so that,  
through their care,  
he/she may grow in grace  
and develop his/her full potential.  
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **THE BLESSING**

### **Numbers 6:24–26**

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;  
[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;  
[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace.

## Dedication of a Child

### Guidance for conducting the service

*It is important that everyone knows this service is a dedication and NOT a baptism.*

*This service requires a significant level of understanding and commitment from the parents who bring their child for dedication. This implies a duty on the person responsible for preparing those seeking to dedicate their child to ensure that the process is understood and appropriate. It is not to be regarded as a substitute service for Child Baptism (Child Baptism is a practice we do not espouse).*

*The desire to dedicate a child in the fullest sense, in the way Samuel was, is sometimes expressed and needs to be explored in a pastoral setting. In order to determine the level of commitment to the dedication, hard questions are to be asked, such as “How would you feel if your child were called by God to work abroad?” and, “Would you hold it against God if your child were to die before you?” Sometimes, parents have their own idea of what they wish to see their child doing for God, but this is not always God’s plan for the child. It is essential, therefore, that there is a time of counselling and preparation before undertaking this service.*

*It is also important that members of the local congregation at the service of dedication understand what is happening and are not placed in an awkward position with regard to any commitments that are requested. It may be appropriate to ask only those willing or able to make the commitments to stand, or in some other way, indicate their commitment, whilst others, possibly visitors, remain seated. It is to be understood that the congregation may be responding on behalf of the wider Church if the child’s family does not live locally.*

*This service is not meant to be definitive in any way and should be adapted to suit local situations, circumstances and practices. This is particularly true if for some reason only one parent brings the child for dedication. It is expected that this service is part of regular public worship, but could, when appropriate, be preceded with material from the Service of Thanksgiving Following the Birth of a Child.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Leader**

We have gathered together today to dedicate *Name* to God. Although yet a child, he/she is created by God who knows him/her thoroughly and has a plan for his/her life.

#### *Addressing the Parents:*

In bringing *Name* for dedication, you recognise that he/she belongs to God and commit yourselves to seek God's plan for his/her life. In doing so, you may have to set aside your own desires and focus on God's plan, taking your own part as God leads you so that God's way may unfold completely and without hindrance.

To do this, I will call upon you first to acknowledge your own faith, because it is only through this faith that you will have the strength and power to undertake your commission. I then call upon you to commit yourselves to specific responsibilities as you raise your child.

#### *Addressing the congregation, the minister continues:*

I will ask all of you, if you feel able, to commit yourselves to play your part in providing a Christian environment in which *Name* can grow in grace, develop his/her potential, and come to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

## **SONG**

## **PRAYER**

Father God, maker of all that exists,  
we praise You and thank You that  
You have a unique plan  
for each and every one of us.  
We seek the power of your Holy Spirit,  
to do all that You call us to do to ensure  
that *Name* grows into  
the fullness of faith,  
knowledge of You and Your will.  
We pray that You continue  
to work in Your Church,  
so that a vibrant community  
will provide a spiritual home for this child  
at all times and wherever  
You may call him/her. Amen.

## **READINGS**

### **Deuteronomy 6:4–7**

[4] “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. [6] And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

### **Matthew 18:1–6**

[1] At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” [2] And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them [3] and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. [5] “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, [6] but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,

it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

### **THE PROMISES**

*The Parents may be invited to stand or move to the front of the congregation, bringing their child with them. The parents may wish to respond individually, "I do", or together as a couple, "We do". The appropriate response should be determined during the preparations before the service.*

#### **Leader**

I call upon you to profess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and make your commitments before God and this Congregation.

*Name(s) of Parent(s)*, do you profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, having accepted Him as both your Lord and your Saviour?

#### **Parent(s)**

I/We do

#### **Leader**

Do you, as far as you are able and with God's help, undertake to bring up this child within the Christian community, share your faith with him/her, provide a Christian home, and live your own lives as an example for him/her to follow?

#### **Parent(s)**

I/We do

#### **Leader**

Do you undertake to teach and encourage him/her to know and seek God's ways; to allow him/her to hear God's Word; to give him/her the opportunity to participate in the worship of Christ's Church, so that, in time, he/she may come to know Jesus for himself/herself, and to take his/her place among the people of God?

**Parent(s)**

I/We will do all these things with God to help and empower me/us.

**Leader**

Do you undertake to help your child to discover God's will, at whatever cost to yourselves?

**Parent(s)**

I/We do

**Leader**

*Addressing family and friends present:*

The care and responsibility for the nurture of a child extend beyond the parents to family and friends. Do you undertake to support *Name(s) of Parent(s)* as they bring up this child?

**Family and Friends**

We do

**Leader**

*Addressing the assembled Church:*

Do you undertake to support *Name(s) of Parent(s)* in carrying out the promises they have just made?

**Congregation**

We do

**Leader**

Do you, as members of Christ's Body, commit yourselves to maintain a place of worship with sound teaching to provide a vital Christian environment in which children may grow in the knowledge of the love of God?

**Congregation**

We do

## **Leader**

*Taking the child from the parent says:*

*Name*, we welcome you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We acknowledge your dedication to God and look forward to seeing you grow in strength, understanding, wisdom and faith, to become fully the person that God created you to be.

### **THE BLESSING**

#### **Numbers 6:24–26**

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

*The Leader returns the child to the parent.*

### **PRAYERS**

Father God,  
we pray that You will bless the home of  
*Name(s) of Parent(s)*.  
Help them to live together  
as a loving and God-fearing family.  
Guide them in your way of truth;  
grant them wisdom and understanding;  
surround them with the light of your Word  
and the comfort of your love.

We acknowledge that you are God  
and that all life is in your mighty hand.

We pray for *Name of Child*,  
may he/she come to a revival service

to be born-again  
and experience the grace  
and newness of life in Jesus Christ.

We pray for all who will have care  
of *Name of Child*.  
Guide them by your Holy Spirit  
so that, through their care  
he/she may grow in grace  
and develop his/her full potential.  
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

### **THE BENEDICTION**

Remembering all that was achieved as a result of the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul was able to pray:

#### **Ephesians 3:14–21**

[14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## The Baptism of Believers

### Guidance for conducting the service

*The rite of baptism is by full immersion. It is not a means of salvation, but it is a witness to a person's faith and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to testify publicly that the person is a follower of Christ. It should not be taken lightly because baptism does not make you a Christian. Further, this is not initiation to membership of the Church. A baptism class is recommended for some weeks prior to the event.*

*Baptism should be part of a service of worship. After opening worship and praise, an address may be given as a charge to those being baptised to explain the meaning and sanctity of the sacrament. It may be appropriate for those being baptised to share in the preparations of the service by helping to choose songs and readings.*

*Those being baptised should be given the opportunity to tell their stories, in the form of a prepared testimony or through the introduction of a song or poem of special significance. Candidates should have a member of the Church ready with towels to help them as they leave the baptistry and help them to walk over wet surfaces.*

*The service will be followed by reception into Church Membership, sometimes with a Communion Service, which concludes the Baptism Service.*

*Baptism is a unique experience in the life of a Christian and may be new to many members of the Congregation. Therefore, explanation and teaching is an important part of the service. Suggested readings include:*

Isaiah 6:1-9a; Matthew 3:1-12; 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-13; John 3:1-18; Acts 2:38-42; 8:26-39; 9:1-19; 10:34-48; 16:11-15; 16:25-34; 19:1-

7; Romans 6:3-11; Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Timothy 6:12; Titus 3: 3-7; Hebrews 10:19-25.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Matthew 28:19–20**

[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

It is such a wonderful moment when believers are baptised. Baptism is both obedience of and blessing. The candidate goes through the waters of baptism and the mentor fulfils the Great Commission. It is a declaration of the redeeming love of Christ for all humankind; it signifies the claim of Christ upon those for whom He died and rose again; and it pledges the gift of the Holy Spirit by whose power we are renewed and sanctified. Through baptism we are obedient to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to “make disciples”.

## **PRAYER**

We give you thanks,  
O holy and gracious God,  
for the gift of water.  
At the beginning of creation,  
your Spirit moved over the waters.  
By the waters of the flood you destroyed evil.  
You led the children of Israel through the sea  
into the freedom of the Promised Land.  
In the river Jordan, John baptised our Lord  
and your Spirit anointed him.  
By his death and resurrection,  
Jesus Christ, the living water,  
frees us from sin and death,  
and opens the way to life everlasting.

We thank you, O God,  
for the gift of baptism.  
In this water you confirm to us  
that we are buried with Christ in his death,  
raised to share in his resurrection,  
and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Pour out on us your Holy Spirit  
so that those here baptised may be  
washed clean and receive new life.  
To you be all honour and glory,  
dominion and power,  
now and forever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **READING**

#### **Reader**

Hear the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

#### **Matthew 28:18–20**

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Hear these words of Scripture:

#### **Ephesians 4:4–6**

[4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

### **Romans 6:3–4**

[3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

#### **Leader**

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to His covenant people. In baptism God promises by grace alone:

- ~ to forgive our sins;
- ~ to adopt us into the Body of Christ, the Church;
- ~ to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us;
- ~ to resurrect us to eternal life.

### **DECLARATION OF FAITH**

#### **Leader**

*To each candidate for baptism, the leader says:*

We have heard your confession of faith and repentance in Christ. We ask you now to make a public profession of faith and testimony.

*Each candidate gives a short word of testimony, after which he/she is asked the following as appropriate:*

#### **Leader**

On behalf of the elders, I present *Name* to be baptised.

*The leader addresses the candidates:*

Beloved of God, you stand before us to receive baptism. I ask you, therefore, before God and Christ's Church to reject evil and to profess your faith in Christ Jesus.

Do you renounce sin and the power of evil in your life and the world?

**Candidate**

I renounce them.

**Leader**

Who is your Lord and Saviour?

**Candidate**

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.

**Leader**

Will you be a faithful member of this Congregation and, through worship and service, seek to advance God's purposes here and throughout the world?

**Candidate**

I will, and I ask God to help me.

*It might be appropriate for a song of faith to be sung, a verse after each candidate has been baptised.*

**Leader**

*The congregation stands as the leader addresses them:*

Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these brothers and sisters:

- ~ by teaching the gospel of God's love,
- ~ by being an example of Christian faith and character, and
- ~ by giving the support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

**Congregation**

We do, with the Lord's help.

*The congregation and the candidates join in affirming their faith using the words of the Creed in the following manner:*

**Leader**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**Congregation**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

**Leader**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Congregation**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty,  
from where He will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

**Leader**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Congregation**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the one holy Church  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **THE BAPTISMS**

*The leader addresses the candidates who kneel or stand in readiness for total immersion:*

### **Leader**

I affirm witness to your repentance and faith, and I now baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray that from now on, you will not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ and that you will fight valiantly under His banner against all evil and continue His faithful servant(s) unto your life's end. Amen.

*After immersion, the candidates will have to change immediately. Whilst they are changing, prayers may be offered or a hymn sung by the congregation. When all the candidates have returned to the service, it is concluded with the Communion.*

### **PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
we thank you that you cleanse and renew  
these your children through your grace alone.  
Bless and strengthen them daily  
with the gift of your Holy Spirit;  
unfold to them the riches of your love.  
Deepen their faith, keep them from the power of evil,  
and enable them to live a holy and blameless life  
until your kingdom comes. Amen

### **Numbers 6:24–26**

- [24] The LORD bless you and keep you;
- [25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- [26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

## The Marriage Ceremony

### Guidance for conducting the service

*Weddings are usually planned long before the event. It is important that both parties are fully prepared for this very special occasion which calls for a serious commitment. Therefore, the person conducting the service should spend time with the couple during the months of preparation before the wedding day. There is no form of preparation that constitutes a civil requirement, but individual Churches may have their own set procedures. At the least, the couple should be counselled on the meaning of marriage and that Christian marriage is a lifelong commitment. The significance of the marriage vows must be explained to ensure that these are fully understood.*

*The minister and the couple should plan the service together. There is wide scope for variation in the service, provided that the civil requirements are met and that all components are compatible with a Christian marriage service. The following service is, therefore, a model which can be varied. However, the words required by law cannot be altered except for any provisions allowed by legal directives. Couples often welcome the opportunity to have a rehearsal to ensure that all participants are fully briefed.*

### **Background Information for Weddings**

*All legal requirements must be fully observed, as outlined below.*

#### **Premises**

*The Church in which the wedding is to take place must be registered for the solemnisation of marriages. During the marriage service the doors of the Church must not be so closed as to prevent people from entering.*

### **Authorised Person**

*No marriage should be without the presence of the registrar or an authorised person, who keeps the Church's marriage registers and records of marriages solemnised in the Church. This does not have to be a minister, and it may be better to appoint someone who will have no other part in marriage services. A member may be appointed by his/her Church as the authorised person for the solemnisation of marriages and, if this is done, a deputy should also be appointed to act in the member's absence. Forms for the appointment are obtained from local register offices. A suitable safe on the premises must be available for the securing of documents and registers.*

### **Registration**

*When a request for a wedding is received, and the Minister has agreed to conduct it, the couple should (a) see the Church's authorised person to supply the necessary details and (b) go to the local register office to give due notice and to check on all civil requirements. Where less than 21 days' notice is given, the marriage is performed by licence, details of which are obtainable from register offices. The minister or authorised person must have the register superintendent's clearance certificate before the wedding can commence.*

### **Witnesses**

*The parties arrange for two credible witnesses to be present at the marriage to sign the marriage register. Whilst there is no age requirement, the use of young children is not advised, and the registrar or authorised person may refuse to accept a witness whom he/she deems unacceptable. It is advisable for the minister to ascertain who the witnesses will be when planning the wedding and if in doubt, to check acceptability with the registrar or authorised person.*

## **Age**

*A marriage may not take place between persons, either of whom is under the age of sixteen.*

## **The Law**

*Laws governing marriage are always subject to change, and ministers must ensure that they comply with any changes which may arise from new legislation.*

## **ENTRANCE**

*The congregation stands as the bride enters and takes her position at the left-hand side of the bridegroom.*

## **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

### **PRAYER**

*One of the following prayers may be used, or extempore prayer may be offered:*

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,  
Giver of every perfect gift,  
apart from Whom no fullness of life is found,  
we praise You for all that is joyful and blessed.  
We thank You for all the  
tenderness and sacredness of human love,  
for the ties of family affection and of friendship,  
especially at this time,  
for the love of man and woman  
whose crown is in the holy estate of marriage.

We thank You that You have led *Name & Name*  
into mutual confidence and love,  
and we ask that You  
make them aware of Your nearness as

in Your name, they exchange their vows  
of love and faithfulness  
and pledge themselves to each other.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon them,  
because their hope is in You.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Or*

God, our loving Heavenly Father,  
we thank You for the joy of human love,  
of man and woman for each other  
by which our homes are enriched  
and through which our earthly homes  
give us a glimpse of the life of heaven.  
Especially today,  
we thank You for the gift of marriage,  
through which You guard,  
hallow and perfect this sacred gift of love.  
We thank You for the love  
which You have put into the hearts  
of *Name & Name*, and for the happiness and trust  
they have found in each other.

Help them now,  
as they commit themselves to each other  
and to Your loving care.  
As they make their vows to each other,  
may they make them in Your sight.  
Give them grace and strength, we pray,  
to faithfully keep the commitment  
which they will make,  
and to be constant in their love  
through all the days of their lives  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## **DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**

*The congregation stands, and the minister says:*

Dear friends, we are gathered together today in the presence of God and before this Congregation to witness the joining together in Holy Matrimony of *Name* and *Name*, and to seek God's blessing on their marriage. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught that man and woman were created by God and designed to live together in life-long love and fidelity.

Marriage, therefore, is a sacred relationship ordained by God for humankind so that the human race might be continued; that men and women might live together in mutual help, comfort and companionship, and that children be brought up in a stable, loving relationship with the knowledge of the love of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, marriage is used as an image of how God would covenant Himself to His people. In the New Testament, it portrays how Jesus has joined Himself to His Church. Therefore, marriage ought not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly; but reverently, discreetly and in the fear of God, duly considering the reasons for which it was ordained. Into this sacred and holy relationship, these two persons now come to be joined.

## **DECLARATION OF NO IMPEDIMENT**

*Addressing the persons to be married, the minister says:*

I require and charge you both in the presence of God and this Congregation that if either of you knows of any reason why you may not be lawfully married, you do now confess it.

*The man will then repeat, phrase by phrase, after the minister:*

I declare that I know of no legal reason/ why I *Full Names*, may not lawfully be joined in marriage to *Full Names of Bride*.

*The woman shall also repeat after the minister:*

I declare that I know of no legal reason/ why I *Full Names*, may not lawfully be joined in marriage to *Full Names of Husband*..

*Or*

**ALTERNATE DECLARATION OF NO IMPEDIMENT**

*The minister asks each in turn:*

*Full Names*, are you lawfully free to marry *Full Names*?

*Each partner responds in turn:*

I am.

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

*The minister then asks the man:*

*Full Names*, will you take this woman to be your lawful wedded wife, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her so long as you both shall live?

*The man answers:*

I will.

*The minister then asks the woman:*

*Full Names*, will you take this man to be your lawful wedded husband, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

*The woman answers:*

I will.

### **GIVING THE WOMAN TO THE MAN**

*This is optional. If it is included, the minister says:*

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

*The father (or the person responsible) answers:*

I do.

### **THE VOWS**

*The man, with his right hand takes the woman by her right hand and repeats this covenant after the minister:*

*I, Full Names, take you, Full Names,  
to be my wedded wife,  
to have and to hold from this day forward,  
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish, till death us do part,  
according to God's holy law;  
and to this, I pledge myself.*

*The couple loose hands and the woman with her right hand takes the man by his right hand and repeats the same vow after the minister:*

*I, Full Names, take you, Full Names,  
to be my wedded husband,  
to have and to hold from this day forward,  
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish, till death us do part,  
according to God's holy law;  
and to this, I pledge myself.*

*The couple loose hands.*

## **THE RINGS**

*At this point in the service, a ring or rings may be given as a further pledge. The best man gives the ring to the minister who says:*

Bless, Lord, the giving of this/these ring(s),  
that both giver and receiver  
may be faithful always to the other and,  
as long as they both shall live,  
continue to love and honour one another.

*He passes it to the man who places it on the fourth finger of the woman's left hand.*

*Then they say together (or in turn)*

The giving and receiving of this ring  
is a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you.  
All that I am I give to you  
and all that I have, I share with you  
Within the love of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **Declaration of Marriage**

*The minister then joins their right hands and says:*

Since *Name* and *Name* have declared before God and in the presence of this Congregation that they will live together in Christian marriage; and have made their vows to each other, expressing this by the giving and receiving of rings and the joining of hands; I pronounce them husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

## **Numbers 6:24–26**

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;  
[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;  
[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace.

### **READING**

*One of the following passages of Scripture may now be read or another of the minister's choosing:*

Matthew 19:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Ephesians 5:22-33

### **SERMON**

### **PRAYER**

*After the sermon, prayers seeking God's continued blessing on the newly married couple are said and followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

*Alternatively, this is placed after the declaration of marriage and before the Bible reading. One of the following may be used, or extempore prayer may be offered:*

Most loving Father,  
into Your care and keeping  
we commend *Name & Name*,  
now united as husband and wife.  
Give them abundant happiness  
in the days to come;  
grant them grace to fulfil  
in pure and steadfast affection  
the vow and covenant now made  
bearing each other's burdens,  
sharing each other's joys,

and in mutual helpfulness,  
living well and usefully together.

Open before them the gates  
of a fuller and broader life.  
Guide them in all their new duties,  
give them joy in all the privileges that await them.  
Bless their home and let Your presence  
always be experienced within it.

We pray now for Your Fatherly blessing  
upon the families from which they come,  
that this union be a source  
of happiness to all.  
We commend to You  
all who are bound to them  
in relationship or friendship  
who wish them well this day.  
May our homes be filled with your peace,  
and our lives be spent  
in Your fellowship and service,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Or*

Our Father in Heaven,  
we acknowledge You as the giver  
of every joy and comfort.  
We thank You for the treasures of human love,  
the blessings of home and fellowship,  
the ties that bind us in happiness and service.  
We thank You for all that gladdens  
and helps us in the journey of life.

We join our prayers  
to ask for *Name & Name*, who today  
have entered into the sacred ties of marriage,  
that they may be conscious  
of Your presence and blessing.

May the memory of this day  
be always dear to them  
and may the fragrance of this place linger in their hearts.  
Give them the grace to live  
in sympathy, in self-forgetfulness,  
in patience, growing confidence and love.  
May they enjoy the happiness of making a home  
where Your name will be honoured,  
where others will feel the warmth of Christian love,  
and where many, through their fellowship, will be blessed.  
May they be a blessing to each other  
and to all who are committed to their care.

By Your help,  
may the increasing responsibilities  
of the years to come make them  
wise in their choices, and brave to endure.  
Enable them, in joy and sorrow alike,  
to be constant in their love for each other  
and strong in their faith.  
May life's lessons be well-learned,  
and life's work well done.  
By Your grace and overshadowing presence,  
may they dwell in peace and safety.  
May this life prepare them for that life  
where we neither marry nor are given in marriage,  
because we shall be as the angels of God.  
May the peace of God  
which passes all understanding  
keep their hearts and minds,  
and may His grace and comfort  
be with them always. Amen.

**HYMN**

**THE BENEDICTION**

*The service ends with this (or another) benediction:*

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of the His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**SIGNING THE REGISTER**

*The minister, the couple, the best man and bridesmaids and any other witnesses now move to the room or area where the register is signed.*

**MUSICAL ITEM**

*An organ voluntary, solo or time of praise may, if desired, be included at this point.*

**EXIT**

*The couple leads the wedding group from the Church to music or a hymn of their choice.*

## Dedication and Blessing Following a Civil Marriage

### Guidance for conducting the service

*This service is for couples already married to dedicate their life together to God and seek His blessing on their marriage. It does not need to conform to the legal requirements for marriage and should not be used for marriage at which a registrar or authorised person must be present.*

- ~ *Before this service takes place, the minister must see a certificate of registration of the marriage.*
- ~ *The minister should explore with the couple the Christian understanding of marriage.*
- ~ *No notice needs to be given to a registrar.*
- ~ *No entry is to be made in any marriage register supplied by the registrar.*
- ~ *The Church building need not be registered for these marriages.*

*The couple should enter the Church without ceremony and sit at the front.*

### **WELCOME**

*On behalf of the Church, the minister welcomes the couple, their family and friends to the service.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*The minister reads:*

**Psalm 100:1, 5**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through all generations.

**1 John 4:16b**

God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him

**HYMN**

**DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**

*The couple stand. The wife on the left hand of the husband.  
The minister addresses the assembled people:*

We are gathered here in the presence of God because *Name & Name* wish to commit to Him their marriage. They seek His empowering presence; they ask His blessing on their life together.

Christian marriage is a gift of God. It is the union of two persons in which each maintains a faithful, growing relationship with the other, with the Church, the Body of Christ, and with God Himself. It is a union that depends for its strength on the love which God has for His people, expressed in creation and, supremely, in the sacrifice of Christ Jesus. In marriage, husband and wife give themselves to one another in a lifelong commitment, companionship and care. They become one flesh. It is God's will that they delight in each other and that through these bonds, love God's grace is shown to the world.

*In the case of a marriage in which there are children, the following words may be added:*

When God blesses marriage with the gift of children, it is His way of increasing humankind. In the Christian family, He provides the security of love so needed by children.

## **PRAYER**

*This may be extempore, or the following may be used:*

God our Father,  
we thank You for the lives of *Name & Name*  
and for bringing them into marriage.  
We thank you for Your care and protection  
of them and for the love  
which has drawn them together.  
Strengthen them now  
to keep the promises they have already made  
and those which they are now to make.  
As they seek Your blessing upon their marriage,  
help them to be faithful and constant  
to each other and to You.  
Guide their steps and keep them by Your side.  
In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

## **READING**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 or Ephesians 5: 22-33

## **SERMON**

## **VOWS**

*The couple join hands and face each other.*

*The husband says to his wife:*

*Name*, you are my wife.  
With God's help  
I promise to be your faithful husband.  
To love you as Christ commands,  
to comfort you and protect you,  
and to honour you  
as long as we both shall live.

*The wife says to her husband:*

*Name*, you are my husband.  
With God's help  
I promise to be your faithful wife.  
To love you as Christ commands,  
to comfort you and protect you,  
and to honour you  
as long as we both shall live.

**RINGS**

*The minister prays:*

May the ring(s) you wear be a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, reminding you of the covenant into which you have entered.

**THE BLESSING**

*Name & Name*,  
may the Lord bless your marriage  
and guard you in all your ways.  
May the Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you,  
may the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.

Those whom God has joined together, no one must separate.

**PRAYER FOR THE COUPLE**

*This may be extempore, or the following may be used:*

God Our Father,  
we thank You for the gift of marriage  
and for its part in Your perfect plan.  
May Your blessing be upon *Name & Name*

who have confirmed their commitment to each other  
and who have made their vows before You.

Bless them in their home  
and make it a place where

Your name is honoured,  
and Your truth is upheld.

Help them in prosperity to be grateful to You  
and in hardship help them to trust You.

At all times, give them that love for each other  
which overcomes all trials and obstacles

and keep them loyal and steadfast  
to You to their journey's end.

### **PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN**

*Where there are children of this or any previous marriages, they  
now stand with their parents as prayers are offered for them as  
follows:*

God Our Father,

we bring *Names of the Children* before You  
and ask that they, too, experience Your blessing  
on their family and their home.

Unite them with their parents in Your love  
and grant them the security of Your care.

Help *Names of Parents*

to set them a godly example and provide a stable home  
in which they develop to their full potential,

guided by Your Word and strengthened by Your Spirit.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

## Reception of New Members

### Guidance for conducting the service

*Becoming a Church member is a solemn decision. Therefore, the reception of new members should be within the context of a Church service or as part of the Communion service. Those coming into membership should not be received into this privilege merely due to attendance at service. It should sincerely express their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and give evidence of their faith in a daily commitment to Him, worked out in loyal and sacrificial support for the Church in every possible way.*

*The transfer from Junior to Senior Membership at the age of eighteen or members moving from one Church denomination to another should not be automatic. The same should apply to new members.*

*It may be an encouragement to the candidates if one or two Church members act as sponsors, sitting with them at the front of the Church to support them as they make their promises. Where this service follows the baptism of believers, further responses or testimony should not be required*

### **WORSHIP SONG**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The minister/leader addresses the congregation:*

*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are about to receive into full privileges and responsibilities of membership of the Church, Names, (or receive into membership on transfer from Name of Church, Names of New Members).*

## **PRAYER**

*Extempore prayer may be offered, or the following prayer may be used:*

Lord, we thank You  
for the fellowship of Your Church  
here on Earth.

We thank You for the bond  
between us and You  
through Jesus Christ.

We remember as we have often done before,  
that we are bought, not with perishable things  
such as silver and gold,  
but with the precious Blood of Christ.

We pray for *Names*  
who are to be received into full membership  
here of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Help them to live their lives  
according to their high calling in Christ  
and fill them with full assurance of faith.

As we pray for the fellowship here,  
we ask that You bless us and give to us  
Your grace in ever-increasing measure.  
May we continuously pursue obedience  
to Your Word and show forth  
the glory of Your Name.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

*The minister addresses the new members:*

We have heard with joy of your decision to follow Christ and of your wish to be joined to the family of God in this place. You have come to profess anew your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to

consecrate yourselves to Him and to accept the privileges and responsibilities of membership of His Church.

**READING**

*Suitable passages include:*

John 15: 1-12, Ephesians 4: 1-6, Philipians 2:1-11, Romans 12, 1 Peter 2: 4-10.

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

*All standing, the minister or leader prays, and the congregation responds, using the words indicated:*

**Minister**

We thank You, Father, for Jesus Christ, His life and His teaching; for His cross and His passion; for His resurrection and ascension; and for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**

We thank You, God

**Minister**

We praise You for the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, by which we have forgiveness of sins, the means of grace and the ministry of reconciliation.

**Congregation**

We thank You, God.

**Minister**

May Your Church here know the Your power; honour your presence, and worship You in the beauty of holiness. May the gifts of the Spirit be in evidence and used to glorify Your Name.

**Congregation**

Hear us, O Lord.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (optional)**

**SERMON**

**CALL TO RESPOND**

*Addressing those who are to become members, the Minister says:*

We are present here as part of the one family of God to welcome you into the fellowship of the Church. Therefore, it is fitting that as you desire to live in that fellowship, you should confess your faith in Him.

**RESPONSES**

*If desired, testimony may be given here by those presenting themselves for membership, or the following questions may be asked of them collectively. They stand at the front, facing the minister.*

**Minister**

Our Lord offers you Himself, and in Him all the promises and gifts of God are yours. May you do all things through Christ who gives you strength.

Do you believe you have been saved from your sins through faith in Jesus Christ?

**New Member**

I do.

**Minister**

Do you trust Him as your Lord and Saviour?

**New Member**

I do.

**Minister**

Will you seek to do God's will and serve Him in fellowship with other believers in the Church, and will you promise to make every effort not to neglect the gathering of the Church and the participation of Communion?

**New Member**

With God's help, I will.

**Minister**

Will you seek to be a witness for Christ in obeying the Great Commission?

**New Member**

With God's help, I will.

**Minister**

Will you be faithful to God through prayer and meditation on His Word?

**New Member**

With God's help, I will.

**RECEPTION**

**Minister**

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we receive and welcome you into membership of this Church, to share in all its privileges and responsibilities; and I now give you the right hand of fellowship.

*The minister shakes hands with each in turn and, if desired, presents each one with a certificate of membership.*

**THE BLESSING**

**Numbers 6:24–26**

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

*The reception may be followed by the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.*

## Funeral Service

### Guidance for conducting the service

*Before a funeral, the minister should visit the family to offer spiritual help and any information or guidance regarding funeral arrangements. Family members may wish to be involved in the planning of the service, including the choice of songs, and occasionally, some want to take part in readings or personal tributes. The service itself will be subject to time constraints, especially when a cremation follows a Church service. In consultation with the undertaker, it is best to fix a time that allows the service to be unhurried, ensuring that the appointed time is kept at the crematorium.*

*Great sensitivity is needed in the conduct of a funeral, especially where people are struggling with grief. Yet a funeral should be a healing experience for those who attend, as words of comfort are offered, and tribute is paid to the deceased. Whether or not the individual has been a believer, the essence of Christian hope and the way of salvation should be made evident, but without judgement on the person concerned. The prayers in this order of service will not cover every possible situation but are guidelines. Where necessary, they should be adapted or re-written to suit particular circumstances.*

### In the Church

*The Congregation stands as the coffin is brought into the Church. The following words (or others from the selection below) may be spoken by the minister either as he precedes the coffin, or when he is at the front of the Church.*

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*The leader may use one or more of the following:*

### **John 11:25–26**

[25] Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Everything that happens in life links us to the Lord, and when we die we come face to face with Him. In life or death, we are in the hands of the Lord. Christ lived and died and lives again to establish His authority over the dead and the living.

### **Romans 14:7–9**

[7] For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. [8] For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

### **Deuteronomy 33:27**

[27] The eternal God is your dwelling place,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.  
And he thrust out the enemy before you  
and said, ‘Destroy.’

### **Matthew 5:4**

[4] Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

### **John 14:27**

[27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13–14**

[13] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have

no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

*Other suitable Scriptures are:*

Isaiah 26:3-4; Lamentations 3:22-23. 25; John 3:16, 5:25, 14:19; Romans 8:38-39

## **PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
we thank You that You made each of us  
and gave us the precious gift of life  
and this beautiful world as our home.  
Thank You, too, for all those  
who have brought love and joy into our lives  
and have enriched them.  
It is hard to be separated from those  
whom You have given to us  
as friends and family.  
Today we come to express our sense of loss.  
We thank You for *Name*  
and for the happy memories we have of him/her.

Help us today  
to pay a fitting tribute to his/her memory  
and to look back on his/her life  
with a great sense of gratitude. Amen.

Heavenly Father,  
You love us with a love which is everlasting.  
We thank you that,  
through the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
You bring hope to us even as we grieve  
and mourn our separation from those we love.  
Help us. we pray, as we read the Scriptures  
concerning Your gift of eternal life,  
to be lifted above our distress

through Your words of assurance.

Gracious God,  
we thank You that You have promised  
to be the refuge and strength of those who love You,  
a very present help in trouble.  
We thank You that You are the same  
yesterday, today and forever.  
We pray that we may know Your comfort  
in our sorrow and that You  
will grant us the faith which will bring us  
into the light and peace of Your glorious presence. Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

### **READING**

*Suitable readings are:*

Psalm 23, John 6:35-40, 14:1-6, Romans 8:31b-39, 1 Corinthians 15  
(selected verses), 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1  
Peter 1:3-9, Revelation 7:9-17, 21:1-7, 22:1-5.

### **SERMON**

### **PRAYER**

Almighty God, our Father,  
we bring You praise, honour and glory  
because in Your great love for the world  
You gave Your Son to be our Saviour,  
to live our lives, to bear our griefs  
and to die our death upon the cross.  
We praise You because You  
brought Jesus back from death  
with great power and glory  
and gave Him all authority in Heaven and on Earth.

We thank You that, in so doing,  
Jesus conquered sin and death for us  
and opened the Kingdom of Heaven  
to all who trust Him.

We praise You  
for the great company of faithful believers  
whom Christ has brought through death  
to behold Your face in glory  
and who join with us  
in worship, prayer and service.  
For Your full and perfect gift of life in Christ Jesus  
all praise and thanks be given to You  
forever and ever.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*Alternative prayers for special circumstances may be included  
here, such as:*

**A Christian Leader or Worker**

Heavenly Father,  
we remember with gratitude  
the life and service of  
our dearly loved friend, *Name*.  
Thank You for the person he/she became  
through Your grace  
and for the godly life which he/she lived.  
*(Thanksgiving for specific areas of service  
could be included here).*  
Thank You for the inspiration and example  
he/she has left for those of us who follow  
in the life of Christian discipleship.

Today we are in grief that he/she  
is seen among us no more,  
but we rejoice in the certainty that he/she  
is now in the joy of Your presence  
and that for him/her,

all pain and suffering are ended.  
Your Word assures us that  
death is swallowed in victory  
and that nothing can separate  
Your people from Your love.  
Give us, we pray,  
that confidence of faith  
which comes from knowing You  
and which has no fear of death  
but sees it only as a gateway to eternal life  
which is ours through the loving sacrifice  
of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **A Victim of Violence**

Heavenly Father,  
we find it hard to come to terms  
with the suffering inflicted upon *Name*.  
We are struggling with anger and confusion.  
We find it hard to forgive the one(s)  
who caused his/her suffering  
and we know that in our own strength  
we cannot do so.

We ask You to exercise  
that forgiveness for us, and,  
in Your love, save us from the bitterness  
which consumes and destroys.

Give us Your strength and grace  
for the coming days as we learn  
to live without *Name's* familiar presence.  
We reflect on the times of joy we shared  
and the love that we had for each other.  
We are grateful for all the happy memories  
we have of *Name*, and pray that  
these may bring us comfort in the days ahead.  
Thank You that You promise  
an eternal home to all who turn to You,

where there is no suffering, injustice or pain.  
Help us to find comfort  
and assurance in Your promise.  
Heal the wounds within us  
and help us to experience Your love  
which is beyond all measure  
and greater than all our understanding. Amen.

### **A Sudden Death or a Tragic Accident**

Heavenly Father,  
at this time, a thousand questions  
come to our minds as we try  
to come to terms with this loss.  
You know the aching void we feel  
and the sense that *Name* was  
taken from among us long before his/her time.  
Save, us, we pray,  
from the bitterness that destroys us further,  
and grant us inner healing  
that enables us to live our lives again.

Thank You for all that *Name*  
meant to us and for the  
happy memories we have of him/her.  
Thank You, too, for Your promise  
of an eternal home for all who turn to You.  
Help us to find comfort and assurance  
in the faithfulness of Your Word.  
Heal the wounds within us  
and help us to experience Your love  
which is beyond all measure and greater than all our  
understanding. Amen.

### **A Suicide**

Heavenly Father,  
we grieve the circumstances  
which led to the death of our friend *Name*,

and we struggle to comprehend his/her final actions.  
Thank You that, in Your justice and mercy,  
You see more deeply than we do  
and You understand exactly  
what lies behind this tragedy.  
We thank You that, in Your Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
You touched the depths  
of human anguish and despair  
and You know the feelings of those  
who feel hopeless  
and that life is more than they can bear.  
Help us to find our strength in You  
and to look back with gratitude  
to the happier moments in *Name's* life.  
We ask this in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*Suitable reading for a service following a suicide are  
Psalm 139:1-10, 22-23 and John 14:18, 27*

## **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord.  
Jesus Christ. The great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the  
eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do  
His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

*The minister precedes the coffin as it is taken from the Church.*

### **At the Grave or Crematorium**

#### **SENTENCES**

*One or more of these sentences may be said at the graveside.*

Praise be to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles.

The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that He has made.

We know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands but eternal, in the heavens.

Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last says the Lord. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever.

***THE COMMITTAL***

Forasmuch as the spirit our brother/sister has returned to God who gave it, we, therefore, commit his/her body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; (*at a cremation: to the elements, ashes to ashes, dust to dust*) in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall give us new bodies like unto His glorious body. To Him be glory forever and ever.

*Or*

Forasmuch as our brother/sister has departed this life, we, therefore, commit (his/her) body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: (*at a cremation: to the elements, ashes to ashes, dust to dust*), trusting the infinite mercy of God, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **FURTHER SENTENCES**

*One or more of the following sentences may be said:*

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on; “Yes”, says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labour for their deeds will follow them”. They are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple (Rev. 14: **13**. 7; 15).

You are the King of Glory, O Christ; You are the everlasting Son of Glory. When You overcame the sting of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

### **1 Corinthians 15:54–57**

[54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

[55] “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

[56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

O death, where is your sting?”

## **PRAYER**

*One or both of the following prayers may be used.*

Almighty God,  
who made Your dear Son, Jesus Christ,  
to be the resurrection and the life,  
raise us, we pray, from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness;  
that when we depart this life  
we may be found acceptable to You.  
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

*Or*

Almighty God,  
we bring before You on those who mourn.  
We pray that they will cast every care on You  
and know the consolation and compassion or Your love.  
Grant, O Lord, that in all our experiences  
we may know Your guidance,  
in all our dangers, Your protection,  
and in all our sorrows, Your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***BENEDICTION***

Numbers 6:24–26

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace.

## Burial Service

### **SENTENCES**

*One or more of these sentences may be said at the graveside.*

Praise be to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles. The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that He has made. We know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands but eternal, in the heavens. Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last says the Lord. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever.

### **COMMITTAL**

*One of the following may be used*

Forasmuch as the spirit of our brother/sister has returned to God who gave it, we, therefore, commit his/her body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who shall give us new bodies like unto His glorious body. To Him be glory forever and ever.

*Or*

Forasmuch as our sister/brother has departed from this life, we, therefore, commit (his/her) body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, trusting the infinite mercy of God, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FURTHER SENTENCES**

*One or more of the following sentences may be said:*

**Rev. 14:13, 7:15**

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from now on; “Yes” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labour for their deeds will follow them. They are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple.”

You are the King of Glory, O Christ; You are the everlasting Son of the Father. When You overcame the sharpness of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**1 Corinthians 15; 55, 57**

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? Thanks be to God He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER**

*One or both of the following prayers may be used.*

Almighty God,  
who made Your dear Son, Jesus Christ,  
to be the resurrection and the life,  
raise us, we pray, from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness;  
that when we depart this life  
we may be found acceptable to You.  
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with You  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. Amen.

Almighty God,  
we bring before You all those who mourn,  
praying that they will cast every care

on You and know the consolation  
and compassion of Your love.  
Grant, O Lord,  
that in all our experiences  
we may know Your guidance,  
in all our dangers Your protection,  
and in all our sorrows Your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***BENEDICTION***

Numbers 6:24–26

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give  
you peace.

## Funeral of a Baby or Young Child

### Guidance for conducting the service

*(See under “Funeral Service” for general guidance and also the background information at the end of the service order). This is a particularly difficult service to take, as the grief of those concerned will be great. The focus should be on thanksgiving for the joy which the child brought to its parents, reflection on the preciousness of family life, and the encouragement of all concerned to love and support each other at this particularly difficult time. It is possible that other children will be present at the service, so the language used should be such that it can express their feelings as well as those of adults.*

### In the Church

*The Congregation stands as the coffin is brought into the Church. The following words may be spoken by the minister either as he precedes the coffin or when he is in position at the front of the Church.*

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

#### **Psalm 103:13**

[13] As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

#### **Isaiah 40:11**

[11] He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

## **Hebrews 11:5**

[5] By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

## **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

### **PRAYER**

*Extempore prayer may be offered by the minister, or the following may be used:*

Almighty God our Heavenly Father,  
we come to worship You.  
From You, the whole family in heaven  
and on earth receives its life,  
and Your fatherly care is given to all.  
Yours is the beauty of childhood,  
and Yours the light which shines in the face of age.

We praise You for the life of *Name*  
whose life was short  
but who brought such love and joy  
into the lives of his/her family and friends.  
Today it is so hard to accept what has happened,  
but we are grateful that *Name*  
came into our lives and meant so much to us.  
Help us to find comfort in remembering him/her  
and in knowing that You are now looking after him/her.  
We pray that You will be especially near  
to those who sorrow most at this time,  
and particularly for *Name's* parents( *brothers, sisters and/or other  
close relatives and friends may be named*).  
Help them to know Your love and care  
now and in the days ahead.  
Help us, we pray,  
to support them by our love and prayers.

We ask these things  
in the name of the One who is the children's friend,  
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**READING**

*Suitable Bible Readings are:*

Psalm 23; Matthew 18: 1-5, 10-14; Matthew 21: 14-16; Mark 10:  
13-16.

**ADDRESS**

**PRAYER**

*Extempore prayer or the following may be used:*

Father,  
the great loss that we have experienced  
reminds us that our years on earth  
are limited, and they will end for all of us.  
Yet we thank You  
that there is a greater life  
that lies beyond this life,  
which Jesus died to bring to us.  
Help us, we pray,  
to turn to Him who is  
the Way, the Truth and the Life,  
that we may, at last, know the joy of reunion  
and the perfect peace and rest of an everlasting home.  
Save us, we pray, from anger and bitterness  
which bring further damage and distress  
and help us to trust You to bring us  
through this time of pain and sorrow.  
Help us to accept that what we cannot see now,  
we shall one day understand.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**SONGS OF WORSHIP**

**BENEDICTION**

*The minister precedes the coffin as it is taken from the Church.*

At the Grave or Crematorium

**THE COMMITTAL**

Jesus said: Let the little children come to Me, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. See that you do not look down on one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in Heaven always see the face of My Father in Heaven.

We tenderly commit the body of this child to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes. dust to dust (or to the elements, ashes to ashes, dust to dust) in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom be glory forever and ever.

**BENEDICTION**

**Numbers 6:24–26**

- [24] The LORD bless you and keep you;
- [25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- [26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

## Service for a Stillborn Child

### Guidance for conducting the service

*The importance of a service for a stillborn child should not be underestimated. With care and support given to the families involved, the joyful expectation of a new life has suddenly turned to sadness. Ensure that particular attention is given to the parents as they feel shame or guilt at having failed their child. Talking about the child and using the child's name (if one has been given) should, in most cases, be encouraged.*

*This service is by no means definitive and not should be adapted to local situations. If the parents cannot be present at the service, it may be appropriate to use sections of this service with them, at their home or in hospital, in the form of a remembrance service.*

### In the Church

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Father,  
we pray that we might know  
Your presence and comfort now  
to strengthen, sustain and encourage us,  
and that a deeper experience of You,  
may lead us through the pain of heartache.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

We gather today on a very sad occasion. When we were expecting joy and happiness, we find that we have tears and grief. We do not understand, and we have so many questions that have no real answers.

We are, however, certain of some things. We know that God made us. We know that God loves us. We know that God sent His Son to show us what He was really like. We know that God has promised that He will never abandon us. We know that God understands,

even if we do not. We know that God is with us now. He has not left us without hope and His promises, recorded in the Bible, are reliable. This is what he says:

### **READINGS**

*The minister may choose one or more of these or other appropriate verses:*

#### **Lamentations 3:22–23**

- [22] The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
[23] they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

#### **Matthew 5:4**

- [4] “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

#### **Mark 10:14**

[14] But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

The last verse paints a picture of Jesus receiving children and we trust that you will have the assurance that Jesus has received your child.

### **ADDRESS**

*If desired or appropriate.*

### **PRAYERS**

Father,  
Your words have brought reassurance and comfort  
to many people and we ask that in our grief  
we may truly experience  
Your presence and hear your voice.

Lord Jesus,  
we read of You taking children into Your arms  
and blessing them.

We thank You that *Name*  
is now in the safety of Your love and care  
and ask for your continued assurance of this.

*At the grave or crematorium*

### **THE COMMITTAL**

We entrust this child to his/her creator Father,  
knowing that his/her soul  
has returned to the One who brought it into being.  
We now tenderly commit his/her earthly body  
to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes,  
dust to dust (or to the elements, ashes to ashes, dust to dust)  
while we focus on our Lord who died,  
was buried and rose again to live forever. Amen

### **PRAYERS**

*Some or all of these prayers may be appropriate.*

#### **For the Mother**

Loving Father,  
thank You that You have brought *Name*  
safely through childbirth.  
May she know the security  
of your presence and support in her grief.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **For the Parents**

Almighty and ever-loving God,  
we know that You are the sovereign Lord

and that nothing that happens is pointless.  
We pray that You will comfort *Names of Parents*  
in their sadness.  
Give them a sense of Your unfailing love for them.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For any brothers or sisters and other family members**

Father,  
we pray that You will fill this family with your love  
and an awareness that you know how they feel.  
Help them to share their sorrow  
and build each other up,  
looking to You for strength.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For the doctors, nurses and other members of the medical team(s).**

Father,  
we pray for the medical professions  
involved in the care and birth of (this child).  
Dedicated to the preservation of life,  
they have had to face the loss of this baby.  
Comfort them, and give them  
the strength and wisdom that they need  
to continue in their profession.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE**

God allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die before He brought Him back from death to a life of glory with all power and authority in heaven and earth. Because of this, sin and death have been conquered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the empowering of His Spirit, we know His presence in times of darkness, and we are given strength to seek His will for the

future as we share in His kingdom both now, and in the world to come.

***BENEDICTION***

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

## Prayers Following a Miscarriage

### Guidance for conducting the service

*The importance of this service should not be underestimated as it helps to focus the grieving process and close a chapter. Particular attention should be given to the parents as they may feel they failed their baby, leading to guilt, which is almost always unfounded. Good pastoral support is of great benefit here, responding to the individual needs, which will vary widely.*

*This service is by no means definitive and should be adapted to local situations. As an example, the following sections might be used in an informal setting such as a family home:*

- ~ Prayer
- ~ Readings
- ~ Prayers as appropriate
- ~ Words of comfort and hope
- ~ Benediction

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Father,  
we pray that we may know Your presence now  
to strengthen, comfort and encourage us  
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **INTRODUCTION**

We gather today on a very sad occasion. When we were beginning to look forward to a new baby with joy and happiness, we find that we have tears and grief. We have so many questions to which there seem to be no real answers.

We are, however, certain of some things. We know that God made us. We know that God loves us. We know that God sent His Son to show us what He was really like. We know that God has promised that He is faithful and will never abandon us. We know that God understands, even if we do not. We know that God is with us now. He has not left us without hope and His promises, recorded in the Bible, are reliable. This is what He says:

**READINGS**

**Lamentations 3:22–23**

[22] The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
[23] they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

**Matthew 5:4**

[4] Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**Mark 10:14**

[14] But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

The last verse paints a picture of Jesus receiving children and we trust that you will have the assurance that Jesus has received your child.

**SONGS OF WORSHIP**

*If appropriate*

**READING**

**Psalm 139:13–18**

[13] For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.  
[14] I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.

[15] My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

[16] Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.

[17] How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

[18] If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.

## **SERMON**

*If desired and appropriate*

## **PRAYERS**

*Some or all of these prayers may be appropriate:*

Father,  
Your words have brought  
reassurance and comfort to many people  
and we ask that in our grief  
we might truly experience Your presence  
and hear Your voice.

### **For the Mother**

Loving Father, thank You  
that you have brought *Name*  
safely through this miscarriage.  
We pray that she may know the security  
of your presence and support at this time of grief. Amen.

### **For the Prospective Parents**

Almighty and ever-loving God,  
we know that You are the sovereign Lord  
and that nothing that happens is meaningless.  
We pray that You will comfort *Names*  
in their sadness and give them a  
sense of Your unfailing love for them. Amen.

### **For any other family members**

Father,  
we pray that You will fill this family  
with Your love;  
may they know you understand their feelings.  
Help them to share their sorrow and build each other up,  
looking to You for strength. Amen.

### **For the Doctors, nurses and other members of the medical team(s)**

Father,  
we pray for the medical professions  
that were involved in the care and birth of (this child).  
Dedicated to the preservation of life,  
they have had to face the loss of this baby.  
Comfort them, and give them  
the strength and wisdom that they need  
to continue in their profession.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **READING**

#### **Psalm 145:14–21**

[14] The LORD upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

[15] The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.

- [16] You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- [17] The LORD is righteous in all his ways  
and kind in all his works.
- [18] The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.
- [19] He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.
- [20] The LORD preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- [21] My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and  
ever.

### **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

*If appropriate.*

### **WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE**

God allowed His Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die before He brought Him back from death to a life of glory with all power and authority in heaven and earth. Because of this, sin and death have been conquered, and the Holy Spirit is here to comfort and restore. Through the empowering of His Spirit, may we know His presence in times of darkness and given strength to seek His will for the future, as we share in His kingdom, now and in the world to come.

### **BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

## Disposal of Ashes after Cremation

### Background and Definitions

*Cremations are more common today than in the past, but there are still misconceptions about this, particularly with regard to the disposal of cremated remains. This, while not forming any part of the service, is intended to provide some background information for those concerned with funeral arrangements.*

*Following a cremation, the remains, often incorrectly described as "ashes", will be left. The question arises about what to do with them, particularly as the Christian tradition stresses the dignity and value of each individual. In most cases (about 80%), the remains are either strewn or buried in gardens of remembrance at the crematorium. Some crematoria have niches where urns containing the cremated remains may be placed, or suitable urns for disposal elsewhere, such as a family grave. Remains may be strewn at another garden of remembrance or a favourite location. There is, however, no legal requirement for the disposal of cremated remains to be disposed of in any particular way. Where a request is made for the cremated remains to be strewn in a particular location, prior permission must be sought, and any local regulations observed.*

*The general preference at present is for strewing cremated remains rather than simply scattering them over the ground where they could easily be blown about. Strewing refers to the practice of lifting a portion of turf in the desired location, spreading the cremated remains beneath it and then replacing the turf. Alternatively, the area where the ashes have been placed can be covered by a mixture of loam and sand. When this is done, the weather and biochemical action break down the remains so that, in a relatively short time, no trace is left.*

*To assist the return of the remains to the soil, it is not necessary for a container to be used. Should a container be desired, it should be perishable. Where a formal burial of the remains is requested,*

*guidance from those responsible for the Churchyard, crematorium garden or cemetery must be obtained and followed.*

### Guidance for conducting the service

*A funeral service takes place either at a Church or crematorium before a cremation. Therefore, it is inappropriate to have what is, in effect, a second funeral service for the disposal of the ashes. A simple service of prayers and Bible readings is probably most appropriate. This suggested outline should be adapted to fit each situation. It is necessary to adapt the service to the particular form of disposal, e.g. strewing, scattering or burying of ashes.*

*A prior visit to the site where cremated remains are to be strewn is highly desirable. There may be practical difficulties related to the preparation of the site, especially if it is not in a recognised Churchyard or cemetery where professional help can be obtained.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

We have already entrusted *Name* to God's safekeeping and, now we come to commit his/her ashes to the ground (water). We do so in the certainty that as our Lord Jesus once rose from the dead so will *Name* rise to eternal life, believing that what was once perishable will rise imperishable.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Father,  
we pray that we may know Your presence  
with us here as we render our last service to *Name*.  
We pray that You will keep us faithful to Yourself  
so that we, along with all those who believe in You,  
may one day be united in the full knowledge of You  
with a clear vision of Your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**READING**

**Matthew 5:4**

[4] “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Paul wrote to some early Christians:

**1 Thessalonians 4:14–18**

[14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [15] For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**THE INTERMENT**

We now commit these ashes to the ground (water), earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. We do this in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, was buried and rose again from the dead. To Him be glory for ever and ever.

**PRAYER**

Father,  
we pray that You strengthen  
us all in the knowledge of Your love  
for us and Your servant *Name*.  
Grant us strong and patient faith  
in the face of death and guide us  
in the use of our time and talents  
that You may be glorified  
on earth and in heaven. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

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

## Ordination or Commissioning of a Minister

### Guidance for conducting the service

*This service is for use in an assembly for those entering into the ministry of their particular denomination. Where a minister is appointed to a local Church, having already been ordained or commissioned, the service for the Induction of a Minister should be used.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Congregation standing.*

### **The President**

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and has made us a kingdom and priests to serve Him, God and Father, to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

### **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE**

### **BIBLE READING**

*One or more of the following passages of Scripture shall be read: Matthew 28:18-21; Isaiah 6: 1-8; Luke 12: 35-38; 2 Timothy 4: 1-5*

### **TESTIMONY**

*The candidate shall address the assembly giving a brief account of his/her calling by God to the ministry and his/her present*

*experience of the Lord, and shall promise to carry out his/her work with loyalty and a godly life, by God's grace.*

**RESPONSES**

**President**

*To the candidate, who stands:*

By the grace of God, you have been called to be His minister. I ask you, in His name: Do you believe that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take you this ministry upon you, to serve God for the promoting of His glory, for the preaching of His gospel, and for the edification of His people?

**Candidate**

I do so believe.

**President**

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all that is necessary for personal salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and are you determined to instruct the people committed to your care in the Word of God?

**Candidate**

I am so persuaded and have so determined, by God's grace.

**President**

As you believe that you are called to be a minister of Christ in (name of denomination), I ask you now whether you believe its doctrines and whether you are prepared to preach and teach the same.

**Candidate**

I do so believe and will so preach and teach, God being my helper.

**President**

Will you be diligent in prayer and reading Holy Scriptures and study, which will increase your knowledge of the same?

**Candidate**

I will endeavour so to do, God being my helper.

**President**

As you are called to be an ambassador of Christ, urging people to be reconciled to God, will you endeavour, as far as you are able, to be a wholesome example and a true Christian pattern to the whole body of Christ?

**Candidate**

I will endeavour so to do, God being my helper.

***SIGNING OF STATEMENT***

**President**

In order to affirm your solemn promise to remain loyal to these vows, will you sign your name on these documents?

***PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATE***

*The President prays:*

May Almighty God,  
who has appointed you to this holy calling,  
and has given you the will to do all these things,  
grant you strength and power  
to fulfil your commission,  
so that He may accomplish His gracious work,  
begun in you today and through you,  
to present those to whom you will minister  
perfect before Him,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYER FOLLOWED BY THE PRAYER OF ORDINATION  
/COMMISSIONING.***

*Prayers that the candidate may:*

- ~ know the anointing of the Holy Spirit;
- ~ preach the word of God with power;
- ~ -have wisdom, courage and strength;
- ~ live a life which is in every way honouring to God;
- ~ have a close daily walk with God.

*Prayers for the Church in which the candidate will minister and the people who will share in that ministry.*

***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

***SONGS OF WORSHIP***

***CHARGE***

*A charge shall be given to the new minister at this point, in the form of an address.*

***RECEPTION INTO DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY***

*The President (or another appointed person) shall give the right hand of fellowship, saying:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church, we receive you as an ordained minister of the Gospel in *(name of the denomination)*.

***PRESENTATIONS***

*If any are made.*

***THE COMMUNION SERVICE***

***CLOSING SONG OF WORSHIP***

***BENEDICTION***

## Recognition or Commissioning of a Minister

### Guidance for conducting the service

*This service is for use where a minister is both received into the ministry of the denomination and commissioned as a minister in the local Church in the same service. It would normally be held in the new minister's Church.*

*The leader of the service or another appointed person should explain the meaning and purpose of the service.*

### **HYMN**

### **PRAYER**

### **HYMN**

### **READING**

### **STATEMENT BY CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES**

*A representative of the Church where the new minister is a member should give a statement or brief address supporting his/her appointment.*

### **STATEMENT BY NEW MINISTER**

*The new minister should give an account of his/her testimony of faith and call to the ministry. This should include an expression of personal consecration to the work of the ministry and an indication of his/her hopes and aims in Christian service.*

### **SONGS OF WORSHIP**

*On the theme of consecration.*

**ADDRESS**

*This may be given by a senior minister or another representative of the denomination chosen and invited by the host Church.*

**THE CHARGE**

*This should be given by an appointed representative of the denomination who may or may not be the speaker for the evening.*

**DENOMINATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

*The congregation stands.*

Are you as a congregation of Christ's flock prepared to receive *Name* as a minister amongst you?

**Congregation**

We are

**Denominational Representative**

Will you so order your fellowship that he/she shall be supported in every way, by love, help, the opportunity for service and by your faithful prayers?

**Congregation**

We will, God being our helper.

**Denominational Representative**

*To the candidate, all still standing:*

Before God and before Jesus Christ who is to judge the living and the dead, I solemnly charge you to proclaim the message, press it home in season and out of season, use argument, reproof and appeal, with all the patience that teaching requires.

*Any of the following may be read:*

**2 Timothy 4:1–2**

[1] I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: [2] preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

**2 Timothy 4:5**

[5] As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

**1 Peter 5:2**

[2] ...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly.

**Do you accept this charge?**

**New Minister**

I do and will faithfully fulfil it, God being my helper.

**Denominational Representative**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and on behalf of this Church [and circuit and *Name of Denomination*] I accept your promise and undertaking and receive you into the Ministry of the Word and Call to Service in our Churches. As a sign of this, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship.

**COMMISSIONING PRAYER**

*This may, if desired, be accompanied by the laying on hands. It is suggested that at least two people be involved, representing the local Church and the denomination.*

**PRESENTATION OF MINISTER'S CERTIFICATE**

**OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

***SONGS OF WORSHIP***

***BENEDICTION***

## Induction of a Minister

### Guidance for conducting the service

*This service is for use when an already ordained or commissioned minister is appointed to a local Church where the service should be held. It should be held within a service that includes songs, prayers, readings and an address in the usual way.*

### **Introduction**

#### **President**

*The congregation stands.*

Dearly beloved, who are of the household of faith, do you the members and friends of this Church called the *Name of Church* receive *Name of Minister* as your minister? Do you promise before God to give him/her all the support, help and encouragement you can by way of prayer, fellowship and any other means God gives to you? Will you allow him/her the right to exercise his/her ministry as he/she feels God would have him/her do, and seek along with him/her, to further the kingdom of God here upon earth?

#### **Congregation**

With God's help we do so promise.

#### **Prayer**

*Extempore prayer or the following:*

God, who has inspired this congregation  
by your Holy Spirit to call *Name*  
as their minister,  
grant to your servants the spirit  
of Christian love and co-operation  
that the work of your glorious Gospel

may not be hindered  
and that your Word may have free reign. Amen.

***MINISTER'S RESPONSES***

**President**

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

**Minister**

I do so confess Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

**President**

Are you fully persuaded that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God for all time and contain all doctrine required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

**Minister**

I am so persuaded.

**President**

Do you believe that you are truly called by God to the pastoral charge of this Church and congregation?

**Minister**

I do so believe.

**President**

Do you promise to faithfully execute your charge to preach and teach the Word of God, to serve in fulfilling pastoral functions and to do the work of an evangelist?

**Minister**

By the help of God, I do so promise.

**President**

Will you strive to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ?

**Minister**

I will, with the help and encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

**President**

*The President addresses the minister's spouse:*

Do you promise to encourage, support and stand with *Name* in his/her work of ministry?

**Minister's Spouse**

Relying on God's help, I will.

**President**

*The congregation stands.*

Friends, do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess anew Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour?

**Members**

We do

**President**

Do you acknowledge and receive *Name* as Pastor/Minister of this Church, together with his wife/her husband *Name*, giving them your affection, honour and support in the Lord, undertaking to pray for them regularly? Will you encourage and support them in their ministry and play your part with them in promoting the work of the Kingdom?

**Members**

Gladly, we do.

**President**

*Offering the right hand of fellowship to the Minister*

*Name*, in the Name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, I declare you inducted as the minister of this, the *Name of Church*.

**Numbers 6:24–26**

[24] The LORD bless you and keep you;

[25] the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

[26] the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

**PRAYER**

*Congregation to be seated.*

*Extempore prayer may be offered, or the following:*

O Lord

we thank You for calling Your servant *Name* into the ministry of this Church.

Grant to him/her the power of the Holy Spirit that his/her ministry may

glorify the Name of Jesus Christ,

the only Head of the Church,

who is above all other names.

May he/she know Your guidance

in all matters of ministry

that the souls of many shall

be brought from darkness to light in Christ

and that those who walk in the light

shall be fed with the Word of life.

Through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Dedication of those Called to Specific Ministries

### Guidance for conducting the service

*The following service is to be used at an appropriate point in a service of worship. It can be used for the dedication of elders, deacons, stewards, musicians, Sunday School teachers or any other group of people who are set apart for particular tasks.*

### **READING:**

*One or more of the following passages may be read:*

Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:1-16 (or other suitable Scripture).

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

#### **Minister**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you *Name(s)* who has/have are called to work among us as *Name of ministry*. Today, we welcome him/her/them to work with us and pledge ourselves to do our part in supporting and co-operating with him/her/them.

### **RESPONSES**

#### **Minister**

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you confess anew Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

#### **Worker**

I do

#### **Minister**

Do you believe that God has called you to ministry?

**Worker**

I do

**Minister**

In all your tasks, will you guard your own discipleship in joyful obedience to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

**Worker**

By the grace of God, I will.

**Minister**

By God's grace, will you endeavour to exercise your ministry with courage and commitment?

**Worker**

I will, the Lord helping me.

**Minister**

Do you believe that He who has called you to the task will also equip you for it?

**Worker**

I do.

**Minister**

Do you acknowledge your commitment to work together with all those represented here for the greater glory of God? (*Details about the appointment may be added here.*)

**Worker**

I do.

**Minister**

*Name*, will you see your task within the context of all the ministries Christ has given to His Church, always making it your aim to build up several parts into the one Body of Christ?

**Worker**

I will.

**Minister**

*The congregation stands, and the minister asks:*

Do you believe that God has set apart *Name(s)* to work with us and among us as *Name of ministry*, and do you believe him/her/them to be particularly gifted to serve us in this way?

**Congregation**

We do

**Minister**

Do you pledge your willingness to work with *Name(s)* and to support him/her/them in ministry among us?

**Congregation**

We do

**Minister**

Do you promise your prayerful support to her/him/them in his/her/their tasks?

**Congregation**

We do

**PRAYER**

*Possibly accompanied by laying on of hands.*

*The service should then continue as arranged.*

## Covenant Service

### Guidance for conducting the service

*This service is used at the beginning of a new year as an act of consecration by a congregation. It can be used at a different time of year which may be significant to the Church, such as the Sunday following the Church's Annual General Meeting, when new appointments have are made.*

### **THANKSGIVING**

#### **Minister**

Let us give thanks to God: O God our Father, You have been gracious to us not only in the past year but through all the years of our lives. We give You thanks for Your loving-kindness, which has filled our days and brought us to this time. You have given us life and reason, family and friends, and ministered to us through the lives of others. You have set in our hearts a hunger to know You and given us Your peace. You have redeemed us in Christ Jesus, and You have given us a place in the fellowship of Your Holy Spirit and the witness of Your Church.

Our Father, we remember that

- in darkness, You have been our light;
- in trouble and temptation, a rock of strength;
- in our joys, the very spirit of joy;
- in our labours, the all-sufficient reward.

Lord God,

You have remembered us when we have forgotten You,  
followed us when we have strayed  
and met us with forgiveness  
when we have turned our back to You.  
For all Your patience  
and for the abundance of Your grace,  
we praise Your Holy Name.

## **SILENT OR OPEN PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

### **CONFESSION**

#### **Minister**

#### **1 John 1:5–9**

[5] This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. [8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us, therefore, examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins.

#### **Minister**

*Or minister and congregation:*

O God our Father,  
who set out for us the way of life in Christ Jesus,  
we confess the shame  
of our slowness to learn of Him  
and our reluctance to follow Him.  
You have spoken and called  
and we have not given heed;  
You have stretched out your hand to us  
and we have passed by;  
we have taken great benefits with little gratitude;  
we have been unworthy of Your changeless love.

#### **People**

Lord have mercy on us and forgive us.

**Minister**

*Or Minister and People*

Forgive us for the poverty of our worship,  
the formality and selfishness of our prayers,  
our inconsistency and unbelief,  
our neglect of fellowship  
and the means of grace.  
Forgive us, O Lord,  
that so little of Your love  
has reached others through us  
and that we have borne so lightly  
the wrongs and sufferings that surround us.  
Forgive us that we have  
harboured thoughts that divide us from others;  
that we have made it hard  
for others to be their best and to live with us;  
that we have been thoughtless in our judgements,  
hasty in our condemnation  
and grudging in our forgiveness.  
Forgive us that we have been  
unwilling to overcome evil with good,  
and that we have been unmindful  
of Your work on the cross for our sins.

***TIME OF SILENT PRAYER***

**Minister**

Let us accept God's forgiveness together

**Minister and People**

**Psalm 51:1–2**

[1] Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.  
[2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

**Psalm 51:10**

[10] Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

***DECLARATION OF FAITH***

**Minister**

Let us affirm our faith together

We acknowledge that God  
is our Creator and Father;  
Jesus Christ His Son  
is our Saviour and Lord;  
the Holy Spirit our Guide  
who strengthens us.  
The Word of God  
is our rule of faith and conduct;  
Christ died for our sins  
and was raised again for our salvation.  
We, His Church, are called  
to proclaim Jesus Christ in the world  
until He comes again.

***THE COVENANT***

**Minister**

And now let us respond gladly to our Covenant God once more and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This means we are content for Him to direct our lives and be our only reward. There are many services Christ has for us to carry out. Some are easy, and others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are acceptable to our personal tastes and interests; others are contrary to both.

In some, we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet, the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, let us make the Covenant of God our own, and in sincere dependence on His Grace and trusting in His promises, yield ourselves anew to Him.

**Minister**

O Lord God, Holy Father  
who has called us through Christ  
to be partakers of this gracious covenant,  
we take upon ourselves with joy  
the yoke of obedience  
and engage ourselves to seek and do Your perfect will.  
We no longer belong to ourselves because we are Yours.

**Congregation**

I am no longer my own, but Yours.  
Show me the tasks that are mine to perform,  
let me be employed or laid aside for You;  
exalted or brought low for You.  
Whether I have all things or nothing  
I freely give myself to You  
for the sake of the Kingdom.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
You are mine, and I am Yours.  
You are my covenant-keeping God  
and I, through Your infinite grace,  
am Your covenant servant.  
The Covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

*The service should be concluded with The Lord's Supper*

## Formation of a Church

### Guidance for conducting the service

*Such a significant moment should always be marked by the presence of the wider Christian community. The recognised leader of the denomination, its local representatives and guests from other branches of the Christian Church, if necessary, and possibly of the civic community should/could be invited. When the congregation is gathered together, it is appropriate that the believers who are to form the new Church, Leaders and members, should sit together at the front. This act of covenanting should be the climax of service of worship and praise and should follow the preaching of the Word.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The Minister, President, Church Secretary, or another representative of the new Church tells of the steps that led to the formation of this new Church, with particular emphasis on why the people believe it is the will of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Church in this place.*

### **THE ACT OF COVENANTING**

### **STATEMENT OF COVENANT**

#### **Leader**

*Addressing the assembled congregation:*

We come together today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to make a covenant with Him and with each other, and so that this Congregation may become a fully constituted Church of believers.

There are four requirements of all who enter into this covenant:

- ~ Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ~ Mutual love within the fellowship.

- ~ The willingness to obey Christ's Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples, teaching them to observe all that He has commanded.
- ~ A commitment to the wider fellowship of God's people and the desire to work with others as far as is possible

We have heard with joy and thanksgiving your wish and purpose to unite in Christian fellowship, to seek the Lord and serve Him. We ask you now to enter into covenant with Him and with each other and walk in the way of the Gospel as a Church of Jesus Christ.

### **RESPONSES**

*The people who form the new Church stand.*

#### **Leader**

As believers who are to form the *Name of Church*, do you affirm your faith in the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, knowing that you have been born again into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit?

#### **People**

We do

#### **Leader**

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34–35

Will you now re-affirm your mutual love and acceptance of one another?

#### **People**

We will so re-affirm

## **Leader**

### **[Ephesians 2:19b-21a]**

The apostle Paul writes: “You are .... Fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together”.

### **DECLARATION**

*The congregation stands while the new members repeat the following declaration:*

Trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour and confessing Him as Lord, we covenant together to walk with God, in all His ways and in all the responsibilities and privileges of Church fellowship, worship, service and witness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **RECOGNITION OF THE NEW CHURCH**

## **Leader**

We, then, your brothers and sisters, acknowledge your response and, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, recognise and welcome you as a Church in Him. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen.

### **GREETINGS**

*At this point, if it is desired, the various representatives may come forward and offer the right hand of fellowship, followed by the rest of the Congregation if appropriate.*

### **SIGNING OF CHURCH ROLL**

*The new Church members may come forward to sign the Church roll.*

**PRAYER**

*Prayers for the new fellowship should now be offered*

*The service should be concluded with the Lord's Supper.*

## Opening and Dedication of a Church Building

### Guidance for conducting the service

*As with the Formation of a Church, it is expected that the wider Christian community will participate in this service. This service is for the opening and/or dedication of a new Church building, not the formation of a new fellowship of believers. The service can be organised in various ways, including taking into account prevailing weather conditions. If possible, the congregation should gather outside the building's closed doors, along with the presiding minister and those who are to participate in the dedication service. Or, the congregation may assemble inside, with doors locked two minutes or so before the service is due to begin. Those involved in the opening ceremony remain outside.*

*The presiding minister invites the builder, at some point, to hand the key to the person chosen to perform the opening or knocks on the door and requests permission to enter the building. The door is unlocked, and the party (with the Congregation) enter and take their places. A song of worship may be sung as everyone enters.*

### **THE ENTRANCE**

*The presiding minister or elected leader either knocks on the door, or asks for the key to be handed over, then reads:*

#### **Minister**

#### **Psalm 118:19**

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

*The door is opened, either with the key by the person chosen to open the doors from outside, or by the Church official from inside. The party is then invited to enter with the words:*

**Congregation**

Psalm 24:7

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

Psalm 100:4–5

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

**SONGS OF WORSHIP**

*Songs are sung while the people enter.  
When all have entered, they remain standing.*

**WELCOME**

**Leader**

Peace be to this house and all that worship in it;  
peace be to those that enter and to those that go out from it;  
peace be to those that love it,  
and that love the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Congregation now take their seats.*

**PRAYER**

Our Father  
make the door of this house we have raised  
wide enough to receive all  
who need human love and fellowship  
and Your fatherly care;  
and narrow enough to shut out all  
envy, pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough  
to be no stumbling-block to little children  
and strong enough to tum back  
the tempter's power.  
God, make the door of this house  
the gateway to your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SONGS OF WORSHIP AND DEDICATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Suitable readings are:*

1 Kings 8: 22-30, 1 Chronicles 29: 10 - 18,  
Psalms 24, 84, 122.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Suitable readings are:*

Matthew 16: 13 - 20, 1 Corinthians 3: 10 - 17, Ephesians 2; 11 -  
22, 3:14-21, 1 Peter 2; 4-10.

**ACT OF DEDICATION**

*The leader invites the congregation to stand.*

## **Leader**

Since it has pleased Almighty God to put into the hearts of His people to build this house; and has given us grace to gather ourselves together with one accord to dedicate it to His worship and service; let us now, with thanksgiving and reverence, fulfil the purpose for which we are meant.

Let us also remember that the Lord does not live in temples made with hands, nor is He worshipped with human hands as though He needs anything, seeing that He gives life and breath to all His creation. God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

## **Congregation**

For the glory of God in praise and prayer.  
For the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
For the celebration of the sacraments of His grace.  
For the giving of comfort to those who mourn,  
of strength to those who are tempted,  
of light to those who seek the way;

For the blessing of family life,  
For the teaching and guiding of the young,  
For the perfecting of faith in all who believe;  
In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we do this.

To the glory of God the Father  
who has called us by His grace;  
To the glory of God the Son,  
who loves us and gave Himself for us;  
To the glory of God the Holy Spirit,  
who brings us to the light.  
gives us strength, and is the source of our love,  
we dedicate this Church building.

To the worship of God,  
To our high calling in Christ Jesus,  
and to the service of His kingdom,

we dedicate our gifts, our energies, and ourselves,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**ADDRESS**

*If desired.*

**HYMN**

**THE LORDS SUPPER (IF DESIRED)**

**BENEDICTION**

## Dedication of Memorials and Gifts

### Guidance for conducting the service

*While some Churches may not place much emphasis on sacred objects, furnishings and ceremonies, others may feel it appropriate to dedicate such things to the service of God. Where a new building is opened, furnishings may either be dedicated individually within the opening ceremony or treated as part of the total dedication.*

*Alternatively, they may be dedicated when they are first used. We need to ask the question: The purpose of the dedication of Church furnishings needs to be taken into account.*

- ~ *The setting apart of objects for a special function, for instance, a Communion Table may be dedicated solely to that purpose and not for general use. There should be a prayer for the ministry that will be associated with the object in question.*
- ~ *A recognition that God, who fills all creation and may reveal Himself in any part of it, chooses particular places where He discloses Himself in special ways.*
- ~ *It is fitting that the dedication of any memorial or gift should take place within a service of public worship.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

*With the congregation standing, the leader reads Psalm 96: 6-9.*

### **PRAYER**

Almighty and most glorious Lord God,  
by whose power, wisdom and love  
all things are sanctified and made perfect;  
bless us, we pray,  
and let Your face shine upon us

so that what we do now may please You,  
and show the honour and glory of Your name.  
Reveal Your work to us,  
Your servants, and Your glory to our children.  
Let Your beauty be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Congregation may now be seated, if appropriate.*

*From this point in the service, use whichever of the following forms of dedication is appropriate.*

### **Unveiling of a memorial**

#### **Leader**

We ask *Name* to unveil the Memorial

#### **READING**

Psalm 27:1-11

#### **DEDICATION**

Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we dedicate this memorial to the Glory of God, and in memory of His servant *Name*, for the use of His Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **PRAYER**

### **Church Furnishings or Gifts**

#### **READING**

Numbers 7: 1-4, 10-11

## **DEDICATION**

Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we dedicate this  
*(name of gift or furnishing)* to the Glory of God,  
and for the use of His Church, in the name of the Father and of the  
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## **PRAYER**

### **A Lectern or Reading Desk or a Pulpit**

*At the point where the Scripture is to be read, the leader introduces the act of dedication, giving any relevant details, e.g. if it is a gift or memorial, and speaks of the importance of the Word in Christian worship.*

*The Bible is carried in and opened.*

## **READING**

### **Leader**

Let us hear the words of Scripture.

*A selection from the following or other appropriate Scripture:  
Psalms 1, 10, 119; Isaiah 40:6b - 8; 52:7 - 10, 55:8-11; Matthew  
7:24-27; Luke 21:33; John 12:21; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10; 2 Timothy  
3:16-17; 4:1-5.*

## **PRAYER**

## **LESSON**

*The lesson for the day is read from the new reading desk.*

## **SERMON**

*The sermon is preached from the new pulpit.*

## **A Communion Table or Communion Vessels**

*This may take place on a Sunday when the Communion is to be celebrated. At the appropriate part of the service, the leader approaches the table.*

### **Leader**

We are here to dedicate this table (these vessels) which will be used for the celebration of the sacrament of Communion. Let us hear the words of Scripture.

### **READING**

Luke 22:7 - 13 or 1 Corinthians 10: 16 - 17

### **DEDICATION**

Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we dedicate this Table (these vessels) for the Sacrament of His Supper.

### **PRAYER**

## **An Organ or other Musical Instrument(s)**

*This should be at the beginning of the service, the Congregation having assembled in silence.*

### **DOXOLOGY**

*This should be sung unaccompanied.*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**READING**

*The Congregation still standing, the leader reads Psalm 150: 1-6.*

**DEDICATION**

Dear friends, since God has put it into our hearts to receive this organ (or other instrument) as an aid to our worship here, it is good and proper that we should dedicate it to Him. Therefore, through faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the benefit of His Church, we dedicate this musical instrument to the praise and worship of Almighty God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**PRAYER**

**SONGS**

*The service then follows the usual way.*

## House Blessing

### Guidance for conducting the service

*The leader will pray and anoint the doorways whilst progressing through the house. Members of the household could read the readings. Beginning outside, the leader may walk to the four corners of the home or the property and, as he/she walks up the walkway to the door say:*

#### **Leader**

Heavenly Father

we dedicate this property unto you

and we ask that You perpetually bless this place.

May Your angels stand against

darkness in this home

and form a hedge of protection around it.

Peace be to this house and to all who enter here. Amen

Your home is a sacred place; a place where we feel safe, can relax, and be our true selves. Your home is where you gather as a family; it is where you are taught life values and ideals; where you nurture, support and encourage one another. A home is a place of tranquillity and peace.

#### **Leader**

Whose house is this, and would you and your house serve the Lord God Almighty?

#### **Members**

As for me and my house we would serve the Lord.

#### **Leader**

Today we gather here to bless this (new\*) home for  
*Names of all the people and pets who will live here.*

**John 14:23**

[23] Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

**READING**

**Matthew 5:14–15**

[14] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

**Leader**

*A candle is lit*

Let us pray:

Eternal God,  
as this candle gives light to this home,  
so enable those who dwell here  
to be your light in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Entrance Hall**

**Leader**

**Psalm 121:5–8**

- [5] The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.  
[6] The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
[7] The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
[8] The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

## **Let us pray**

Gracious God  
keep watch over those who live here,  
in their going out and in their coming home.  
May they dwell here,  
secure in your peace,  
extending your hospitality to all.  
Amen.

## **Living Room/Family Room**

### **Leader**

#### **Psalm 90:1–2**

- [1] Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.  
[2] Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

## **Let us pray**

Loving God  
fill this room with your love,  
that all who share it may be strengthened  
to serve you and one another.

## **Kitchen/Dining Room**

### **Leader**

#### **Psalm 104:27–28**

- [27] These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.  
[28] When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

## **Let us pray**

Blessed are you,  
God of heaven and earth,

for you give us food and drink to sustain us  
and make our hearts glad.  
Make us grateful for all your mercies,  
and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Bathroom**

#### **Leader**

Bless this room of health and care taking.  
As the waters cleanse us may it  
also offer relaxation, healing and comfort.

### **Bedroom**

#### **Leader**

#### **Psalm 4:8**

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

#### **Let us pray**

Guide us while waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in his peace. Amen

### **Children's rooms**

#### **Leader**

#### **Matthew 19:14**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

#### **Let us pray**

Heavenly Father  
embrace *Names of children*  
with your unfailing love.

Protect them from all danger,  
and bring them safely to each new day, Amen

### **Guest rooms**

#### **Leader**

#### **Hebrews 13:2**

[2] Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

#### **1 Peter 4:9**

[9] Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

### **Let us pray**

Loving God,  
you have taught us to welcome  
one another as Christ has welcomed us.  
We ask for your blessings on those  
who share in the hospitality of this home. Amen

### **Home Office**

#### **Leader**

Loving God,  
we ask for blessings for all who work here;  
may they be prosperous  
and enjoy the fruits of their labour. Amen

### **Patio / deck**

#### **Leader**

May this doorway bring into this home  
the elements of the natural surroundings,  
letting the life-giving energy  
of the sun and air to be part of their living space.  
May this be a place of relaxation, comfort, reflection and  
fellowship. Amen

## **Garden**

### **Leader**

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so, the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up  
before all the nations.

### **Let us pray**

O Master Gardener,  
you gave us a garden at creation  
to till and to keep.  
We continue to turn to the soil to refresh our souls.  
We praise you for the harvest of the earth,  
for the cycle of seasons a  
and for the rhythm of growing things.  
Be present with *Names of family members and pets*  
in this garden.  
May they delight in its gifts. Amen

## **Basement/laundry other rooms**

### **Leader**

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
we ask for your peace and joy to inhabit this room

### ***CLOSING WORDS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE:***

### **Leader**

#### **John 15:4–5**

[4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Let us pray**

Gracious God,  
in you alone do we find our true home.  
Make this house your abiding place  
and bless all who live here.  
Fill them with your Holy Spirit  
and send them out in your love. Amen

## Prayers for Particular Situations

### Sickness

O blessed Lord Jesus Christ,  
we praise You for the gift of healing  
You have bestowed upon Your Church.  
We pray, asking that You reach out  
in Your healing power and heal *Name*.  
Restore him/her to complete  
health and strength  
and enable him/her to fulfil the ministry  
to which You have called him/her.  
This we pray in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.

Almighty God  
giver of health and strength  
to all those who call upon You,  
show mercy to *Name*,  
that he/she may be healed of  
his/her infirmities of body, mind and spirit.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
during His earthly ministry,  
healed those who were brought to Him.  
We pray that by the same power *Name*  
may be delivered from sickness  
and restored to health for the glory of Your Name. Amen.

God our Heavenly Father,  
whose wisdom is beyond  
our understanding,  
we ask that *Name*  
may be granted Your strength  
to endure in this time of suffering.  
Grant relief from pain  
and the inner peace of Your presence.

Help him/her to trust in Your unfailing goodness  
at this difficult time.

We pray that You will be near  
to those who care for him/her  
and give them strength  
in their ministry of caring.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Sick Child**

Heavenly Father,  
we ask You to heal and strengthen *Name*.  
Let him/her feel that You are near  
and that You love him/her.  
Help him/her to be patient  
and not to be afraid.  
We pray that he/she will soon  
be well and active again.  
Help and comfort his/her parents at this time  
and give them all  
the peace, love and strength they need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **An Elderly Person**

Heavenly Father,  
You promised that, in the evening of our lives,  
there will be light.  
We pray that *Name* may know  
the light of Your presence at this time.  
Help him/her to continue to grow  
in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ,  
trusting only in His merits and sacrifice  
for forgiveness and eternal life.  
Give to him/her daily strength  
and inspire him/her  
with happy memories and a certain hope.  
May his/her path be as the light  
which shines into the perfect day.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Depression

Almighty God

look kindly upon *Name* in his/her  
feelings of weakness and helplessness.

Drive away the clouds which obscure  
his/her understanding  
and restore him/her to a full and clear mind.

Deliver him/her from  
troubled and anxious thoughts  
and from all conflicting and distressing emotions.

Restore him/her to the full power of self-worth  
and make perfect Your strength  
in his/her weakness.

Help her/him to trust in You and to  
focus his/her mind on You,  
so that he/she may be kept in perfect peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O blessed Lord,

release *Name* from restlessness and anxiety.

Fill him/her with Your peace and power,  
and remind him/her of Your promise:

Isaiah 43:2

[2] When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm  
you; when you walk through fire you shall not be  
burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

O Lord lighten his/her darkness

that she/he may be given your blessed assurance.

In Jesus Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.

Father,

we thank You for *Name*,

for the talents and abilities

You have given to him/her and for the way

he/she has used them.  
Lord, now,  
at a time when he/she needs  
to know your presence,  
surround him/her with Your love  
and let him/her know Your peace.

Reassure us all that there is nowhere  
we can go to be separated from Your loving care.  
You created us.  
You know when we sit and when we rise,  
and You perceive our thoughts from afar.  
How precious are Your thoughts,  
O God,  
We know that You will not abandon us,  
for which we thank You,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Bereavement**

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father,  
from whose love neither life nor death  
can separate Your children from You,  
help us now to wait on You for Your comfort,  
with reverent and submissive hearts.

Thank You for giving us  
*Name of Deceased*, for a while.  
Thank You for treasured memories.  
Your knowledge of him/her is perfect  
and we can safely leave *Name* in Your hands.  
Be with those left behind  
who mourn with pain their loss and separation.  
Heal the broken-hearted, bind up their wounds  
and comfort them by Your Word and promise.  
We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O blessed Lord Jesus Christ  
reach out in compassion and comfort

to those who mourn with Your sustaining grace.  
Strengthen and enable them to  
journey safely through the days that lie ahead.

Lighten their darkness,  
and may they know Your presence  
as they journey through the valley of the shadow of death.  
Bless them with the knowledge that  
their loved one is safe in Your arms,  
secure in their heavenly home.  
This we pray in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.

Father  
we thank You for *Name*.  
We thank You for all that he/she was.  
We thank You for memories  
to which we cling.

Father,  
we pray for all those that are left behind,  
that we may grieve as Jesus grieved  
for His friend, Lazarus.  
But grant that our grieving  
be neither overwhelming nor unending.  
In all that we do,  
help us to hold on to Your love.  
All this we ask in the name of Your risen Son, Jesus Christ Our  
Lord. Amen.

### **Visiting a Home**

Accept, O Lord,  
our thanks for this family and home.  
We thank You for all the blessings and gifts  
You have freely bestowed upon  
these, Your servants.  
We thank You for life and health  
and the ability to do the work  
to which you have called them.

Blessed Jesus

may all who come into this home  
recognise Your presence and Your love  
expressed in each of these dear ones.

Enable them, we pray,

to grow in grace and knowledge

of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

## Creeds, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments

### **THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God  
eternally begotten of the Father  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord  
the giver of life  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped  
and glorified,  
Who spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

***THE APOSTLES' CREED***

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty,  
from where He will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the one holy Church  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

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 forever.  
Amen.

### ***THE TEN COMMANDMENTS***

I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.  
You shall not make for yourself any idol.  
You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God.  
Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.  
Honour your father and mother.  
You shall not commit murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not be a false witness.  
You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.