



The Presbyterian Church in Singapore
Book of Worship
(Revised 1st March 2023)

PREFACE

The Book of Worship, prepared by the Synod of The Presbyterian Church in Singapore, serves as a comprehensive manual for worshipping God, providing guidance for Sunday worship services, as well as ceremonies for the baptism, marriage, and burial of Christian believers. While outward practices are important, true piety requires the presence of both inward faith and outward practices, as the two are interdependent.

This Book of Worship is the result of collaborative efforts of the Book of Worship Committee members comprising of appointed members from the Singapore - Malaysia Synod. The original draft, circulated among churches in 1966, was designed to provide a common guide for various ceremonies, including Holy Communion, dedications, and special festivals during the Church Year. In 1969, a booklet for conducting Christian funerals and memorial services in both English and Chinese was printed.

Despite the separation of the Malaysia and Singapore Synods, the revision work for this present book was continued in Singapore, adhering to the original plans. To assist in bilingual services, frequently used sections have been translated into English.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that both Chinese and English congregations will utilize this Book of Worship, thereby strengthening the unity of all the churches in the Synod, for the glory of God.

Book of Worship Committee
Synod of the Presbyterian Church Singapore
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THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Peter and all the apostles after preaching the Word at Pentecost baptised those who believed according the Lord’s command (Act 2:38-41). From this, baptism became a sacrament of the Church. Whoever was willing to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, whoever was willing to join the fellowship of believers, i.e. the Church, all without exception had to receive baptism (Acts 8:12,36,38; 10:47-48; 16:15,33; 18:8; 19:5).

The Apostle Peter teaching about baptism said, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38). From this we can see the meaning of baptism is:

1. It signifies the believer has repented and is determined to follow the Lord, so he confesses his faith before men. When Jesus came to Galilee preaching the gospel of God he said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15). The indication of their repentance at Pentecost was “When they all heard these words, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).
2. It signifies that the precious blood of the Lord cleanses from all sin. Thus, the Lord uses baptism as a proof that the believer has received forgiveness of sins. “Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.” (Acts 22:16).

The water represents the blood of the Lord. “the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sins” (1 John 1:7).

3. He who believes and is baptised will certainly receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Sprinkling water on the body represents the coming of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will certainly initiate a new and reformed life in the heart of him who truly believes and reverently receives baptism.

The Lord Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5). Paul said, “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

The Apostle Paul, teaching about baptism said:

1. The one who is baptised thereby shows that he has united himself to Christ and found new life in the Lord.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12 has the same meaning)

2. It signifies the unity of the Church.

For indeed we were all brought into one body by baptism: “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:3-6 NIV). Thus, we see “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). But this salvation is certainly not through the power of the water but is because of faith; receiving God’s promises and being moved by the Holy Spirit then we receive new life. The form of baptism whether by sprinkling water on the head or by immersing the whole body in water is only a difference of form and has nothing to do with salvation. We certainly cannot take any one form of baptism as the only rule for the Church.

John Calvin (1509-1564) said, *“The efficacy of a sacrament is on the Lord’s side the proof of grace and salvation, and on man’s side the sign of public confession, complete consecration and true faith.”* (Note 1). He also said, *“With regard to the sign of a sacrament we must not only look to the outward form but even more to the promises and spiritual mystery represented by this outward form. Therefore, whoever would thoroughly understand the meaning of baptism must not so much take note of the water and the outward administration but even more must lift his thoughts to the promises that God gives in the sacrament and also the inner meanings set forth therein. Whoever penetrates to these things has found the true meaning and essence of baptism, and so he also knows the reason and use of the outward form of water* (Note 2).

Note 1: Institutes of the Christian Religion Ch. 15 section 19.

Note 2: Ibid. Ch. 16 section 2.

THE MEANING OF INFANT BAPTISM

Should infants be baptised or not? This problem has been debated by the Church through the ages. At the beginning of the Reformation movement in the 16th century the radical Gospel party opposed the tradition preserved by the Roman Catholic Church of baptising infants. They held that baptism was the sign of faith and repentance so how could immature infants be baptised? But the leaders of the Reformation, Martin Luther (1483-1546), John Calvin (1509-1564) and other strongly supported the traditional faith of infant baptism, regarding it as originally based on true doctrine.

1. God's gracious promise to those who are called also includes their children and descendants. God's covenant with Abraham calling him to be circumcised also directed that all the males born in his house should also be circumcised on the eighth day (Genesis 17:1-14).

When the People of Israel left Egypt, God used the blood of a lamb for the whole family of Israel to be saved (Exodus 12:13).

"For the promise is for you and for your children" (Acts 2:39).

What a comfort and a joy it is to devout Christians knowing that they are under God's providential care to know that through infant baptism their children are also under the same care and protection.

2. The Lord Jesus loved the little children and blessed them. Jesus said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the

kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” (Mark 10:14-16; Matthew 18:1-6). Thus, we see the need first to repent and then be baptised refers to adult people and not to lively, innocent, loveable little children.

3. The Apostles baptised those who believed and their whole household. The Acts of the Apostles records this as follows: Lydia and her whole household (Ch. 16:15); the jailer at Philippi and his whole household (Ch. 16:33); Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue (Ch. 18:8); Paul also baptised the whole family of Stephanus (1 Corinthians 1:16). The above examples, although they cannot be taken as proof of infant baptism, because it does not clearly state that each family had infants, nevertheless are sufficient proof that the Apostles recognised that if the head of the family believed then his whole family could receive baptism and naturally infants would not be excluded. Research into the writings of the early Church Fathers shows that infant baptism was practised from the early days of the Church. Thus, it may be said that children are an important part of the family and if they share in other privileges and blessings, why should they not share in the privileges of the Faith?
4. Baptism is the beginning of a new life even though the new life has not reached perfection. Adults take baptism as the starting point of a new life. They press towards the mark of the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ. So, infants receiving baptism earlier should earlier be nourished in the new life. Is not this even more beneficial? It is known that the growth of character has its foundation in the infant stages. Thus, it is of great importance to lead them to the Lord while they are still young. In the education of children, the hope is that they will become useful. Who

is able to foretell whether children will turn out bad and so on that basis deny them the opportunity of education? In the same way the Church surely must not deny them baptism for fear that they may turn out to be reprobate.

5. Infant baptism emphasises God's plan of salvation in which the home and the church play a central role. In infant baptism what is important is the faith of the parents and the Church. With regard to the home, the parents making promises on behalf of the child, confess their own faith and at the same time affirm their willingness to undertake the responsibility of leading and teaching their children. With regard to the Church, recognising that through baptism the children are already received as church members and are the lambs of the Lord's flock, then the Church must undertake the responsibility of nurturing them. So, parents and Church together are responsible for teaching the children and bringing them to the Lord. Thus, parents and Church play a central role in God's plan of salvation. From this point of view, the Church's practice of infant baptism is in accord with Scriptural teaching and is both right and necessary.

THE MEANING OF HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is also called “The Lord’s Supper”. It was instituted when the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed gathered with his disciples to eat the Passover Feast (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The meaning of Holy Communion according to the Scriptures is: Jesus 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.” And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” (Luke 22:19-20). Thus, the meaning is:

1. A memorial of the Lord’s death. The Lord Jesus for the salvation of mankind gave up his life upon the Cross and shed his precious blood “to be a ransom for many”. (Matthew 20:28). The Lord gave up his life unto death for our sins. We should always remember this. When we think on the Lord’s love then we are greatly moved. Paul said “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).
2. To reaffirm the truth of the forgiveness of sins in the new covenant. “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Hebrews 9:22). Since the Lord has already shed his blood on the Cross “he is the mediator of the new covenant” (Hebrews 9:15) we then may “enter boldly without fear into the most holy place” (Hebrews 10:19), because we know “we have a great priest

over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:21-22).

3. Receiving the life of Christ. The bread eaten at Communion and the cup that is drunk (grape-juice/wine) symbolise the body and blood of the Lord. Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” (John 6:53). Jesus is the Lord of life, he is our spiritual food, but the bread and the wine are not the original body of Jesus that was sacrificed. The efficacy of Holy Communion is a great mystery depending on faith, reverence and solemn earnestness in eating the bread and drinking the cup. The Spirit of the Lord can thus dwell in our hearts (Romans 8:9-10; Ephesians 3:17) so that in body, mind and soul we are joined to Jesus and receive the grace and strength of his life unto “more abundant life”.
4. Hope of the Lord’s return. At the Last Supper the Lord said to the disciples “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.” (Matthew 26:29). The Lord Jesus uses the present feast to show forth the future feast together in the Kingdom of God. Every time we observe the Lord’s Supper it revives our hopes of the Lord’s return. Paul said, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians 11:26). If we continually hope for the Lord’s return, it will certainly increase our faith and love. Peter said, “Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.” (2 Peter 3:14).

5. Holy Communion represents our fellowship with the Lord and with all believers, the unity of the Church. Paul said, "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Corinthians 10:17). The example of the early Church was that "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42). Because of this the Communion was called "The Love Feast".

Baptism and Holy Communion are the two great sacraments of the Church. Augustine (354-430) discussing the meaning of the sacraments said, "A sacrament is an outward representation" or "The outward form of an invisible grace". We should realise that the bread and the wine are simply symbols of the Lord's body and blood. Because of this only those who have faith and reverence can receive the grace of God and the life of Christ. Those who understand this truth will not dispute about the outward forms of the sacrament.

John Calvin said, "With regard to the outward form of Holy Communion Service, whether the believer takes the bread in his hand, whether all eat together after the bread has been distributed, or whether each eats separately, whether the cup is handed back to the deacon or passed on to the next person, whether leavened or unleavened bread is used, whether red or white wine is used, all these are questions of no real importance. They may be decided one way or the other as the church freely decides" (Institutes of the Christian Religion Ch. 17, section 43).

I. ORDERS OF SERVICE

1. Order Of Adult Baptism

The Minister: Hear the words of the Lord Jesus, when He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. (Matthew 28:18,19).

(Then one or more of the following Scripture passages shall be read.)

1. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, ... Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:1,12)
2. The Lord Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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.” (Matthew 11:28,29)
3. The Lord Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:3,5)
4. Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while he is near; (Isaiah 55:6).
For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

The Minister shall say *“let us pray”*

Prayer

Most merciful and holy God, our heavenly Father, we thank and praise Thee that in Thy great love for mankind Thou didst send Thine only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be Thy gift to the world. When we were dead through the trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of this world, and following the desires of body and mind as being by nature children of wrath, Thou didst enable us to hear the Gospel of Thy beloved Son and to know our sin. By Thy Son’s death for us upon the cross, thou didst provide for us forgiveness for all our sins, so that through the blood of our Lord Jesus we might boldly enter the holiest of all and approach unto Thee. Now we thank and praise Thee that today Thy saving grace has already come to our *brother(s)/sister(s)*, and that Thou hast granted to *him/her/them* to turn to Thee in full commitment. Now *he/she/they is/are* before Thee and this congregation of Thy Church to confess *his/her/their* faith in Thee as heavenly Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. As *he/she/they is/are* willing to receive Baptism as the proof of *his/her/their* faith, we pray Thee, O Lord, to bless this observance of the Sacrament to the strengthening of *his/her/their* faith, that *he/she/they* may be Thy child(ren) in whom Thou hast pleasure, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn

(during which the one(s) to be baptized come(s) forward to the front)

The Promises (read by the Minister, with the congregation seated)

Notes: each question should be answered with the words **“I do”**.

1. Do you acknowledge God to be the only true God, the Creator of all things, and our heavenly Father?
2. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ to be God’s only begotten Son, and that His incarnation, death and resurrection were for our salvation from sin?
3. Do you acknowledge the Holy Spirit to be the Spirit of Truth, who is from the Father and the Son, and to be the Comforter who is with believers and in them?
4. Do you acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that they are the supreme standard of a Christian’s faith and conduct?
5. Do you acknowledge the Holy Church to have been instituted by the Lord Jesus, and that Christ is head of the Church and all believers are His members? And do you promise to worship God and serve the Lord with all His members in the fellowship of the Church?
6. Do you promise to give yourself to God as a servant of righteousness, and by observing the Lord’s day and the Sacraments, and by prayer and bible study, to make your life holy and to foster your spiritual growth?
7. Do you promise, according as the Lord blesses you with abilities and material possessions, faithfully to serve the Church and society, that God’s holy name may be glorified in you?

Prayer

O Holy Father, God of love, we sinners saved by grace come before Thee with true gratitude, and thank Thee that through the precious blood of Thy Son we have obtained forgiveness, and can approach Thee by the new and living way opened by Him. Today our *brethren/brother/sister have/has* acknowledged Thee as the almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, and *have/has* made willing offering of *themselves/himself/herself* for Thy service, to be Thy faithful *child(ren)*. Lord, we give Thee our praise and thanks. Now we pray Thee to use this Holy Baptism to wash away all sin and defilement from their/*his/her* *soul(s)*; and we beseech Thee by Thy Spirit to work graciously in their/*his/her* heart(s), to establish their/*his/her* faith, that they/*he/she* may never leave Thee, but keep Thy word in sincerity; and we pray that they/*he/she* may be preserved abiding in Thy love to their/*his/her* lives'/*life's* end, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Act of Baptism

As the congregation stand, the Minister baptises the new Christian(s) with water, and addressing *them/her/his* by name prays as follows:

“I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. 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.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Reception (the newly baptized stand, and the congregation sit)

My beloved *brethren/brother/sister* in Christ, as you have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, on behalf of the whole membership of this Church, I warmly welcome you into the Lord's family. May we together in the Lord practise the life of Christian fellowship, joining in prayer and in the joy of common worship! May we co-operate together in the work of the Church and in witnessing to the Lord Jesus, so that the Church may grow and prosper! And may we help each other, pray for each other, and receive the blessing of God!

With the congregation standing, the Minister and the representatives of the Session give the right hand of fellowship to the new members, after which the new members and the congregation bow to each other to show mutual respect and welcome.

Hymn

Benediction

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, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude v24, v25).

2. Order For Act Of Confirmation

The Minister:

Today I bring before you our *brother* for admission to communicant membership of the Church. *He* was baptized in infancy. Now in adulthood *he* wish(es) to profess *his* faith, which has been evident in *his* life. Also, *he* has been under instruction in the teaching of the Church, and *his* application has been examined and approved by the Session of this Church. I shall now call upon *him* publicly to profess *his* faith.

(He come(s) forward as the Minister reads out their names.)

The Promises (the Minister first addresses him as follows)

“Beloved *brother/sister*, in your infancy your parents dedicated you to the Lord and brought you for baptism into Christ. Today you are grown to adulthood and desire to become the Lord’s disciples and to partake of the Holy Supper of our Lord. Now by authority of the Church I proceed to the Act of Confirmation, putting to you the questions which you are required by the Church to answer sincerely and truthfully.”

Notes: each question should be answered with the words “I do”.

1. Do you acknowledge the Baptism which was given to you when your parents brought you to the Lord in your infancy?
2. Do you acknowledge God to be the only true God, the Creator of all things and our heavenly Father?

3. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ to be God's only begotten Son, and that His incarnation, death and resurrection were for our salvation from sin?
4. Do you acknowledge the Holy Spirit to be the Spirit of Truth, who is from the Father and the Son, and to be the Comforter who is with believers and in them?
5. Do you acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that they are the supreme standard of a Christian's faith and conduct?
6. Do you acknowledge the Holy Church to have been instituted by the Lord Jesus, and that Christ is head of the Church and all believers are His members? And do you promise to worship God and serve the Lord with all His members in the fellowship of the Church?
7. Do you promise to give yourself to God as a servant of righteousness, and by observing the Lord's day and the Sacraments, and by prayer and bible study, to make your life holy and to foster your spiritual growth?
8. Do you promise, according as the Lord blesses you with abilities and material possessions, faithfully to serve the Church and society, that God's holy name may be glorified in you?

Acts of Confirmation

The Minister lays his hands on the head of each person kneeling in front of him in turn and in the order in which they are kneeling and says:

“(name of person being confirmed), in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I receive you to be a partaker with all the members of the Church in the Holy Supper of our Lord, Amen.”

Prayer

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we praise and thank Thee that Thou keepest covenant and bestowest Thy love on all who reverence Thee. Today these members who received baptism in infancy, under Thy protection and guidance have reaffirmed their faith in Thee and are to be partakers in the Lord’s Supper in company with all the members of Thy Church. We pray Thee to grant him Thy mercy and to perfect in them the good work that Thou hast begun. May Thy Spirit be with them continually and increase their strength, that they may be loyal to their promises, and be kept without blemish or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Reception of the new members

The Minister announces the name of the new communicant *member* of the Church, and with representatives of the Session extends to *him* the right hand of fellowship in welcome. As the congregation stands the new *members* turn and bow to them, and they return the bow.

Benediction

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, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude v24, v25).

3. Reception Of Church Members By Transfer

The Minister shall introduce (The Minister shall choose to read the following according to the status of the member[s])

- A. Those who have been baptised in another Presbyterian Church has been baptised in Presbyterian Church and now requests reception into church membership of our church by transfer.

- B. Those who are to be admitted to our church as members from other denominations has been baptised in and now has decided to join our church. The Church Session has approved and decided to receive him as a member of our church.

- C. Restoration of Membership
..... has been a baptised member but later left the church for some reason. Now he has decided to return to Christ, acknowledging his faith. Through the decision of the Church Session, his membership in this church has now been restored.

And now will those to be received into membership come and stand at the front to receive the congregation's welcome.

Promises *(The Minister shall ask)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, you have already publicly acknowledged your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and dedicated yourself to serve God. Now you willingly wish to have fellowship with this Church, and to take part in the various aspects and activities of this church.

Q. Are you willing to renew your promises and vows which you made during your baptism, and dedicate to your time, talents and money and jointly unite with our church members to work hard for the gospel that we together believe in?

A. I am willing *(Members on transfer shall answer)*

Welcome *(The Minister shall say)*

(Elders may also join in giving the right hand of fellowship)

I represent the Session and members of this church to welcome you with the right hand of fellowship to join in the various activities and aspects of life in his church.

The church is the Body of the Lord Jesus and we together for his body. May God enable us to care for one another, to stir one another up to love, encourage one another to do good and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

4. Order Of Infant Baptism

Minister:

We are to observe the Sacrament of Infant Baptism for *child(ren)* of

Then he shall read one or two of the under-mentioned passages of scripture:

1. The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. (Psalm 103:17,18)
2. 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. (Isaiah 40:11)
3. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself. (Act 2:39)

Hymn

Scripture Reading

Listen to the words recorded in the Gospel according Mark, chapter 10 and verses 13 to 16:

¹³And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, children are the heritage given by Thee. We thank and praise Thee for *this* attractive *child* whom Thou hast given us. We pray Thee, our Father to watch over, guard and bless *him*. May they give joy to their families, and as they grow up may they come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. May they grow in wisdom as in stature year by year, and may they grow in favour with Thee, O God, and with man, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Promises

The parents or guardians bring their *child* forward, where they stand carrying them. The Minister says:

My *brother and sister*, you have brought your *child* for baptism, willing that *he* shares with you in the grace of the Lord and be enrolled in His Church as the children of God. Now, in accordance with the commission I have received from the Holy Church, I put to you the questions by which you make your promises. Do answer with heart and voice agreeing:

1. Do you acknowledge that your *child* is the gift of God, and that therefore you have a responsibility to instruct and guide *him* so that *he* may become a *child* of God?
2. Will you, in accordance with the measure of growth in the *child's* understanding, teach him the truths of our

faith; and will you lead him into habits of prayer, obedience and Bible reading?

3. Will you, in the strength that God supplies, serve Him sincerely, carry out good deeds, and so be good examples to your child(ren), thus enabling them from their youth up to lay themselves a foundation of faith and good behaviour?
4. Will you, when the child(ren) *have/has* reached a sufficient age, help them to prepare themselves to receive the Holy Communion, and so truly to become members of the Church?

Act of Baptism

The congregation stand, and the Minister baptises the children one by one, as follows:

. (*full names*) I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

Reception

This child, having been baptized, is recognized as a member of the Church of Christ. God has entrusted *him/her/them* to our loving care and concern. The Lord Jesus said, “whoever receives one such child in my name receives me”.

Prayer

Thanks be to Thee, O gracious Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ, because you said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God". We pray to Thee, Father in heaven, to bless this child. As he reaches maturity and understanding, may he grow in spirit. Guide, control and teach him, that he may be God's true children, serving the Lord faithfully all his lives. We pray Thee Almighty Father to help these parents, that by their loving nurture, wise admonition and holy life, this child may be led to love and honour the Lord and keep the teaching of the Bible, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Hymn

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

5. Order For The Celebration Of The Sacrament Of The Lord's Supper Or Holy Communion (1)

1. *Organ Prelude*

2. *Call to Worship*

"What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (Psalms 116:12,13)

We will pay our vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people, "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7)

Therefore, let us keep the feast "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalms 34:8)

3. *Hymn* (Praise and Thanksgiving)

4. *Prayer* (Praise and Confession and the Lord's Prayer)

5. *Old Testament Lesson* (Responsive reading)

6. *Hymn*

7. *New Testament Lesson*

8. *The Apostles' Creed* (Congregation)

9. *Prayer* (Thanksgiving and Intercession)

10. *Choir Anthem*

11. *Sermon*

12. *The Invitation*

- (i) Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort.

Alternately, we can use the following:

- (ii) Dearly beloved, all that humbly put their trust in Christ, and desire His help that they may lead a holy life, all that are truly sorry for their sins and would be delivered from the burden of them are invited and encouraged in His name to come to this sacrament. Let us so come that we may find refreshing and rest unto our souls.

As we draw near to the Lord's table to celebrate the holy communion of the body and blood of Christ, we are gratefully to remember that our Lord instituted this sacrament:

For the perpetual memory of His dying for our sakes and the pledge of His dying love;

As a bond of our union with Him and with each other;

As members of His mystical body;

As a seal of His promises to us and a renewal of our obedience to Him;

For the blessed assurance of His presence with us who are gathered here in His name;

And as a pledge of His coming again;

And now, in His name, I take these elements to be set apart by prayer and thanksgiving to the holy use for which He has appointed them.

13. **Hymn**

The pastor will take his stand behind the Lord's Supper table; the two elders will remove the linen which is used to cover the elements and fold it carefully.

14. **The Scripture Passages**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 KJV)

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17 KJV)

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13 KJV)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1 KJV)

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6 KJV)

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (John 6:35 KJV)

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20 KJV)

15. **Prayer** (Confession)

16. **The Communion**

The Minister shall say:

“Beloved in the Lord, attend to the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are delivered by Saint Paul:

²³ For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.” (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 KJV)

17. **Prayer for the Communion**

The Minister shall say:

Therefore, that we may fulfil His institution in righteousness and joy, let us follow His blessed example in word and action: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: As the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, I take these elements of bread and wine to be set apart from all common uses and as he gave thanks and blessed, let us draw nigh to God, and present unto Him our prayers and thanksgiving.

Let us pray.

“O God, our heavenly Father, we Thine unworthy children, praise and bless Thy holy name for the majesty of Thy glory, and for the wonder of Thy works. With all Thy faithful people in heaven and on earth, we praise and adore Thee, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High.

Above all do we bless Thee that Thou hast come down to this world in Jesus Christ our Lord, who was made man for us men and for our salvation. With those who hailed Him in the days of His flesh we cry:

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Not as we ought, but as we are able, we thank Thee for His life of lowliness, His perfect obedience, His death upon the Cross, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, and His continual intercession for His people.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward us? We will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. We will pay our vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people. We will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon Thy name.

Send down Thy Holy Spirit, we beseech Thee, to sanctify both us and Thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set apart to this sacred use; that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we bless the communion of the blood of

Christ, that we, through faith, may be partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

O God, as now we make memorial of Him in this Sacrament of His appointing, in fellowship with Thy Church in heaven and on earth we render unto Thee our thanksgiving, and offer ourselves a living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

18. **The Communion**

Then the Minister shall say:

According to the holy institution, example, and command of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for a memorial of Him, we do this: who, the same night in which He was betrayed, **took bread** (*here the Minister shall take the bread into his hands*) and When He had blessed, and given thanks, **he broke it** (*here he shall break the bread*) and said,

Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

(here the Minister shall place the broken pieces of bread into the plate)

After the same manner also, **he took the cup**

(here he shall raise the cup) saying,

This cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

(here the Minister shall put the cup back into the tray)

19. **Partaking of the Lord's Supper**

(The elders shall stand in front of the Minister, and accept the plate of bread each)

The Minister shall say:

Take ye, eat ye; this is the body of Christ which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Him (and in your heart be thankful).

(The Minister shall take the Bread, the elders shall give it to the members, when the elders return the plates, the Minister shall give them the Bread, then they return to their seats, all the members shall take the Bread together and meditate. Then the elders shall come forward to the table and accept the Cup.)

And in giving the cup:

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ, which is shed for many unto remission of sins: drink ye all of it.

(The elders shall distribute the Cup)

Then the Minister shall say:

Whenever you partake of the bread and the wine, you do this to remember the Lord's death, and wait for His Coming again.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

20. Prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication

21. **Hymn** (here the cups shall be collected, then the elders shall cover the Communion table with the linen cloth)

22. **Offering** (offertory prayer)

23. **Doxology**

24. **Benediction**

25. **Postlude**

6. Order Of Service For The Celebration Of The Sacrament Of The Lord's Supper Or Holy Communion (2)

Minister : Let us worship God

The service shall begin with a Psalm or a Hymn

Minister : A call to Prayer in words of Holy Scripture (*standing*)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (*seated*)

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

Hymn of Thanksgiving

The Word shall be read

The Word shall be preached

All : Response to the Word. Confession of our Faith in the Apostles or Nicene Creed. (*standing*)

Minister : The invitation to the Lord's Table

The Communion Hymn

[During the singing the elements shall be brought into church, and laid on the Holy Table, unless this has already been done at the beginning of the service]

The Minister shall unveil the elements.

All : Prayer of humble access

"We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold mercies. We are not worthy to take thy name upon our lips, for we have sinned. With humble, lowly, and penitent hearts we seek thy face and favour. Let thy mercy be upon us according as we hope in thee. Amen"

Minister : The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Minister : The words of the Institution
Prayers of Thanksgiving
Minister : The Lord be with you
All : And with thy spirit
Minister : Lift up your hearts
All : We lift them up unto the Lord
Minister : Let us give thanks unto our Lord God
All : It is meet and right so to do.

Minister : It is verily meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should always and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

All : (M.H. 584) Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee and saying:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, Lord most high. Amen.

Minister : The Prayer for the Holy Spirit's blessing of the people and the elements (epiclesis)
The Prayer of Intercession

All : The Lord's Prayer (sung or said)

The Communion

The Minister shall say:

According to the holy institution, example and command of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for a memorial of Him, we do this: who, the same night in which He was betrayed, *took bread*

(Here the Minister shall take the bread into his hands)

and when He had blessed, and given thanks, *he broke it*

(Here he shall break the bread)

and said:

*Take eat; this is my body, which is broken for you:
This do in remembrance of me.*

After the same manner also, *he took the cup*

(Here he shall raise the cup)

saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood:
this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

(here the Agnus Dei may be sung)

Then the Minister shall give the elements to the elders and shall receive them himself. In giving the bread he shall say:

*Take ye, eat ye; this is the Body of Christ which is broken
for you: this do in remembrance of him.*

And, in giving the cup:

This cup is the new covenant in the Blood of Christ, which is shed for many unto remission of sins, drink ye all of it.

The Elders shall thereafter distribute the elements to the people, seated in their places.

When all have received, and the bread and wine have been replaced on the Holy Table and covered, the Minister shall say:

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Minister : Prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication

All : Hymn

Minister Benediction.

II. THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

1. Engagement Ceremony

1. **Hymn**

2. **Prayer**

3. **Declaration**

Friends and Relative, Mr and Miss this young couple have become closely acquainted and friendship has ripened between them. They wish to betroth themselves to each other on the foundation of pure love, in preparation for an eventual life-long partnership. If anyone present supposes that these two persons should not be engaged to each other, the he or she must declare it now. *(The officiating Minister pauses a moment.)* If nothing is said now, then this means that all acknowledge that their betrothal is lawful. You all know that betrothal is not yet marriage. After betrothal and before marriage is a time of very great importance, for it is during this time that the betrothed persons ought not only to love but also to honour each other, preserve their bodies like jade, and encourage each other to seek the will of God and develop the truest understanding of each other so that in due time, they may once again come into the presence of God for the ordinance of holy matrimony.

4. **Promises**

The couple come to the dais and stand facing inwards, the man on the left and the woman on the right. The respective parents will stand beside them. Then the officiating Minister will say:

Mr, as to-day you have come into God's presence, do you wish to be betrothed to Miss and will you promise to love and honour her? (*The man replies, "I will"*).

Miss, as to-day you have come into God's presence, do you wish to be betrothed to Mr and will you promise to love and honour him? (*The woman replies, "I will"*).

5. ***Prayer***

6. ***Exchange of Rings***

7. ***Exhortation***

8. ***Hymn***

9. ***Blessing*** (Jude 24 and Numbers 6:25)

May He who is able to keep you from falling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy - the only God, our Saviour, – may He bless and keep you and give His grace to you. Amen.

2. Solemnization Of Marriage 1

It is best that the service be held in a licensed church building. When the wedding car arrives, the church-bell is rung, and the organist plays a prelude and later the wedding march. The friends and relatives take their seats. The officiating Minister stands facing the centre aisle.

The bridegroom and best man stand at the front of the church on the right-hand side facing the chancel.

Flower-girls, page boys and bridesmaid precede the bride walking slowly up the aisle, to the wedding-march. The bride led by her father or someone taking his place walks slowly up the aisle and stands on the left of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids are on her left.

1. **Announcement**

We are met today in the presence of God and before this congregation to join (name) and (name) together in holy matrimony.

The Bible says Marriage is ordained by God and is to be held in honour by all. Therefore, it is not to be entered into lightly or ill-advisedly but solemnly, with reverence and in the fear of the Lord. And so according to the ordinances of the Christian Church these two people come to be joined together.

. and have entered into an engagement and both parties are willing to become man and wife, wherefore if anyone can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together let him now

declare it. *(a slight pause)* If there is no such declaration, it indicates that all here present affirm that this wedding is both lawful and holy.

2. **Hymn**

3. **Prayer**

Merciful Father, who art the source of love, only where love is, is there light and truth and a way that leads to life; so now, O Father, as *(name)* and *(name)* come to make their vows to be joined in a life-long union based on love, we ask you to receive them and bless their marriage, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. **Scripture Reading**

5. **Address**

The following may be read, or a short address may be given.

The teaching of the ancient Chinese scholars and sages about marriage recognises it as one of the most fundamental and enduring of human relationships. The I-Li says, "Man and wife are one body". The Li-Chi says, "Marriage is the root of proper conduct." The I-Ching says, "The principle of marriage is that it must not be temporary, therefore the union must be maintained with loyalty."

Christianity regards marriage not only as the root of human relationships and as the foundation of the family but also as a sacred union. In vv6-9 of the 10th chapter of the Gospel according to Mark in the New Testament, Jesus said, "In the beginning at the creation, "God made them male and

female. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So, they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” The implications of entering this holy union are very far-reaching. There are, especially, two things we should know in order to have a happy, Christian home life.

The first is, we must recognize that it takes the two people, man and wife together, to form a home. When they live together, they must no longer each be seeking simply his or her individual happiness, but they must realize they have direct links and responsibilities to each other, to their families, to society and to the nation.

The second is, we must recognize that the union of man and wife is brought about God, it is a heavenly match. Their life together is always in the sight of God. Thus, they must keep their vows, preserve purity, loyalty and trust, and in all their dealings observe the Lord’s teaching, and together fear God and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of this, it is essential that the married couple be truly of one heart and mind and do not swerve from their purpose so that they may invite the loving care of our heavenly Father to preserve them in eternal harmony.

6. ***The Vows***

The Minister says:

Now, in virtue of my commission in the church, and in the presence of these relatives and friends, I call upon you, in the name of God to give a sincere and faithful response to these questions:

(A) To the Bridegroom

..... (name) will you have this woman (name), to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honour her and keep her, in sickness and in health, and keep only unto her so long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom shall answer, 'I will.'

(B) To the Bride

..... (name) will you have this man (name), to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honour him and keep him, in sickness and in health, and keep only unto him so long as you both shall live?

The bride shall answer, 'I will.'

(C) To the Bride's father: *this may be omitted*

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

The bride's father or her representative answer, 'I do.'

7. **The Covenant**

The Minister first takes the bride's right hand in his right hand and then tells the bridegroom to take the bride's hand in his right hand as he repeats after the Minister:

I (name) do take you (name), to be my lawful 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 ordinance, and thereto I give you my promise.

They release hands and then the bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers and repeats after the Minister.

I (name) do take you (name), to be my lawful 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 ordinance, and thereto I give you my promise.

8. Exchange of Rings

The bridegroom or best man gives the ring to the Minister who takes it and says:

The wedding ring is the outward and visible symbol signifying the sincere mutual love that unites the hearts of these two in an inward and spiritual union.

The Minister then hands the ring back to the bridegroom, who puts it on the wedding finger of the bride's left-hand repeats after the Minister:

I put this ring on your finger, as proof that we have made our marriage vows, and that today I have taken you as my wife. Amen.

Where the bride also gives a ring to the bridegroom. The Minister first takes the ring and then hands it to the bride, who puts it on the wedding finger of the bridegroom's left-hand repeats after the Minister:

I put this ring on your finger, as proof that we have made our marriage vows, and that today I have taken you as my husband. Amen.

9. ***Pronouncement***

The Minister joins the hands of bride and groom and with his right hand upraised says:

For as much as (name) and (name) have consented to live together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this congregation, and have made their marriage vows and declared the same by the giving and receiving of a ring and by joining hands, I pronounce them husband and wife in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

The bridegroom now folds back the bride's veil.

10. ***Prayer***

11. ***Signing the Marriage Register***

(During the signing an anthem or solo may be sung)

12. ***Hymn***

13. ***Benediction***

14. ***Recessional***

The bridal couple and their attendants process out of the church.

3. Solemnization Of Marriage 2

A marriage service ought to be conducted in a Church, and the Minister of the Church, or another Minister of the Synod should be invited to officiate. (Minister should have Solemnization Licence)

The guests take their seats. The parents of the bridegroom (and the person who effected the introduction, if there is one) take their seats in the front right-hand row side by side. The parents of the bride (and the person who effected the introduction, if there was one) take their seats in the front left-hand row side by side. The bell is rung, and music is played as the officiating Minister enters and stands facing the congregation at the centre front. The best man enters escorting the groom, and they stand at the front on the right facing inwards. The wedding march is then played, and as the congregation stand up and the groom and best man turn to face the back of the Church as a gesture of welcome, the flower girls, page boys and the bridesmaids proceed slowly down the aisle to take up a standing position on the left facing inwards. The bride's father (or his representative) leads the bride slowly down the aisle to the front, the bride facing inwards, side by side with the groom. The congregation sit down, as also does the bride's father sitting at the front on the left-hand side. Then the service begins:

1. ***The Minister declares***

Today we are met in the presence of God, and in accordance with the ordinances of the Church to join Mr and Miss in holy matrimony.

2. ***Hymn***

It is best to read the first words of the hymn after which the congregation stand to sing it.

3. **Prayer**

4. **Scripture Reading**

One of the following passages can be chosen: Genesis 2:18-24; Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:22-23, Psalm 128.

5. **A Brief Exhortation**

6. **The Minister declares**

My friends we are here met together for the marriage of Mr and Miss (*by introduction Mr if desired*). This is a joyful occasion, and the Scripture says that marriage is to be held in honour by all, for it is holy. Now as the couple prepare to be joined in holy matrimony, I first call on anyone here present who knows any lawful impediment why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony to declare it now, stating the proofs.

(The Minister pauses for a moment.)

If no such declaration is made, then all of you agree and acknowledge that their marriage is lawful and holy.

The declaration by the bridegroom

“I now solemnly declare that I know of no lawful impediment why I may not be joined in holy matrimony to Miss”

The declaration by the bride

“I now solemnly declare that I know of no lawful impediment why I may not be joined in holy matrimony to Mr”

7. The Vows

The Bridegroom (*either reading them or repeating them after the Minister*):

“Today in the presence of God, I call upon all those present to witness that I, take to be my lawful, wedded wife. I promise to keep the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ of one husband one wife. No matter what my circumstances may be, I will love and honour her, be compassionate towards her and care for her, sharing all joys and sorrows with her, and co-operating with her to establish a truly Christian family, for as long as we both shall live, to the glory of God’s holy name, Amen.”

The Bride (*either reading them or repeating them after the Minister*):

“Today in the presence of God, I call upon all those present to witness that I, take to be my lawful, wedded husband. I promise to keep the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ of one husband one wife. No matter what my circumstances may be, I will love and honour him, be compassionate towards him and care for him, sharing all joys and sorrows with him, and co-operating with him to establish a truly Christian family, for as long as we both shall live, to the glory of God’s holy name, Amen.”

8. Exchange of Rings

The Officiating Minister takes the rings and gives them to the bride and groom, so that each may place their ring on the other’s left-hand and the third finger of the left-hand.

After this he will join their hands and bless them:

“May the Lord bless and sanctify these rings to be the eternal proof of the union in marriage of these two persons and may they all their lives long enjoy the Lord’s peace and gracious love, Amen.”

9. ***Declaration***

Today in the presence of God and of all of you and have plighted their troth and exchanged rings, putting their signatures also to the fact of their marriage – all in accordance with the marriage ordinances of the Church. So now in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, I solemnly pronounce that and are man and wife. The Scriptures say: those whom God hath joined, let no man put asunder.

10. ***The Groom lifts the view of the Bride***

11. ***Prayer***

Loving Heavenly Father, thou art the Fount of love, and we only live in Thy love. “Mr and Mrs have” plighted their Troth in Thy presence, promising to be lifelong partners in the founding and developing of a family. We pray Thee, Lord to bestow Thy grace upon them, that they may ever be in remembrance of the vows they have made today; and may glory, honour, thanksgiving and praise be returned to our God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

12. ***Signing of the Marriage Register***

13. Special items, such as choral or orchestral or other musical items can be played during the signing of the Register.

14. Brief words of thanks by the Father of the Bridegroom.

15. **Hymn** *(to be sung by the Congregation standing)*

16. **Benediction**

May God preserve you and love you, and may His rich blessings be upon you, so that in this life you may enjoy the blessed comradeship of a family, and in the life to come enjoy the blessings of eternal life. And may the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all now and always. Amen.

(at this point the Minister may shake hands with the newly married couple, in order to congratulate them)

17. The Congregation remain standing and music is played, as the bridal pair arm in arm turn to face the congregation. Then together they proceed out of the Church, followed by the bridesmaids, flower girls, page boys and officiating Minister, and then those who introduced the couple (if any) and the parents.

4. Proceedings Of Blessing Of Civil Marriage

The Minister shall not perform the ceremony for the Blessing of a Civil Marriage until satisfactory evidence has been produced which confirms that the persons seeking the blessing have been lawfully married and both applicants are communicant members. As a rule, an Extract Certificate of the registration of the marriage should be shown to him before he proceeds with the ceremony.

1. Call To Worship

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.
(Psalm 127:1)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

DEAR beloved: You have come to God's house to seek His blessing on your marriage. It is my duty as your pastor to remind you that this blessing should be sought only by those who recognise the sacredness of the marriage bond, and are willing to fulfil the obligations which Christian marriage demands. Marriage is a holy estate instituted by Almighty God; it was hallowed and beautified by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at the marriage in Cana of Galilee; and it is commended in Holy Scripture as being honourable in all. It was appointed for the life-long companionship help, and comfort, that husband and wife ought to have of each other, in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in prosperity and in adversity. It is therefore not to be entered upon lightly or unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God, with due consideration of the purposes for which it was ordained.

2. **Hymn Of Praise**

3. **Prayer**

The Minister shall then say:
Let us ask God to bless this couple.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who is the Giver of all good;

we praise You for the bounties of Your providence and the gifts of Your grace. Especially, at this time we thank You for the institution of marriage, which You have ordained to guard, to hallow, and to perfect the sacred gift of love.

Send Your Holy Spirit, we pray upon these Your servants who have been joined in this holy bond. You have brought them together in Your providence; bestow upon them Your grace as they seek Your blessing upon their marriage. Grant this; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

4. **Covenant Between Husband And Wife**

Then shall the Minister say to the couple:

In token of your covenant with one another, give each other the right hand.

When your hands are joined he shall say to the man: "Do you acknowledge this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife, and do you promise before God to be her loving and faithful husband, till death separates you?"

The man shall answer: "I do."

Then the Minister shall say to the woman:

“Do you acknowledge this man to be your lawfully wedded husband, and do you promise before God to be his loving and faithful wife, till death separates you?”

The woman shall answer: “I do.”

5. **Prayer Of Blessing**

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, Source of all life and love; bestow Your rich and effectual blessing upon Your servants who have covenanted before You to live together as husband and wife.

Unite their hearts in commitment and love, that they may keep their vows, and live together in holy peace.

Bestow Your blessing upon their home, that it may always be a place of love and joy. Strengthen their love for one another, grant them grace to serve you faithfully and bring them at the last to that heavenly home where love and joy are perfect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

6. **Anthem**

7. **Scripture Reading**

8. **Short Address**

9. **Hymn**

10. **Benediction**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your 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 amongst you, and remain with you always. AMEN.

III. FUNERAL SERVICES

1. Order Of Service For Burial Of The Dead

A. The Service At The Encoffining

The Officiating Minister takes his place at the head of the coffin. The members of the family stand on either side, and their friends and neighbours gather around them.

1. ***Hymn***

2. ***Quiet Meditation***

The Minister may address those present as follows:

My brothers and sisters, today we witness an eternal and unchanging truth that death comes to all men. Of this the passing of our *brother/sister* is evidence. *He/She* has gone before us through death's door and entered into rest. Henceforth the dark powers of earth cannot trouble *him/her*, the pains of this life cannot distress *him/her*. *He/She* is for ever at rest in the bosom of God the Father. The fact that we shall no longer see our *brother/sister* on earth naturally brings pain to our hearts, but we know that one day, when we have made the same journey we shall be united again. Life and death alike reveal the power of God and guide us to seek the eternal realities.

3. ***Prayer*** The following prayer may be used:

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Thou art the Creator and

Preserver of all, for in Thee we live and move and have our being.

Our gracious Heaven Father, we thank and praise Thee for the love Thou hast shown to our *brother/sister*, enabling *him/her* to see thy salvation, and through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ to know the forgiveness of sins, and become Thy child. Now *he/she* is released, has left this world in peace, and is returned to that heavenly home which Thou hast prepared for all who believe.

We thank Thee because it is Thou Thyself who are the Good Shepherd, who has led *him/her* through the valley of the shadow of death to the completion of *his/her* earthly journey. Throughout *his/her* life, in sorrow and in joy, in prosperity and in adversity, Thou hast watched over *him/her*. Today *he/she* is finally delivered from the bondage of corruption in this world, has entered Thine eternal kingdom and knows the glorious liberty of the children of God.

We pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to grant this eternal hope to those who have been bereaved, to all members of the family, friends and all believers. In this time of grief and sorrow, kindle afresh this faith in our hearts, that we may know our Lord died and rose again to be the Saviour of the living and the dead, and that those who are in the Lord, whether in this life or in the life to come, are all living in and through the love of our Lord.

As we now commit the body our *brother/sister* to this coffin, so we would commit *his/her* soul into Thy

hands, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
Amen.

4. ***The Encoffining***

While the body is being laid in the coffin, all remain standing with bowed heads. If the body has previously been laid in the coffin, the Minister will follow prayer with the Reading of Scripture.

5. ***Reading of Scripture***

6. ***Short address***

7. ***Prayer***

8. ***Hymn***

9. ***Benediction***

May the Lord comfort this family as they mourn their loss, that in the midst of their sorrow they may know the greatness and love of God. May praise and adoration be ascribed to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort. In the midst of our sorrow it is God who comforts us, that with the comfort God gives to us we may comfort all who are in distress. Amen.

10. ***Silent Prayer and the conclusion of the service***

After this the relatives and friends may view the deceased, and then the coffin may be sealed.

B. The Funeral Wake Service

(It is the custom of the Church for the bereaved families to hold a funeral wake service for the deceased at their Home, Memorial Hall or Funeral Parlour before the funeral service. Prior to this, the encoffining ceremony would have been performed and the coffin is placed at where the service is to be held.)

1. Prelude

2. Scripture Sentences

(After a few moments of quiet meditation, the Minister says)

3. Dear friends and relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ, we are here tonight to hold a funeral wake service for XXX in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May the Lord give us inspiration and comfort, faith and hope. Please listen to the words of the Bible,

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

4. Hymn

5. Prayer

(The congregation may conclude with The Lord's Prayer)

6. Scripture Reading or Responsive Reading

(The following passages are suitable)

Psalms 23; 39:4-9,12; 90; 103:8-18; 121; 130:1-6.

John 14:1-6,23-27. Romans 8:31-39.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28,35-58. 2 Corinthians 4:8-18,5:1-10.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. Revelation 7:9-17; 21:1-7.

1. **The Apostles' Creed** (The funeral wake service is not only a time to remember those who are at rest, but also a testimony and declaration of believers on the fundamental issue of life and death.)
2. **Sermon**
3. **Anthem or other special presentation**
4. **In Memorial** (may include one or more of the following)
 - 1) In Memoriam (A brief summary of the life of the deceased, accurate and in accordance with “sober judgment”, with the ultimate aim of glorifying God and benefiting people)
 - 2) Testimony (Testimony of the deceased presented by relatives and friends must also comply with the principles of In Memoriam)
 - 3) Will (If the deceased has left any special wills or wishes such as setting up a memorial fund, scholarship or benevolent fund, etc., they may be read out at this time.)
10. **A moment of silence**
11. **Prayer for the bereaved family**
12. **Word of Thanks** (Minister or bereaved family representative)
13. **Announcement**
14. **Hymn**
15. **Benediction** (After the benediction, relatives and friends may pay their respect to the deceased)
(If there are any refreshments after the service, it is best to keep it as simple as possible.)

C. The Service In The Home Or In The Church

This service is suitable for use in the Home, in the Church, or in the Chapel at the cemetery. If the service is in the home the coffin will already be in position. If the service is in the Church, the coffin may or may not be brought into the Church, depending on local custom. If it is brought in the procedure should be as described under item 2 in the order of service.

1. *Tolling of bell, or organ prelude*

2. *The Entrance*

The Officiating Minister leads the bereaved family with the coffin into the Church. The coffin is placed on trestles, in the centre of the aisle, before the steps leading to the pulpit. Seating is reserved on either side for the bereaved family. Those who have carried in the coffin may either remain quietly with the Church or withdraw outside until after the service.

Whether or not the coffin is brought into the Church, the congregation will stand while the officiating Minister and the bereaved family enter.

3. *After a few moments of quiet meditation, the Minister says:* Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25,26).

4. *Hymn*

5. *Prayer* (The following prayer may be used)

O God, thou art from everlasting to everlasting, our Father in Heaven, who didst create all things, and didst make man

in Thine own image. We thank and praise Thee for the salvation which Thou hast made possible for the fallen and the lost, through sending Thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Saviour of the world. It is by His blood shed for us that we are redeemed, our sins are forgiven, and we are enabled to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Almighty and Eternal God, Thou art not the God of the dead but of the living. We thank and praise Thee because our Lord Jesus Christ took upon himself flesh and blood, tasted death for every man, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil. It is He who sets free those who are in bondage through fear of death, and through His glorious resurrection opened the door of eternal life, to bring many children into glory. We pray Thee, Lord, that at this time we may hear still more clearly Thy voice saying, "I am the Resurrection and the life, he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" that we may lay hold on this hope unto life eternal, Gracious Heavenly Father, we humbly confess our sins before Thee. In the brief span of our life we so often follow the course of this world, imprisoned to the desires of the flesh and the mind, turning our back on Thee, loving the world and its passing glory. We are so lacking in love, righteousness, kindness, holiness and goodness for our feet do not walk in Thy ways. Help us at this time to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom and enable us to resolve once more that the rest of our days shall be spent in goodness to the glory of Thy name.

May the God of peace who brought from the dead our Lord Jesus grant us hope and faith, that through this service He may work in every heart for our comfort and

encouragement, and unto Him shall be all the blessing, and honour, glory and power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6. ***The Reading of the Scriptures***

The following passages are suitable:

Psalm 23; 39:4-9,12; 90; 103:8-18; 121; 130:1-6. John 14:1-6, 23-27. Romans 8:31-39. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 35-58.

2 Corinthians 4:8-18; 5:1-10. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Revelation 7:9-17; 21:1-7.

or the following responsive reading may be used:

Minister : Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
– John 14:1-3

People : For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
– 2 Corinthians 5:1

Minister : Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. – Psalm 90:1-4

People : He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So, we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

– 2 Corinthians 5:5-8

Minister : The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

– Psalm 90:10

People : So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. – Psalm 90:12

Minister : God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. – Psalm 46:1

People : Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. – Psalm 46:2-3

Minister : Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” – John 14:6-7

People : Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

– Psalm 119:49-50

7. **Hymn**

8. ***The Life of the deceased***

9. ***Prayer for the bereaved family***

The following prayer may be used:

Loving Heavenly Father, Thy mercy endureth for ever and Thy truth to all generations. We thank and praise Thee because in love Thou didst redeem to be Thy child and lead *him/her* with grace and mercy. Now *he/she* had finished *his/her* work on earth, reached the end of this life's journey, returning to *his/her* heavenly home, to be for ever with the Lord, in the freedom and joy of the redeemed.

We pray for the members of *his/her* family on earth. In the midst of their grief may they experience again Thy Heavenly grace, the strong support of Thy mighty hand and Thine unchanging promises. May the concern and sympathy of their friends bring to their sorrowing hearts Thy comfort and Thy peace.

May the light of Thy countenance shine upon this family. Establish Thou the work of Thy servant's hands and may the beauty of the Lord be upon *his/her* children. Help them to know how to honour and serve Thee, that all they do, in work and daily life, may be according to Thy will. May they ever receive Thy protecting care, obtain Thy mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Help them to grow up in all things, that they may bring honour to those who have gone before, blessing to those who follow, and glory to Thy name. May Thy loving grace be upon those who fear Thee unto all generations, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

10. ***Anthem or other special music***

11. ***Sermon***

12. ***Hymn***

13. ***Closing Prayer and Benediction***

After the Benediction the congregation remain standing while the Minister leads the funeral procession to the door of the Church, followed by the coffin with its bearers, the family and the members of the congregation.

D. The Service At The Graveside

The Minister leads the procession from the hearse to the graveside. When the coffin has been placed upon the supporting wooden bars and everything is ready the service may begin. The minister stands at the head of the coffin.

1. **Hymn**

2. **Prayer** The following prayer may be used:

Almighty and everlasting God, Thou art our refuge and help in every generation, Thou art our hope for the years that lie ahead, our shelter in all the storms of life and our eternal home. We thank and praise Thee that through the redeeming work of Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we may in this life abide in Thy love, and in the life to come we may share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Our *brother/sister* , according to Thy perfect will, has now been called to His heavenly home, and we here commit *his/her* body to the earth, even as Thou hast said, earth to earth. Help us to know that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, that this corruptible must put on in corruption and this mortal must put on immortality. In this faith we do not fear the threatening's of death, for it is our Lord Himself who by His resurrection has overcome the power of the grave.

We pray Thee strengthen our faith, to be steadfast, immovable in the truth, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labour is not vain in the Lord. We offer our prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

3. **Reading of Scripture**

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25,26).

4. **Closing Prayer and Benediction**

After the meditation, the coffin is lowered, and the Officiating Minister may cast earth on the coffin.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! - Job 19:25-27

All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever. – 1 Peter 1:24,25

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" – Revelation 14:13

Our *brother/sister* has now completed *his/her* work on earth, has travelled the way which all in this world must go, and passed through the river which all must pass. Although we can take nothing with us on this journey, yet *his/her* works do follow *him/her*. As we gaze on these things, we are brought to feel the reality of the life to come and the value of things eternal.

5. **The Lowering of the Coffin**

6. ***The Act of Committal***

Forasmuch as it has pleased our Heavenly Father to take unto Himself our *brother/sister* we commit *his/her* body to the ground, earth to earth. But *his/her* spirit returns to God, for the spirit of a man is created by God, is loved by God and abides eternally in God.

(As he speaks these words the Minister, if he so desires, may cast earth into the grave.)

7. ***Hymn***

8. ***Benediction***

9. ***Expression of thanks***

by a representative of the deceased's

10. ***Those wishing to do so may cast earth into the grave.***

11. ***Close of Service***

E. Garden Burial

The National Environment Agency (NEA) has introduced The Garden of Peace Inland Ash Scattering (IAS). This is the first government-managed green burial ash-scattering facilities and is in operation from 17th May 2021.

Prayer

Almighty and ever living God, you are our refuge and help in every generation, you are our hope for the years that lie ahead, our shelter in all storms of life and our eternal home. We thank and praise you that through the redeeming work of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we may in this life abide in your love, and in the life to come we may share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Our brother/sister, according to your perfect will, has now been called to his/her heavenly home, and we commit his/her ash to be scattered at this Inland Ash Scattering Garden of Peace, even as you have said, earth to earth. For those who die through the Lord Jesus Christ will rise to eternal life. Then He who brings all things to Himself, according to His power, will transform their lowly body into His glorious body. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

F. Sea Burial

A sea burial is the scattering of cremated ashes at sea.

Traditional scattering of ashes: In a traditional sea burial, the ashes are usually placed in a white or red wrap, and the ashes are slowly scattered into the sea by the family.

Prayer

Almighty and ever living God, you are our refuge and help in every generation, you are our hope for the years that lie ahead, our shelter in all storms of life and our eternal home. We thank and praise you that through the redeeming work of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we may in this life abide in your love, and in the life to come we may share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Our brother/sister, according to your perfect will, has now been called to his/her heavenly home, and we bury his/her body in the sea. By so doing, we believe that those who die through the Lord Jesus Christ will rise to eternal life. Then He who brings all things to Himself, according to His power, will transform their lowly body into His glorious body. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

2. Order Of Service For The Burial Of A Child

A. In The Home Or In The Church

1. *Scripture Sentences*

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27)

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom (Isaiah 40:11)

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him (Psalms 103:13)

For thus says the LORD: As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you (Isaiah 66:12,13)

2. *Prayer*

Our Father, whose face in heaven the angels of children do always behold; in the faith of Thy Holy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has taught that to enter the Kingdom we must become as little children, we do now commit the soul of this child into Thy keeping, to be gathered together with all Thy flock. *He/She* is Thine own child. We pray Thee, receive *him/her* in all *his/her* simplicity, the stains of this mortal life washed away, that wholly purified *he/she* may dwell in Thy presence for ever, sharing unending joy and Thy loving grace. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus, Amen.

3. *Hymn*

4. ***Words of Comfort or Short Address***

Either the following Scriptures or other words of comfort may be used.

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me”

– Matthew 18:1-5

“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” – Job 1:21

“But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

– 2 Samuel 12:23

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” – John 14:1-3

“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.” – John 14:27

5. **Prayer** (*for the family of the child*)

Almighty God, whose loving grace does ever watch over our lives and Whose loving mercy never fails, Thou art the beauty of childhood and the light of eventide. For this child whom Thou didst give to us, whose companionship we have enjoyed, and whom now Thou hast taken Thyself, we, thy children, praise Thy holy name. We now believe that all is well with *him/her* in Thee. And we do now commend the parents and kinsfolk unto Thee. May strength and comfort, holy thoughts and a lively hope fill their hearts. May the words of Thy Son, our Saviour, declaring Thy loving concern for every child, breath heavenly peace into their sorrowing hearts, for Thy name's sake, Amen.

6. **Hymn**

7. **Closing Prayer and Benediction**

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 15:13

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

- Numbers 6:24-26

B. At The Graveside

1. *Reading of Scripture*

Then Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. (Mark 10:16)

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

2. *Prayer*

O God Whose beloved Son did take the children in His arms and bless them, we pray Thee by Thy grace, enable us with a quiet heart to commit the soul of this child to Thine eternal and never failing love, and lead us all to enter Thy Heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord.

Almighty Lord, Merciful Father and Holy Spirit the Comforter, we beseech Thee in Thy grace to watch over us all who mourn, and enable us through Thee to put away all grief, and to know Thy love and comfort, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

3. *Meditation*

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

– Mark 10:14

4. *The Lowering of the Coffin*

After the meditation the coffin is lowered and the Officiating Minister may cast earth on the coffin.

5. ***Prayer and Benediction***

Creator God, as we commit the body of our dear child to the earth, we pray that Thou wilt change this mortal body into a glorious body, to abide in Thy love for ever.

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit comfort you and remain with you now and for ever more, Amen.

3. Order For A Memorial Service

For use on the anniversary of the death,
or on other appropriate occasions.

1. ***Music Prelude***

2. ***Sentences of Scripture***

The following may be used:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

- Psalm 90:1,2,16

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. – Daniel 12:3

And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. – Revelation 21:6-7

3. ***Hymn***

4. ***Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving***

5. ***Reading of Scripture***

Or one of the following responsive readings may be used:

(a) Minister : The lives of good men, even though their days are few, yet their names endure for ever.

People : The just will ever be held in remembrance, and the memory of the righteous will always be honoured.

Minister : Let us remember great and good men through whom God manifested great glory.

People : Such as did lead the people by the power of their judgement, and through their wisdom and vision gave men understanding.

Minister : Wise were their words in their instruction, and through their wisdom and strength they could be helpers of the people.

People : All these were honoured in their generation and were a glory in their days.

Minister : Their bodies were buried in peace and their name liveth to all generations.

People : People will declare their wisdom, and the congregation telleth out their praise.

Minister : Because the memory of the virtuous will never perish it is known to God and man.

People : The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them.

Minister : In the eyes of the foolish they seem to have died.

People : But they are in peace. For even if in the sight of men they be punished, their hope is full of immortality;

Minister : And having borne a little chastening, they shall receive great good.

People : Because God made trial of them and found them worthy of Himself.

Minister : As gold in the furnace he proved them and as a whole burnt offering he accepted them.

People : The faithful shall abide with Him in love; because grace and mercy are to His holy people.

Minister : The righteous live for ever, the Highest watches over them.

People : So they shall receive a glorious kingdom, from the hand of God a crown of glory.

(Ecclesiastes, selected)

(b) Minister : Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

People : For by it the men of old received their commendation.

Minister : Abel died, but through his faith he still speaks.

People : By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Minister : By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

People : He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Minister : These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them.

People : and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Minister: Through faith they conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises.

People : stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword.

Minister : were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

People : of whom the world was not worthy.

Minister : Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

People : let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,

Minister : and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

People : 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.

(Hebrews 11 and 12)

6. ***Short Address***

7. ***Hymn or Anthem***

8. ***In Memoriam***

- Concerning his/her life and work.
- Concerning his/her final words of exhortation.
- Words of appreciation.

9. ***A Period of Silence (for three minutes)***

At this time or following, the Officiating Minister may read the scripture: 2 Timothy 4:7,8; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 12:1,2,5,

10. ***Prayer***

Thanksgiving for the life and work of the deceased and prayer for the members of the family.

11. **Expression of Thanks** *By a representative of the family.*

12. **Announcement**

13. **Hymn**

14. **Closing Prayer and Benediction**

4. Order Of Service For The Commemoration Of Parents

(This order of service may be used at the time of visiting the graves, either at the cemetery itself or in the Church.)

1. ***Music Prelude***

2. ***Sentences of Scripture***

The following may be used or those set out in the Memorial Service:

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.” - John 5:25-29

The Apostle Paul also said:

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” – 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

3. ***Hymn***

4. ***Reading of Scripture or Responsive Reading***

If the latter, those set out in the Memorial Service (page 68-72), or the following may be used:

Minister : O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers
have told us, what deeds you performed

People : in their days, in the days of old.

Minister : We will not hide them from their children,

People : but tell to the coming generation the glorious
deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the
wonders that he has done.

Minister : that the next generation might know them, the
children yet unborn,

People : and arise and tell them to their children,

Minister : so that they should set their hope in God

People : and not forget the works of God, but keep his
commandments.

Minister : Love the Lord, all ye who are His people. The
Lord preserves all men of truth.

People : All ye who look unto the Lord, take courage, and
strengthen your hearts.

(Psalms 44, 78 selected)

5. **Prayer** - The following may be used:

(a) A prayer to follow the example of the saints.

O Lord our God, Thou are the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labour, and the giver of rest to those who have died. We praise Thee for all Thy saints, who in their lives witnessed so nobly for Thy Truth, especially for those known and dear to us who are now asleep in Christ. We pray Thee for grace to follow their example, to have the same spirit, and finally to share with them in the same eternal rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

(b) A prayer of commemoration.

Almighty and Eternal God, all life flows from Thee, is under Thy control, and through all the changes and chances of this world finally returns to the ocean of Thine eternity. We thank Thee with all our hearts that Thou didst create our ancestors and hast continually in our forefathers (parents) and ourselves shown forth Thy creative power, that we through the leading of Thy Spirit might know Thee to be the source of life, the way of life and life's fulfilment. Our forefathers (and parents), in order to seek a richer and fuller life, during their time on earth, endured all manner of hardship, striving to realise their manhood. We pray Thee, enable us to remember them for their good works, to learn from their example, and never to forget Thy grace which came to us through them. Grant that we may also increase our knowledge of the meaning of life carry on the work which they have done, and complete our won share of life to Thy glory, through Thy Son, the Lord of our life, even Jesus Christ, Amen.

(C) A prayer of remembrance of friends who have died.

Loving Heavenly Father, we would now commemorate all those who are now at rest in Christ with a love that can never die. As we are united in the household of faith and love, so may we also be able to live together in the hope that when the light of dawn is come and the darkness is done away, we shall see them in Thy presence, and share together with all the redeemed, the joys that have no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

6. ***Short Address***

7. ***Words of Commemoration***

A representative of the family or others may read appropriate statements or give an exhortation.

8. ***Prayer***

9. ***Announcements***

10. ***Hymn***

11. ***Closing Prayer and Benediction***

IV. ORDINATION AND INDUCTION SERVICES

1. Service For Ordination Of Ministers

After the congregation is seated, the Officiating and Assisting Ministers process in with the Ordinand following. As they enter, the congregation stand and then, as those taking part take their seats, all sit quietly.

1. *Introit*

2. *Call to Worship*

When there is quiet, the Officiating Minister reads some of the texts below.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (Psalms 124:8)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isaiah 52:7)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19,20)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."
(Matthew 9:36,37)

3. **Hymn**

4. **Prayer**

Almighty and All-Knowing God, our Heavenly Father, today we gather here to ordain for the work of a Minister in your Church and we pray that your presence will be with us. Accept all that we do today in this service, and may it glorify your holy name. Amen.

5. **Bible Reading**

6. **Sermon** (10-15 minutes)

7. **Prayer**

Our Heavenly Father, you established your Church upon earth and promised to be with her forever. Pour out your Holy Spirit to guide and lead her and to keep her holy. We pray for all your servants who follow your way and Minister in your church. Increase in them all spiritual gifts so that they may have abundant life. According to your commission, may they shepherd the flock, relying on the Great Shepherd, who is our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

8. **Hymn**

9. **Narrative** (*giving the minutes concerning the ordination*)

10. **Declaration**

In the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we gather together today as a Synod for the service of ordination, by laying on of hands and by sincere prayer of as a Minister and of his induction as Minister of church. Jesus Christ is the Head and Lord of the Church. When he ascended into heaven, he gave grace to his chosen servants

and established the church. Today we have this ordination service to show forth the gracious gift that the Lord has given to men.

The Presbyterian Church in Singapore is a member of Christ's Church, worshipping the one and only triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This ordination service clearly shows forth our faith. We believe in God who through his own Son was the Word made flesh. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of men who died on the Cross and rose again that he freely gives his salvation to all who repent and have faith so that they receive forgiveness of sins, spiritual rebirth and eternal life.

We believe in the Old and New Testaments, the record of God's Word, and the supreme standard of faith and life. We accept the Apostle's Creed as the universal Christian summary of the faith. We are a spiritual fellowship and all who join this fellowship, especially those who hold office, have a great responsibility to spread the Gospel, and have a duty to follow the rules of the church and to preserve its reputation. May God be present with us. Amen.

11. ***The Promises***

The Ordinand stands before the platform to answer the questions of the Officiating Minister.

Brother Ordinand, you have already heard the declaration of the Church's faith and I now want to ask you certain questions about the faith to which you will reply before God.

Q1. As far as you know your own heart and conscience, do you believe your willingness to accept this office

comes from a sincere desire to glorify God and to seek the growth of this church?

Answer: I so believe.

Q2. Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and rely on Jesus Christ as your Saviour and confess him as Lord of the Church?

Answer: I believe.

Q3. Do you believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are revealed by God, are the supreme standard of faith and action, including all doctrine for salvation?

Answer: I believe.

Q4. Do you accept that the faith and order of our Synod agrees with God's Word?

Answer: I accept.

Q5. Are you willing to seek the unity and fellowship of the church and uphold and keep the sacraments and ordinances of our church according to the proper interpretation of Scripture?

Answer: I am willing.

Q6. As you receive this call to be a Minister, is your greatest purpose and most important motive to glorify God and to spread the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Answer: It is.

Q7. Do you promise through God's help sincerely to take up the responsibilities of pastor in this congregation joyfully to seek all work that will extend God's kingdom, and to give an example of faith and life to them?

Answer: I so promise.

12. ***Signing of Agreement***

13. ***Congregational Promises***

Members of Church, since in unity you have chosen and called to be the Minister of your congregation, on behalf of the Synod I now ask you.

Q1. Do you promise with a humble heart to accept the truths of the Gospel that he preaches?

Answer: *Congregation raises hands*

Q2. Do you promise to pray for him, to encourage him in shepherding the church, and to help and follow him?

Answer: *Congregation raises hands*

Q3. Do you promise in order to preserve the order and name of the church to follow the rules of the church and to mutually forgive so as to avoid harm to the work?

Answer: *Congregation raises hands*

Q4. When he becomes your Minister, will you respect his office and give him what is necessary so that his life may be without strain and that the dignity of the church may be protected?

Answer: *Congregation raises hands*

14. **Ordination**

The Ordinand kneels and all the Synod Ministers stand around and the Officiating Minister stands at the front. In the prayer when they come to the phrase ordain him”, the Minister will lay their hands on the Ordinand.

Almighty God, all knowing and all loving, who rules over all, long ago you chose dedicated servants for your holy church. You gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, each with his own responsibility, to perfect the saints and to establish the Body of Christ.

Today we ask you to pour out your love upon your servant. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, we lay hands upon his head (now placed hands) to ordain him as your holy servant, to give him authority to proclaim your Word, to celebrate the sacraments and to conduct other ordinances. We pray that you will pour on him all spiritual gifts so that he has strength to fulfil his office. As your church ordains on earth, we pray that he may be blessed by you from heaven. May he like his Lord be forever one mind with his Lord, doing your heavenly will. Increase his faith towards you so that he may stir up your people and their faith will have a good foundation. May he because of his fellowship with your Son be able to speak with sincerity and life; may his words and work show forth the power of the Gospel, calling men to receive salvation and glorify the Lord’s holy name.

Heavenly Father fulfil our earnest prayers because of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

15. **Pronouncement**

The Officiating Minister places the stole on the new Minister.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, according to the authority he has given the church, I now announce that you,, have been ordained as a Minister of this Synod, to proclaim the Gospel, to celebrate the sacraments and to conduct other ordinances, to lead the church and to serve Church for four years.

16. *Right Hand of Fellowship*

The Officiating Minister and Synod Ministers shake hands with the new Minister to welcome him into the fellowship of pastors.

As servants of the Lord, we by this hand of fellowship welcome you into our fellowship, together doing the Lord's work.

The new Minister takes his place on the platform with the other Ministers.

17. *Hymn*

18. *Charges* ***a) to the new Minister***
 b) to the members

19. *Declaration of Purpose*

20. *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

21. *Hymn*

22. *Blessing* *(by the new Minister)*

23. *Postlude*

All stand while Officiating Minister leads others out.

2. Induction Of A Minister

The following items should be included by the Officiating Minister during the Induction Service.

1. **Statement**

To be presented by the Officiating Minister after the sermon

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ. The members of this congregation have chosen the Rev to be their Minister. Permission has been sought from the Synod (or Synod Executive) and careful consideration has been given and everything has been properly checked, and it has now been decided to offer him the office and duties of Minister of this congregation. He has also indicated to the Synod (or Synod Executive) his willingness to accept this position.

We have now been appointed and sent by the Synod (or Synod Executive) in accordance with the rules of the Synod to induct him into the office of Minister of this congregation in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Induction Promises**

The Minister to be Inducted shall stand in front of the Officiating Minister who shall ask the following questions.

A. To the Minister to be Inducted

Since you have accepted the call of this congregation and are willing to become their Minister and to undertake the responsibilities and duties of this congregation, in the Holy Name of the Lord and on behalf of the church, I now put to you the following questions:

1. As far as you know your own heart, do you believe in all conscience that your acceptance of this office stems from your sincere desire and hope to glorify God and to seek the development of His Church?

Answer: I do so believe and acknowledge.

2. Do you believe in God, Holy Father, Holy Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in One God? and believe and depend upon Jesus Christ as your Saviour and acknowledge him as the Head of the Church?

Answer: I do believe.

3. Do you believe that the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, are our standard for faith and conduct and contain all the essential teaching for salvation?

Answer: I believe.

4. Do you solemnly promise, with the help of God, in the execution of your duties as a Minister, to try your best to maintain your conduct as befits a servant of Christ and in accordance with the promises that you have just made?

Answer: I do solemnly promise.

B. To the Congregation

Having received satisfactory answers to the above questions, the Officiating Minister shall put the following questions to the congregation who shall answer affirmatively by raising their right hands or by standing up.

- Q1. : Do you promise to obey your Minister's teaching and shepherding, accepting the truth preached by him with humility and love?

Q2. : Do you promise in the work of the church to encourage, support and help him?

Q3. : Do you promise to respect him, and provide him with his daily needs, and the amenities of life, enabling him to maintain the respect of his sacred office.

3. **Declaration**

(After the congregation has given an affirmative answer to the above questions, the Officiating Minister will make the following declaration.)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and by the authority given to me by the Church, I declare the Rev. to be officially inducted into the office of Minister of this congregation with all its duties.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we must pray to God, the source of all blessings and glory for His grace to sanctify the relationship between the newly inducted Minister and the members of the congregation.

4. **Prayer**

(The Officiating Minister shall pray for the newly Inducted Minister and congregation.)

Almighty God, Eternal Father, you rule over all things on earth and in heaven with your wisdom. From long ago you have already established the ministry of reconciliation in your Church. And today we thank you for the grace that you have given in this sanctuary. We beseech you for the benefit of this congregation to build up your servant in all good works practising God's love.

May the blessings of the Holy Spirit be upon him and fill him with the wisdom from above. May he see clearly your truth. Bless him with a pure life, making him a good example to his flock. We pray that in all things he will be faithful in serving you, bringing glory to your great Name.

May he lead sinners to you and in all his service build up your people until they have come to the fullness of salvation and sanctification.

O Lord God we beseech you that you will use your love and grace to care for this congregation, preparing their hearts to receive your Word, shining into their hearts with the light of the good news of eternal life and enabling them to see the light daily and enabling the true faith to grow gradually in their heart, using all goodness to mature them and because of your mercy, they are protected in the unity of the Holy Spirit and in the bond of love. My glory and praise be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for ever and ever, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

5. ***Hymn***

6. ***Benediction***

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen!

(after the service, the congregation and leaders welcome the new Minister)

3. Installation Of A Preacher

After the Preachers and Personnel Committee have confirmed and checked the qualifications of the preacher, the Synod may proceed to arrange for the Appointment Service.

1. ***Musical Prelude***

2. ***Call to Worship***

O, God! The people of Zion are waiting to praise you and wish to fulfil their promises to you. (Psalm 65 v1-4)

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who hear their prayer, to you shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me; you atone for our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near. he whom thou dost choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, your holy temple! (Matthew 9 v37-38) Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

3. ***Hymn***

4. ***Prayer***

5. ***Scripture Reading***

6. ***Sermon***

7. **Hymn**

8. **Declaration**

The new preacher shall stand in front of the Officiating Minister.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, God, through the Holy Spirit has called men to be disciples according to their gifts to serve the Lord. He has also chosen men to be His servants, giving them special grace to enable them to spread the gospel and to win men for Christ. The Lord has commanded His Church not only to increase workers to pray but also to confirm and test those who seek this Holy ministry, so that those who have a pure heart, good conduct and standard and who live a Christ like life, can shoulder his Holy ministry. Therefore, whoever wishes to be a preacher shall first receive theological training, and through prayer prepare himself in every way. Later when they have the opportunity and have gained preaching experience and have the opportunity and have gained preaching experience and have had their ability tested, they will prove to the church that they are worthy of shouldering this preaching ministry.

According to the Constitution, this preacher's beliefs, his working experience and qualifications, his spiritual level, and his motives in desiring to be a preacher have all been examined and certified by the Preachers and Personnel Committee of the Synod, and this committee is satisfied that he can be inducted as a preacher. Therefore, today we are specially holding this appointment service for him.

9. **The Promises** *(The Officiating Minister shall ask)*

Q1. : Do you believe in God, Holy Father, Holy Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in One God? and believe and

depend upon Jesus Christ as your Saviour and acknowledge him as the Head of the Church?

Answer: I do believe.

Q2. : Do you believe that the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, are our standard for faith and conduct and contain all the essential teaching for salvation?

Answer: I believe.

Q3. : Do you acknowledge that the belief and constitution of the Synod is consistent with the Word of God?

Answer: I acknowledge.

Q4. : Are you willing to seek the purity, peace and progress of the church and are you willing to accept in Christ the Control of the Synod?

Answer: I am willing.

10. ***Prayer***

Eternal God our Father, you have lifted high your resurrected Holy Son Jesus Christ to be the Head of the Church. We pray that you Holy Spirit will descend upon your servant, giving him the strength to preach and spread your gospel. Bless him from above with wisdom, purity, peace, humility and meekness. Lead him in your merciful love, that he will receive your gracious care. Lord, we pray that he might abide in you constantly and you in Him, enabling him to be near you in his life and close to people. Strengthen his faith, embolden his courage, increase his joy in doing the Lord's work. May the Lord's gospel of worldwide salvation

be revealed through him and his words, bringing many people to salvation.

Lord, may you enable him to produce the fruit of eternity during his period of service as a preacher, and give your sign of approval so that he knows that you have really chosen him and blessed him to be your gospel's holy servant.

Lord, may your Kingdom come quickly, may your gospel spread rapidly, and may you listen to the prayers of all your good and faithful servants. Bless them so that their work will prosper. May glory be to you for ever and ever. Amen.

11. Promises of the Congregation

(The Congregation shall stand)

Q1.: Are you willing to accept Mr as your preacher, acknowledging him as a servant of God?

Answer: The congregation shall raise their hand.

Q2. : Will you do your best to cooperate happily with him and support his work materially and spiritually?

Answer: The congregation shall raise their hand.

12. Declaration of Appointment

(The Preacher to be appointed and the congregation shall stand.)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority He granted to the church, I set you apart as a preacher, and commission you to preach his gospel at any time and in any place. May the Heavenly Father bless you. May the Spirit of Christ fill you. Amen.

13. ***Right Hand of Fellowship***

(The Officiating Minister shall give the right hand of fellowship to the newly appointed preacher.)

14. ***Presentation of Bible (Optional)***

On behalf of this church, I welcome you as the preacher of this church. In receiving this Bible, you are commissioned to expound the scriptures to others. You must study diligently all its recorded truths. You must faithfully and sincerely clarify the gospel of God's grace and be exemplary in faith and in holy living.

Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory and exceeding joy, to the only wise God our saviour, be glory and majesty dominion and power both now and ever. Amen.

15. ***Hymn***

16. ***Benediction***

4. Order For The Ordination Of Elders

Elders, as representatives of the church members, ought to be elected by the members at a general meeting of the church members. Elders serve with the pastor in the administration of church affairs and in the nurture of the spiritual life of the members. Those who are duly elected should be publicly ordained according to the constitution of the church.

Usually this ordination will take place during a Sunday worship service, following the sermon. The Minister conducting the ordination service will request those elected to the office of elder to stand in front of the congregation.

1. ***Musical Prelude***
2. ***Call to Worship***
3. ***Hymn***
4. ***Invocation Prayer***
5. ***Reading of the Scriptures***
6. ***Sermon***
7. ***Hymn***
8. ***Ordination of Elders***
Minister (or worship leader) will say:

Will the following people please
present themselves for ordination as elders of this church.

9. ***Introduction by the Minister***

Beloved in Christ: In apostolic times there were elders, to whom were entrusted the oversight and leadership of the Christian Churches and concerning whom the Apostle Paul advised that they who ruled well should be counted worthy of double honour.

Therefore, this church has included in its government, not only Ministers who are to preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments in the name of Christ, but also Ruling Elders chosen by the people to represent them, and to join with Minister in the exercise of government and discipline in the Church.

These Ruling Elders in each congregation, together with the Minister, constitute the Session, to which it is committed to admit and exclude members, and to supervise the worship, provide for the teaching, direct the activities, and promote the spiritual interest of the Church. The Elders are also to represent the congregation in Presbyteries and Synods, when commissioned to do so. It is the duty of the Elders to set the example of a godly conduct and character, and to assist the Minister in his ministry to the people.

The congregation of this church has already elected to the office of Ruling Elder. They have signified their willingness to serve in this capacity. So, now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we proceed to their ordination.

10. ***The Minister shall say:***

You will now answer the following questions which the Constitution of this church requires of you:

1. Do you believe in God, Holy Father, Holy Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in One God? and believe and depend upon Jesus Christ as your Saviour and acknowledge him as the Head of the Church?

Answer: I do so believe.

2. Do you believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

Answer: I do so believe.

3. Do you acknowledge the Confession of Faith and Constitution of the Synod as being in accordance with the Word of God?

Answer: I do.

4. Do you accept the office of Ruling Elder in this congregation, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?

Answer: I do.

5. Do you promise to seek the peace, unity and purity of the church?

Answer: I do.

The Minister shall then address the following questions to the members of the church, bidding them to respond by raising the right hand:

Do you, the members of this church, take as the Elders of this church?

Do you promise to give these elders the honour encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this church, entitles them?

11. Ordination, Laying on of Hands

(The Elders to be ordained shall kneel, the congregation shall stand, and the Minister shall pray.)

O Eternal and ever-blessed God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who of Thine infinite mercy hast chosen to Thyself a Church, which Thou hast ever ruled by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit; and yet hast used the service of men, as in preaching Thy Word and ministering Thy sacraments, so also in guiding Thy flock and providing for the poor; we commend unto Thee those whom we now ordain to the office of the Eldership.

(Here the Minister may lay his hand upon the heads of the elders to be ordained.)

Set apart, O Lord, these Thy servants, to the work whereunto they have been called by the voice of Thy Church. Endue them plenteously with heavenly wisdom. Grant them Thy grace, that they may be good men, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, ruling in the fear of God. Give them that favour and influence with the people which

comes from following Christ. So, fill them with His Spirit that they may lead this congregation in His service. Make them faithful unto death, and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, may they receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Amen

12. Declaration

The Elders shall stand, and the Minister shall say:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, I now declare you duly ordained and set apart to the sacred office of Ruling Elder.

I now charge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to be faithful to this your office, He who calls you is faithful and He will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

13. Welcome by Right Hand of Fellowship

The Minister and Elders shall shake hands with the newly ordained Elders, saying:

We give you the right hand of fellowship to take part in this office with us.

14. Hymn

15. Benediction

Note: The Service of Induction (Installation) of old and new Elders may take place just before Item No. 14, Welcome by Right Hand of Fellowship.

5. Service For The Installation Of Ruling Elders Who Have Been Ordained

If this Order is used in connection with the Order for the Ordination of Ruling Elders, it may be introduced immediately before or after the Welcome by Right Hand of Fellowship.

The Minister shall say:

Beloved in Christ. Having already been solemnly ordained to the office of Ruling Elder, you do now present yourselves in response to the voice of this congregation, to be installed for the discharge of the active duties of your office.

You will therefore now give answer to the following questions:

Q1. Do you accept the office of Ruling Elder in this congregation, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?

Answer: I do.

Q2. Do you promise to seek the peace, unity and purity of the church?

Answer: I do.

The Minister shall then ask the members of the Church this question, to which they shall respond by raising the right hand.

Do you, the members of this church, promise to give these elders the honour encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this church, entitles them?

Declaration by the Minister

I now declare you to be inducted into the office of Ruling Elder in this congregation.

Benediction

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, 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 for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrew 13:20-21)

6. Order For The Appointment Of Deacons

The duties of Deacons include oversight of charity and relief for the poor, making the financial budget of the church, taking care of the income and expenses of the congregation, and handling the business details of the church.

The Appointment of Deacons should take place in connection with a regular service of worship. Following the sermon, the presiding Minister shall request the Deacons to be inducted to stand before the congregation.

Minister:

Will the following persons who have been elected to the office of Deacon by this congregation, please present themselves for appointment:

Names:
.....

1. *Introductory Remarks*

Beloved in Christ: In the Christian Churches of apostolic times there were deacons, whose office was held in honour and who were highly esteemed for their services to the church, in company with the elders. From early days it was a peculiar part of the duties of these office bearers to be the instruments of the Church's ministry of compassion. This Church, therefore, has recognized the office and work of the deacon as in accord with apostolic practice. In the course of time new forms of work have been given to this office, and it has grown in value to the church, while to it there has always been attached its ancient character as the

representative of the Church's purpose to follow Christ in compassion and in ministry to the bodily needs of men.

These persons here present, having been chosen, to the office of Deacon by this congregation, and having signified their willingness to serve, we do therefore, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, now proceed to their appointment.

2. ***Minister, Addressing the Deacons-elect***

As you have declared your willingness to take this office upon you, I now require you to answer the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

Answer: I do.

2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith of this Church as being in accordance with the teachings of the Bible?

Answer: I do.

3. Do you promise to perform your duties faithfully, seeking the peace, unity, and progress of the Church?

Answer: I do.

3. **Minister, Addressing the Congregation**

The congregation shall respond by raising the right hand.

Do you, the members of this church, promise to give to these Deacons the honour encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

The Deacons shall kneel, the Congregation stand, and the Minister shall say: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, who didst come not to be ministered unto but to minister; who for our sakes became poor, that we through Thy poverty might be rich; who didst love the Church, and give Thyself up for it: Set apart and consecrate these Thy servants to the office of Deacon. Give them Thine own spirit of compassion for human needs. Inspire them with devotion to the Church. Guide and sustain them in all their service until their work on earth is done; and bestow upon them the great rewards of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

4. **Declaration by the Minister**

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the authority committed to me in His Church, I hereby declare you duly set apart to the office of Deacon.

I now charge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to be faithful to this your office, He who calls you is faithful, and He will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

5. **Exhortation by the Minister to the Congregation**

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, I also ask you to be faithful to these deacons, to remember them in your prayers, to give generously to the work, to help them in their ministry of charity and to support them in all that they do for the church.

6. **Welcome by Right Hand of Fellowship**

The Minister and Members of the Board of Deacons shall shake hands with the new Deacons, and say:

We give you the right hand of fellowship to take part in this office with us.

(If Deacons who have been already appointed are to be installed at the same service, the Order of Installation may be introduced here.)

7. **Benediction**

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 everlasting 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 for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

7. Order For The Installation Of Deacons

The following order may be used separately. If used in connection with the Order for the appointment of Deacons, it may be introduced immediately before the Benediction.

Minister: *(when the Deacons to be installed are standing before him)*

Beloved in Christ: Having already been solemnly set apart to the office of Deacon, you do now present yourselves, in response to the voice of this congregation, to be installed for the discharge of the active duties of your office.

You will therefore now give answer to these questions:

1. Do you accept the office of Deacon in this congregation, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?

Answer: I do.

2. Do you promise to seek the peace, purity, unity and progress of the church?

Answer: I do.

Minister, addressing the Congregation:

Do you promise to give these Deacons the honour encouragement, and obedience in the Lord, to which their office, according to the Word of God, and the Constitution of this church, entitles them?

Response by Raising the Right-hand.

Declaration by the Minister

I now declare you to be inducted into the office of Deacon in this congregation.

Benediction

May the Great Head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, give you an abundance of His Heavenly Grace, so that at the last, we can hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord." Amen.

8. Induction Of Synod/Presbytery Officials

1. *Hymn*
2. *Prayer*
3. *Scripture Reading* (Act 20:28; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)
4. *Covenant Pledge of Officials*
The Officiating Minister shall say:

At the session of the Annual Synod/Presbytery meeting, the following persons were elected to hold office for the session of the Synod/Presbytery.

Moderator
V. Moderator
Stated Clerk
Asst. Clerk
English Clerk
Asst. English Clerk
Treasurer
Executive Committee Members:

Now in the presence of God our Father and delegates to Synod/Presbytery, I put the following question to you. Please answer sincerely under the eyes of an all-seeing God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, since you have been elected by the Synod/Presbytery and the Synod/Presbytery has placed this great and heavy responsibility upon you, you must be faithful in the household of God, which is His Church. You must respect

your position and serve the Synod/Presbytery with all your ability in your elected capacity, bringing glory to the name of God. Do you so promise to do this?

The Officials shall reply together, I am willing.

5. ***Covenant Pledge of Delegates***

Dear Delegates, since you have chosen these people to be the officials of the Synod/Presbytery, and to be responsible for the work of the various committees, are you willing to cooperate with them and follow their guidance and pray for them earnestly, asking God to use them even more completely to prosper the gospel of the Lord and to develop the various works of the Synod/Presbytery, so that the Lord's name will be glorified?

If you fully agree, please show by the raising of your hand.

6. ***Handing Over of the Seal***

The Retiring Moderator shall hand over the seal. The Officiating Minister shall hand the seal to the incoming Moderator with these words:

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit I bid you to be faithful and to serve the Synod/Presbytery to the best of your ability, until the Great Shepherd appears, and you receive the unfading crown of glory.

7. ***Prayer for the Newly Elected Officials***

After the prayer the Officiating Minister steps down, and the newly elected Moderator takes over as Chairman.

8. ***Hymn***

9. ***Benediction***

V. THE DEDICATION OF A NEW CHURCH

The main door of the church is closed, and the presiding Minister and congregation gather outside.

1. **Call to Worship** (*Psalms 24 v9-10*)

Lift up your heads, O you gate; even lift them up you everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

2. **Hymn**

3. **Prayer**

Eternal God, the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, how much less this church which our hands have built. We now come to dedicate this building for your service and your glory and pray that you will accept our offering. Sanctify and bless this church for we pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. **Handing over the keys**

The representative of the elders and deacons meeting of the church hands over the keys to the presiding Minister, saying:

We hand over the building to you to be dedicated as a church for the glory of God and the service of man.

The Presiding Minister says:

I receive these keys in the name of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore, to how that I am entrusted with the dedication of this church to God. Let us now enter the church for the dedication service. May

grace and peace be upon this church and upon all who come to worship God here. Amen.

5. ***Procession***

The Presiding Minister unlocks the church doors and leads the procession into the church. A processional hymn is sung as the people enter and take their seats. The order of procession is (1) those bearing the Bible and sacramental vessels: (2) the presiding Minister carrying the keys: (3) those taking part in the dedication service: (4) the congregation. When the procession has entered the church the Bible, the sacramental vessels and the keys are laid on the pulpit and communion table.

6. ***Responsive Reading***

The Presiding Minister reads, and the congregation gives the response.

V. For the extension of God's Kingdom, that the Father's name be hallowed and that God be glorified.

R. We dedicate this church.

V. For the glory of God the Father, who has loved us and called us by His grace: for the praise of Jesus Christ His Son who loved us and gave Himself for us: for the praise of the Holy Spirit who inspires us and leads us into all truth.

R. We dedicate this church.

V. For prayer and worship, for preaching the Gospel of Christ, for the celebration of the sacraments.

R. We dedicate this church.

V. For pastoring the Church of God, for comforting those who mourn, for strengthening all who are tempted and for enlightening all who seek the way.

R. We dedicate this church.

V. For the purity of Christian family life, for teaching children to know the truth, for the up building of character to the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ.

R. We dedicate this church.

V. For calling sinners to repentance that they may receive the grace of Christ and enjoy the promises in this world and in the world to come.

R. We dedicate this church.

7. ***Prayer of Dedication***

O God our Father receive this church which we now set apart for your service, for offering the sacrifices of prayer and praise, for the reading and preaching of your Holy Word, for the celebrating of your Holy Sacraments, for the blessing of Your People in Your name, and for all other sacred ordinances.

Accept we beseech you this willing service at our hands, and grant that this church may be a habitation of your glory, so that all who seek your presence here may receive the guidance of your Holy Spirit and be satisfied with your eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

8. ***Announcement***

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I declare this church to be dedicated for the worship and service of God and may glory and praise be unto the blessed Trinity for ever and ever. Amen.

9. ***Hymn***

10. ***Scripture Reading***

11. ***Anthem***

12. ***Sermon***

13. ***Report on the story of the Church Building***

14. ***Prayer of Thanksgiving for the New Church***

15. ***Offering for the church***

16. ***Dedication of Offering***

17. ***Hymn***

18. ***Benediction***

VI APPENDIX

Liturgy

Sunday Worship Service I

1 **Music**

2 **Proclamation** (*Leader*)

Come! We must bow down and worship, and kneel before the God who made us, because He is our God, we are the sheep of his pasture, and the people under his hands, (Psalm 95: 6-7) or the following verse: (Psalm 100:1-3; Isaiah 55: 6-7; Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 96: 9-11; Psalm 23:1-3; Matthew 11: 28-30; John 4:23, 24)

3 **Hymn**

4 **Prayer** (*Pastor leads the congregation to pray*)

Eternal, merciful, and glorious Father God, You are the Lord of the universe, Supreme, Sovereign, and Most Holy Lord. You are worthy to be praised and adored. The whole earth is praising you, and your creations is praising you. We see Your glory being manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ, and experienced the grace that you promised to the humble. May the triune God be praised forever.

Merciful Father! We bow our heads to confess our sins before You, our shortcomings and transgressions. Only you know how we have sinned, strayed from you, wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love. Pray for mercy on our sins, lead us to repent our sins, save us from hidden sins, and forgive us of all our sins. Almighty God, please show great kindness, forgive those who repent, and fulfill your promised salvation to each of our broken and contrite hearts. I also ask for forgiveness for all our transgressions,

and cleanse us by the workings of the Holy Spirit, so that we can be at peace. So that we can always love you and serve you. We pray these in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (You may use the Lord's prayer to pray together with the congregation.)

5 ***The Old Testament***

(The pastor: "Listen attentively to God's words" and list the chapter and verses. After reading the scriptures say: "May the Lord bless his word and may his will be fulfilled in the body of Christ.")

6 ***Psalms or other responsive reading scriptures***

7 ***The New Testament***

8 ***The Apostles' Creed***

9 ***Prayer*** (the pastor leads the congregation to pray)

Almighty God, we bow our heads and humbly thank you, because of your grace and mercy. You had blessed us with every blessings of the world. Thank you especially for saving mankind through the Lord Jesus Christ, freeing us from the bondage of sin, giving us a new birth, and the hope of glory. We must always think of your goodness, praise your marvelous deeds. We consecrate ourselves before you and serve you in holiness and truth.

The Lord who created the universe is the Lord of all, the light of the world, wanting to hear our prayers. Have mercy on our nation and save all man from sin. Bless our country, bless our leaders with justice and wisdom, so that they can revere the Lord and love others, strive to govern, and serve

the society. Bless the people of the country, regardless of status, foolish or wise, so that we can all cleanse ourselves and serve justly, each doing our part. Pray for all the nations, that they act justly, stop discrimination and strife among nations, and allow them to live peacefully with one another. Please protect and bless the Church, wash away all her sins, strengthen her faith, give her strength and wisdom, so that she can be Your witness and boldly proclaim the gospel in this rapidly changing and chaotic world. In particular, I ask you to show great mercy and bless those who are being persecuted. Pray for your comfort, strengthen their faith, and be their protection.

Pray that the Lord will bless our church, raise up various ministries, and edify everyone, so that our lives can be set apart for you. Let your word be the guiding light in every family to lead their daily lives. For the negligent, alert them; the tempted, strengthen them; the suffering, comfort them; the weary, encourage them; the sick, heal them. May your goodness surround those who are out there and those we love. May we be like Jesus, not seek vengeance for those who sin against us, but pray for blessings on them. We pray these in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10 ***Hymn (or Choir Anthem)***

11 ***Sermon***

12 ***Hymn***

13 ***Offertory*** (The pastor said: “We remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he himself said “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”) Then say a short prayer of thanksgiving.

14 **Announcements** (Important church matters may be reported to the congregation at this time. Congregations with printed weekly bulletin no longer need to report again.)

15 **Hymns or Closing Hymn**

16 **Benediction** (the pastor said): May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of Father, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all forever. Amen!

17 **Postlude**

Sunday Worship Service II

1 *Silent music*

2 *Opening scripture*

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him (Habakkuk 2:20). But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (John 4:23)

3 *Opening Prayer*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, draw us into your sanctuary by your loving kindness, and may we bow our heads before your gracious seat, and worship with reverent awe. May all who serve you reverently find favour and mercy in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

4 *Hymn*

5 *Scripture reading* Knowing God responsive reading. (or other responsive reading from the Psalms)

Lead - God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24).

Response - Glory to God in the highest.

Lead - God is light. 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. (1 John 1:7)

Response - Glory to God in the highest.

Lead - God is power. But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Response - Glory to God in the highest.

Lead - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 John 3:1, 16)

Response - Glory to God in the highest.

6 ***The Lord's Prayer*** *(The congregation reads or sings together)*

7 ***Hymn***

8 ***Prayer***

Our Father in heaven, how merciful and compassionate You are. As we dwell in your sanctuary and consider Your grace; we are in awe of Your loving kindness and faithfulness and praise Your holy name. You have created us, sustained us, and provided us with all our earthly needs. And You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ; and with that forgive us of all our transgressions; and give us the authority to be children of God.

We confess our sins to You, and to You alone., because of Your redeeming grace. Our filthy speech, perverted mind, arrogant behavior, lustful desires, earthly worries, evil

deceits, temptations of the evil one often trapped ourselves in the snare of sin. Forgive us of our sins, tangible and intangible, and lead us away from committing willful sins. May we walk on the road that leads to peace.

We pray for those who fear and serve You in the sanctuary today. May every broken and contrite hearts experience the presence of God. May their faith be strengthened, love be fired up in Your holy church, and become a force for revival. I also pray for mercy for the sick, and for the elderly, that they can be healed and supported, and given the confidence to trust You in their adversity, because You are their ever-present help. For those who are spiritually cold, weak in faith, and have not committed to observing the Sabbath, may You redirect their footsteps and lead them by Your love, so that they can rely on the God who is the giver of all things, and return to the house of the Father, Your church and enjoy the abounding grace.

May our worship this morning be acceptable in Your sight, and our pleas be heard. In the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

9 ***Scripture Reading***

10 ***Special Hymn***

11 ***Sermon***

12 ***Prayer***

13 ***Offertory*** (When the deacon receives the offering, the leader reads the selected passage, or offertory hymn, and the

congregation sings the offertory hymn after the collection and give thanks in prayer.)

God the Father, the giver of all grace, all goodness and all kinds of perfect gifts. You have richly blessed us, and our households. Now, we worship you with these tithes and offering. May You receive and bless the use of these offering, so that the church may benefit and glorify Your name. Through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

14 ***Announcements***

15 ***Hymns***

16 ***Benediction***

17 ***Amen Song***

Sunday Worship Service III

- 1 ***Silent meditation***
- 2 ***Opening Scripture***
- 3 ***Hymn***
- 4 ***The Lord's Prayer***
- 5 ***Scripture Reading (Psalms or Responsive scriptures)***
- 6 ***Prayer***
- 7 ***Announcements***
- 8 ***Hymn***
- 9 ***Scripture Reading***
- 10 ***Sermon***
- 11 ***Prayer***
- 12 ***Offertory***
- 13 ***Hymn***
- 14 ***Benediction***

Other Festivals

Inauguration Of The Church Ceremony

Choir, Synod and Presbytery representatives, Chairman and team enter the sanctuary.

1 ***Solemn music***

2 ***Opening scripture***

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
(Psalm 95: 6-7)

3 ***The Opening Prayer***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have become your children through your loving call. Gather and call us together to worship You. May our hearts be filled with reverence, may the meditation of our hearts, the words in our mouths, and the praises and prayers on our lips, be acceptable to you. In the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

4 ***Hymn***

5 ***Scripture Reading: Psalms 123*** (may also read responsively)

6 ***Prayer***

(After praying, may ask the congregation to recite the Lord's Prayer together)

7 ***Hymn***

8 ***Address***

- 9 ***Report the process of the establishment of the church***
- 10 ***Congregation's vows***
- 11 ***Announce the establishment of the church***
- 12 ***Special Hymn***
- 13 ***Scripture Reading***
- 14 ***Sermon***
- 15 ***Prayer***
- 16 ***Offertory***
- 17 ***Announcement***
- 18 ***Hymn***
- 19 ***Benedictions***

Groundbreaking Ceremony

1 *The Call*

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor
in vain. (Psalm 121:2, Psalm 127:1)

2 *Hymn*

3 *Prayer*

4 *Scripture Reading*

5 *Address*

6 *Special Hymn*

7 *Groundbreaking Ceremony*

(1) *Scripture* *(read by the leader)*

Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished. (1 Chronicles 28: 10, 20)

(2) *Prayer*

(the leader leads in prayer or reads the following prayer)

The omnipotent God is the rock of eternity. You are our hope, now and forevermore. There is no other foundation except the foundation you laid, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. On this foundation, we are building a sanctuary for our living God. Please accept this foundation laying ceremony. Please bless all who labour

in the building of this temple. May you protect and guide all construction workers from any accidents or danger. May the temple be strong and beautiful, and all your children united in the pursuits of an abundant life in you. Likened to living stones, they are built into a spiritual house with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. In the holy name of the Lord Jesus. Amen!

(3) Responsive Reading

(the leader leads, the congregation responds)

Lead - For the glory of our Father God, the service of the Lord Jesus and the church, and the eternal presence of the Holy Spirit.

Response - We set the cornerstone of this church.

Lead - For the building of this church, to become the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth.

Response - We set the cornerstone of this church.

Lead - For the proclamation of the truth in the Bible, pay attention to the accounts of life, for the salvation of God revealed through Jesus Christ, as well as the warning, comfort and hope in the Bible.

Response - We set the cornerstone of this church.

Lead - For the teaching to practice the principles of God as our Father and men as our brothers.

Response - We set the cornerstone of this church.

Lead - For being a door, we welcome all people, whether they are rich, poor, homeless, or lonely, God will welcome them through us.

Response - We set the cornerstone of this church.

Lead - For gathering of his children in His arms and guide them to have a fellowship with Christ, so that they will grow up in the church and not become lost sheep.

Response - We set the cornerstone of this church.

(4) *Placement of the cornerstone*

(commemorative pieces can be placed in the memorial box behind the cornerstone at this time.)

(After the leader has placed the foundation stone, read the following verses aloud)

Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: (Isaiah 28: 16)

8 *Thanksgiving prayer for building of the church*

9 *Offertory (optional)*

10 *Offertory Prayer (optional)*

11 *Doxology*

12 *Benediction*

Order Of Offertory

Dedication Of Baptismal Basin

The dedication ceremony is best to be held before the baptism, and include the following order during the worship service.

1 **Announcement**

(please listen to the proclamation of our Lord Jesus:)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28: 18, 19)

2 **Address**

Brothers and sisters, baptism is a sacrament that our Lord Jesus Christ had ordained the disciples to follow. Although the baptismal basin is made of porcelain (bronze, silver), those who believe in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and baptized will be saved. Therefore, we should set this baptismal basin as holy and use it exclusively for baptism. Now with one accord, we offer it to the Lord.

3 **Prayer**

Merciful Father, God who is compassionate, we thank you and praise You, because You have prepared salvation for mankind, and through the Son our Lord Jesus Christ, opened the way for us to be saved by grace. Our Lord laid down his life on the cross for the sins of the world and shed his precious blood, so that those who trust in him may receive forgiveness of their sins. Today we offer this baptismal basin, and may all who believe in Jesus, receive the Holy Spirit in faith and walk in newness of life as they take the step of water baptism. May our offering be

acceptable in your sight. In the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

4 ***Presenting gifts***

(the congregation stands, the representative of council, or the giver, or the representative of the fellowship says:)

I (we) dedicate this baptismal basin to the church for baptism. Glory be to God the Father in heaven.

5 ***Dedication Ceremony***

(This is optional if provided by the church.)

(A) **Statement of Response**

(the pastor begins, the congregation responds.)

Lead - We dedicate this baptismal basin, in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ's command; we must baptize all believers.

Response - Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself. (Acts 2: 38-39)

(B) **The Prayer of Dedication**

Most merciful and holy God, you set up the church to preach the gospel for the salvation of man; to observe the sacraments, and to receive the seal of salvation. Today we offer the baptismal basin, so that all who believe in the Lord Jesus, observed the truth of the

water baptism, with faith, receives the Holy Spirit and experienced the peace that comes from the forgiveness of sin. May there be a change of heart and a newness of life. We pray for your blessing on this vessel. In the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Dedication Of The Holy Communion Table, Cups And Plates

The dedication ceremony is best to be held before the Holy Communion, during the worship service.

1 *The Call*

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?" 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.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. (Matthew 26:17-19)

2 *Address*

My brothers and sisters, the Holy Communion is a sacrament established by our Lord and his disciples when they were sitting together to observe the Passover. Throughout the ages, the church had observed the sacrament and proclaimed his death until he comes. The sacraments are made holy by the presence of the Lord, so we should set this holy communion table (and cups and trays) apart for the use of the church during Holy Communion. (Luke 22: 16-17, and 1 Corinthians 11: 26-27)

3 *Prayer*

God who is merciful, we thank you and praise you. Salvation comes from You, through the Son our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord sacrificed his body on the cross for our sins and shed his blood for our sins, so that those who trust in Him will be forgiven. Today we offer the holy table (and cups and plates) in accordance to the Lord's commands. We will observe the sacrament and remember the Lord's death until He comes. We pray for blessings on the offertory, that the tables and

the vessels for the sacrament will be set apart. In the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

4 ***Presenting gifts***

(the congregation stands, the representative of the council or the giver or the representative of the fellowship says:)

I (we) dedicated this holy table (and the cups and plates on the table) to the church for the purpose of use for the Holy Communion.

5 ***Dedication Ceremony***

(This is optional if provided by the church)

(A) **The Response**

(the pastor begins, the congregation responds.)

Lead - We offer this holy table (and the cups and plates on the table) in obedience to the Lord's command to observe the sacrament, and to partake in the Manna from heaven.

Response - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. (John 6:53,55-56)

Lead - We offer this holy table (and the cups and plates on the table) so that believers sit together and love each other. May those

who partake in the Sacrament become one in the Lord.

Response - 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. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

(B) Prayer of Dedication

All powerful, all loving, all-knowing Father God, you build the church through the blood of the Son of Jesus Christ, and use the bread and cup of the sacrament to reveal the truth of the gospel; one of redemption by the blood of the lamb. Everyone who trusts in the name of our Lord Jesus will receive eternal life. We offer this holy table (and the cups and plates on the table) today. May this table represent the banquet of abundant life, that whosoever comes to the table, receive the atonement of sin. In accordance to the Lord's promise, we can also sit with the Lord in the heavenlies. In the name of the Lord. Amen!

Dedication Of The Organ (Piano)

The dedication is best held during the worship service.

1 *The Call*

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! (Psalm149:1)

2 *Address*

We come forward; to thank and praise Him, because He has moved the hearts of our congregation (or someone or fellowship group) to offer this organ (piano) for church worship, and we will use this organ (piano) to accompany the worship of His name. Now with one accord, we dedicate it to the Lord.

3 *Prayer*

O Lord our God, how beautiful is your name in the whole earth. You have made Your glory known in heaven, You have perfected the word of praise from the mouths of babies (AG: I think omit this word) in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. With a heart of thanksgiving and praise, we offer the fruit of our lips, and may they be pleasing to your sight. We offer this organ (piano) to the Lord, so that Your people will gather to worship and praise You. May you be pleased with the offering through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

4 *Presenting gifts*

(the congregation stands, and representatives of Council or giver or representatives of the fellowship can donate the organ (piano).)

We present this organ (piano) to the church to glorify God. (This organ (piano) is the dedication of xxx people to commemorate xxx people.

5 ***Dedication Ceremony***

(A) The Response

(the pastor begins, the congregation responds.)

Lead - We consecrate this organ (piano) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to praise the Almighty God.

Response - Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! (Psalm 150:1, 3)

Lead - We dedicate this organ (piano) to arouse worship in everyone's heart, to worship with music, and songs of praise.

Response - Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! (Psalm 150: 4, 6)

Lead - We dedicate this organ (piano) to play music during the festivals and feasts of the Church, and all songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Response - Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, the earth! addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. (Psalm 96:1; Ephesians 5:19)

Lead - We dedicate this organ (piano) to play joyous music, and sombre songs. Awake your people, be thankful and faithful. May they find peace and joy in your lovingkindness and faithfulness.

Response - so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10, 11)

(B) Dedication and prayer

Our heavenly Father God, since ancient times, people of all generations have used all kinds of musical instruments to play beautiful music to worship and praise you. Please accept the organ (piano) that we have dedicated as an instrument to bless your holy name. May the music of the piano and the singing of the congregation be a blessing to those who come to worship. May the music that emanates from this organ give joy, harmony, comfort, inspiration, courage and a spirit of fellowship that will enhance the good will of life. May all those who play the organ with their hands and praise God with their mouths and tongues sing "Hallelujah" before the throne of the Saviour, and together with the heavenly "Hallelujah" praise the Lord of lords and King of kings "Hallelujah". Amen!

6 ***Hymn***

7 ***Sermon (or musical program)***

8 ***Offertory***

9 ***Hymn***

10 ***Benediction***

Other Prayers

Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Gracious Father, we, your useless servants, in humility thank you, because you have bestowed grace and kindness to us, and to all people. We thank you for creating us, cared for us and given us all good things. Thank you especially for your infinite love, through our Lord Jesus Christ, redeeming the world, showing us grace, and also allowing us to have a hope for the future. We plead with you, allow us to consider your goodness, to thank you in truth, and to allow us not only to praise you with our lips, but also to live our lives worthy of your name. We consecrate ourselves to you, and serve you in righteousness and holiness. This is possible through the Lord Jesus Christ. May honor and glory belong to the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, forevermore. Amen!

Prayer Of Confession

Almighty and the most merciful Father, we have sinned and gone astray, like a lost sheep. We believe too much in our own plans, indulge our own passions, and sinned against the Lord's holy law. For what we want to do we do not do, but what we should not do we do. We are weak in nature and do not have the strength to do good. O Lord! Have mercy on us, poor sinners, and forgive us if we confess our sins, and take back our sins if we hate them, according to the promise which You have proclaimed to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. O most merciful Father! Promise us, in the name of the Son, that from now on we may live a life of godliness, righteousness, and goodness, to glorify Your holy name. Amen!

Prayer Of Unity For The Church

Almighty God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the King of Peace, may you allow us to consider the state of the present

church where we are divided into various May you rid us of our pride and prejudice, and remove all obstacles to the holiness and unity of the Church. There is only one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God, the heavenly Father of all of us. Allow us to have one heart and mind in truth, peace, faith and love. May we glorify your name in one heart and one mind, and proclaim the gospel of reconciliation, and establish your kingdom on earth. Amen!

Prayer For The Synod (also used for Presbytery)

Almighty Lord, the head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ. You appointed apostles and send them to shepherd your flock. Today we ask for grace and blessings as we gathered in your name in the XXX meeting. We pray you will grant your servants with a sound mind and body, spirituality, pure love, rich knowledge, wise discernment, understanding of Your spiritual mystery, be a wise and faithful steward, to serve Your Church, to carry on the ongoing work and the future, and to be worthy successors to the Apostles. Pray for guidance and keep them from rash judgments and empty arguments. Move them to demonstrate true love and dedicate themselves to the Lord. May the strategies discussed bring glory to your holy name that these strategies will bring unity to the church, spread the gospel, and bring salvation to man. May the glory and power be in the name of our Lord through all generations. Amen!

New Year's Prayer

O eternal God! By your grace, we have come to the new year again. Please give us new faith to start a new year. From the beginning of the year to the end of the year, we will remain in your love and protection. Pray that you will strengthen our resolve to follow your teachings, to preach the gospel with

enthusiasm, to walk with you humbly, and to rise up to serve the church and community.

Father, You are the God who was, and is and is to come. Everything changes before you, and generations of people have been searching for you and receiving your love. Our ancestors rely on you and find rest in your love. Please guide us by the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. Be our refuge, because we have no one on earth except you. We face trials of different kinds, and only you are our helper in time of need. In our grief, only your mercy can sustain us. May you allow us to walk humbly whether we are in the valley, or mountain top. May you forgive us for our past sins and set us free. Set before us a goal, that we can walk in the light by the counsel of Your Holy Spirit. Amen!

Prayer For World Peace

- (1) The Prince of Peace! Almighty God! All truth and peace come from you, because you are the source of love and holiness. Pray that you will ignite the fire of peace and love in the hearts of all people in the assembly of international meetings by your pure and peaceful wisdom. Intervene in situations of conflicts and war. May your righteousness overflow and curb the pride of man. May your kingdom be established on earth, and may the whole world recognize your love which is demonstrated on the cross by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

- (2) The God of all nations, your prophets had prophesied that the weapon of war would one day be sold and transformed into a tool of peace. We implore you to fulfill this promise as soon as possible, so that your kingdom will be established on earth through the Prince of Peace, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen! (See worship Vol. 1)

Prayer for Election Day

Almighty Father, You have given us a country with a democratic system of parliament where one person is entitled to one vote, and elected members take charge of political affairs of the nation. Today our country is holding general elections, and the leaders of the country and representatives of the Parliament will be elected. Pray that Holy Spirit guide us, may the righteous be elected. Pray that our country will pass right and wise legislation, and setup upright and just administration. May the rights and interests of the people be protected in fulfillment of our duty entrusted by you. Amen!

Prayer For Church Festivals

Advent

O Lord God, we thank you because you appointed a righteous king, the Messiah prophesied by the prophets. He is coming to save us from the bondage of sin, so that we can become your children. Please give us a heart to wait for Him, so that your church will be ready to receive and praise Him when He comes again, shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." In the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen!

Christmas Prayer

Lord, you are the giver of all good and perfect gifts! Holy Father, we thank you because we are celebrating a festival that is full of sweetness in our lives. We thank you for the family, for the children, for all the dear fellowships and deep friendships in life. If we have enemies, please forgive them and help us to forgive them. Pray rid us of all our narrow-mindedness and mean thoughts; remove our vanity, pride, hatred, doubt, and jealousy of others. May we be able to enter the kingdom of heaven like children on this day. Soften our hearts and fill our hearts with love and gratitude, gentleness and peace. May our joy be holy. Help us to serve you with gladness. Glory be to your holy name. Amen!

Lent Prayer

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you endured all kinds of trials and temptations of the devil when you were on earth. We praised God that you overcome them all by the word of God. May you now support us who are weak. Thank you Lord that you sympathize with our weakness. May you carry us with your almighty hands, strengthen us so that we can overcome all temptations and fight a good fight and be victorious in your name. Amen!

Palm Festival Prayer

Jesus Christ, our Lord, we thank you for not despising the sinners when you were on earth. Instead, you choose to draw close to them. May the Lord come into our hearts today, so that we can be at peace. Please give us a humble heart, so that we are willing to serve You, and give us a willing heart, so that we are willing to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice for your use. Thank you God that you do not despise us but you are willing to turn us depraved people into useful vessels to glorify your name. Amen!

Good Friday Prayer

The lamb of God who rid the sins in the world! We bow our hearts in reverence before the cross. You have taken our sorrows and our pains. We have been healed by your stripes, and you have taken our sins upon yourself. Through your temptations and obedience, being sold and abandoned, whipped and crowned with thorns, pierced with nails, harsh ridicule, burning thirst, and the pain of the cross, we asked of you, please grant us your forgiveness and peace. You triumphed over death and resurrected so that we can share in your life. May you ignite our faith, make our love work, and be enabled to serve You. Lead us so that we can come close to You in true repentance and humility. May we be your witness all the days of our life. Amen!

Easter Prayer

God, you gave your only begotten Son to die on the cross to redeem us, and through His glorious resurrection, you rescued us from the bondage of the enemy. We ask of you that we will die to our sins every day, and live forever in the joy of your resurrection. Amen!

Ascension Day Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for bearing the cross and dying on the cross for our sins. You have defeated the devil, and overcome the power of darkness for us. You resurrected, ascended to heaven, and are glorified. Now you are seated at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for us. Please help us to consider the things above so that our hearts are always with You. Please, according to your promise, lead us so that we will follow you to the end, fight the good fight, and see you in the beauty of your glory. I pray in your own name. Amen!

Pentecost Prayer

Oh, God! The light of the Holy Spirit was given that day, so that the hearts of the faithful and believing people were taught. Pray that we, enabled by the Holy Spirit, will be able to discern all things, and be comforted by the Holy Spirit to be joyful. This is the work of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Savior, the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives eternally, reigns together, and is the only God forever and forever. Amen!

Prayers For Special Occasions

Mother's Day Prayer

Our Savior, you are worthy to be praised. Because of your kindness, your incarnation, the word "mother" was made special. As we gather, we ask you to bless all mothers, make them holy, pure, and loving. We ask that you deepen their motherly affection, that they will not only cherish and take care of their own children but will also show deep compassion to the children who have committed crimes, sad, worried, poor and helpless in society. We ask you to grant them all kinds of special gifts, so that they can be good wives and mothers, filled with gentle wisdom, loving wisdom, sweet and enduring patience, generous in forgiving, and willingness to suffer. Help them to have the courage in face of danger, wisdom in troubles, selfless, and sacrificial, reflecting your gracious glory in the family, and showing your spirit of service in the society. O Lord who shares in our weakness and our pain, we ask these through Jesus Christ. Amen!

Prayers For All Saints Day

Almighty and eternal God, the continuous flow of life originates from you, through your guidance, passes through rough and uneven places and through a thousand streams and valleys, to the sea of your eternal life. We thank You, because You created our ancestors, and continue to create among our ancestors, our parents and us and all generations, so that by the guidance of Your spirit we may know You as the source, the way and the destination of life. Our ancestors, in their search for fullness of life, endured all hardships and pains and worked hard. We ask that we may remember them in their good works and imitate them, not forgetting all their graces upon us. Let us understand the meaning of life, continue the work they have started and

bring completion to this role in our life. We glorify you through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, Lord of our lives. Amen!

Children's Day Prayer

Eternal God, you make the earth lovely, you cause the hearts to be merry, we are here to worship You. For the beauty of mountains and rivers, and the fragrance of flowers and plants, we are here to praise You. The day is full of light, melody and fragrance, and the beautiful scenery brightens us with joy; may our hearts too be open and receive the power from heaven. The breath of life, you breathe into all things, won't you breathe into our hearts? The Spirit of goodness, come and dwell with us, let our lives be in harmonious unity with your creation. Let it be pleasing in your eyes. Amen!

Mission Sunday Prayer

Our Father in heaven, Lord of the harvest! We ask of you to listen to our prayers and send more workers to the harvest. May the Lord grant them grace. May they be worthy of the Lord's work, so that both their lives and ministry can reflect the Lord's glory and proclaim the Lord's salvation. The Lord send the disciples to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. Now we pray, fill the church with your Holy Spirit, let all believers have a new birth, a new vision, a new anointing; assuming the responsibility of mission, spreading the kingdom of God, and leading the salvation of many. May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the water covers the sea. Glory and praise be to our God, now and forevermore. Amen!

Prayer For Mission Ministry

Almighty Father, You sent the Holy Spirit to guide the disciples into all truth, and lead them in the preaching of the gospel. Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, like that of the Pentecost,

so that we can continue the mission of evangelism. May you revive the work, edify the workers and strengthen their hearts, so that the gospel can be spread to every corner of the earth. Pray for the Holy Spirit to increase the strength of the missionaries working in the foreign lands, so that they will have the courage to face all dangers and difficulties. Open the door of preaching before them, and establish your kingdom in their midst. May your kingdom come on earth, may all nations and peoples bow before you and worship you. Let your kingdom extends to every corner of the earth, and grow in people's hearts, especially in our country, in the church. May our faith prosper, and justice and peace be established by the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Extra Scriptures (ESV)

Call to Worship Scripture

- 1 The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)
- 2 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, (John 4:23)
- 3 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)
- 4 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. (Psalm 95:6-7)
- 5 Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. (Psalm 24:3-5)
- 6 Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. You who answer prayer, to you all people will come. When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions. Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. (Psalm 65:1-4)

- 7 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. (Psalm 84:5)
- 8 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)
- 9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. (Psalm 36:9)
- 10 Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. (Psalm 48:1)
- 11 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. (Psalm 145:18-19)
- 12 The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. (Psalm 147:11)
- 13 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. (Psalm 85: 9)
- 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14,16)
- 15 The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. (Psalm 118:24)

Offertory Scriptures

- 1 Freely you have received; freely give. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (Matthew 10:8b; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

- 2 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.
(1 John 3:17; Philippians 2:5)

- 3 remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35)

- 4 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (Hebrews 13:16)

- 5 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)

- 6 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." (1 Chronicles 29:14)

- 7 No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed. Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you. (Deuteronomy 16:16b-17)

- 8 Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, or everything in heaven

and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. (1 Chronicles 29:11)

- 9 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- 10 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)
- 11 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. (Hebrews 6:10)
- 12 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)
- 13 The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)

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