



REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LITURGISTS

The main objective of the Liturgist is to create a very smooth transition between the elements of the Worship Service in which the Liturgist participates. This smooth transition enhances the flow of worship and gives the worshippers a sense that the Worship Service has been well planned to keep the focus on worshipping God. When leading the congregation, step away from the mic after the first few words. This allows the congregation to set its own pace in completing the unison speaking.

There is a great deal of information you will need to glean from the bulletin and, if you are leading the Welcome, Greeting, and Announcements, the "Talking Points." You have the freedom and responsibility to order your remarks with the following guidelines, depending on what your specific duties may be for any particular Worship Service:

1. **"Greeting and Announcements":** **DO NOT** say "Good Morning." You may feel awkward in the beginning, but please refrain anyway! Rather, say, "Welcome to Redeemer Presbyterian Church." Then, proceed with the "Talking Points." At the conclusion, read the "Worship Theme" and close with the words, "Let us prepare our hearts for worship as we listen to the Prelude."
2. **"Call to Worship":** As the Prelude concludes, take a breath and begin. **Do not ask the congregation to stand unless the words "Call to Worship" in the bulletin are preceded by an asterisk (*).**
3. **First Hymn:** At the conclusion of the "Call to Worship," **DO NOT** announce the hymn. The hymn number is printed in the bulletin. Announcing the hymn interrupts the flow of the service from the "Call to Worship" and the vocal declaration in the first hymn that worship has begun.
4. **"Prayers of Confession":** please say, "Please join me in a time of a unison (or "responsive" or "sung," as noted) prayer of corporate confession as printed in the bulletin, followed by a time of silent, personal confession of sins." (Confession is divided into the two parts with intention. We first join with our brothers and sisters to confess our sins corporately as a church and then silently confess our private, personal sins.)

After the corporate Confession ends, please say: "Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayers of corporate confession of sin. Please continue to hear us as we come to You and bow before You in silence to offer our prayers of private confession of sin."

[Note: You will find additional suggestion lead ins on the second page of this sheet.]

5. **"Assurance of Pardon":** Upon the conclusion of the "Prayers of Confession," smoothly transition to the "Assurance of Pardon" by saying, "Having heard our prayers of confession, we now hears these words from God." Then, lead the congregation in the "Assurance of Pardon."
6. **For reading of Scripture,** begin by saying, "This morning's Old Testament/Psalm/Gospel/New Testament/Epistle reading comes from _____." Please include the book of the Bible, the chapter and the verses. (i.e. John, Chapter 3, verses 10-20.) Then, state the version of the Bible from which you are reading: "I am reading from the English Standard Version." (Please note that Pastor Kortyna has asked that Liturgists use the English Standard Version (ESV) for Scripture readings.)

Then, slowly announce the passage again. (i.e. John, Chapter 3, verses 10-20).

Pause one last time (5 seconds), and then say, "Hear the Word of God."

At the conclusion of the reading of the Scripture passage, say, "This is the Word of the Lord." To which the congregation will respond, "Thanks be to God."

Suggestions for the Liturgist regarding Confession of Sins

Please join me in prayer as we confess our sins to God.

Father, we come to you with thanksgiving to confess our sins knowing that you have provided for our forgiveness through the blood of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hear us now as we speak to you corporately and with one voice confess our sins by praying [in unison or responsively]:

(Read the printed unison or responsive Confession from the bulletin)

Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayers of corporate confession. Hear now our silent, personal prayers as we individually confess our sins to You:

(Pause for 30 45 seconds)

Please join me in prayer as we confess our sins to God.

Father, how grateful we are that in Your mercy and grace You have made provision for the forgiveness of our sins through the blood of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hear now our prayer as we corporately confess our sins to You [in unison or responsively]:

(Read the printed confession from the bulletin)

Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayers of corporate confession. Hear us now as we pray silently and confess our personal and private sins:

(Pause for 30 45 seconds)

Please join me in prayer as we confess our sins to God.

Father, as we gather in Your Presence this morning, we come to you as people who need to settle our accounts with You. In Your mercy and grace You have granted us forgiveness through the blood of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask, Father, that You hear now our [unison or responsive] corporate prayer of confession:

(Read the printed confession from the bulletin)

Thank you, Father, for hearing our prayer of corporate confession. We ask that You listen to us as we offer our silent, personal prayers of confession:

(Pause for 30 45 seconds)