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Worship from the United Reformed Church

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Original Worship Book:

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2024 version:

Margaret Ali, Andy Braunston, Susan Durber, Sara Foyle, Dominic Grant, Sarah Houlton,

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Foreword

Worship: from the United Reformed Church

These resources for worship are to the conduct of public worship at the beginning of the 21st century. In 1980, eight years after the foundation of the United Reformed Church, *A Book of Services* was issued by the Doctrine and Worship Committee under the wise In his short preface he wrote, *'The orders found here are not prescribed. It is not expected that they will be used in our churches to the exclusion of others. Yet we believe most of these*

and of its inherited traditions.' These sentiments applied also to the 1989 *Service Book* and still hold true for this publication.

What has changed at the beginning of the 21st century is the context in setting where the church can no longer take for granted that most people understand the religious language and imagery of past generations. Language is changing and the language of worship has to take account of this. Our words may be beautiful and doctrinally sound, but if they are not *'something understood'*, they do not aid our worship. There is, of course, a measure of ambiguity and mystery lying at the heart of the most telling language of worship. However, we should aim at clarity as well as elegant expression. We should be expressing old truths in new ways.

We also need the language to express new truths in thoroughly Christian ways. Contemporary liturgists search for such language – and this quest can bring a creative tension with the traditional language of the church.

At the time of original publication, the then Doctrine, Prayer and Worship Committee had been aware of the need for continuity and change within the worship of the church. We have provided worship resources deeply rooted in our Reformed heritage, along with resources which develop our liturgical tradition in the spirit of the dictum *'the Reformed church is ever in need of reformation'*. We are aware of the breadth of liturgical expression within the church and we have sought to provide a range of styles of services. The rubrics have deliberately been kept to a minimum, thus encouraging worship leaders to develop styles appropriate to their situation. There are exceptions, such as 'prayers for healing' and 'laying-on of hands', where it was felt greater guidance would be welcomed. The Baptism service contains wording required by the General Assembly. It is our hope that all the services act as guides to the development of the

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had originally been issued in draft form and the comments received from the church have been taken into account in

The committee owes a debt of gratitude to all contributors to this publication, which uses the work of many talented liturgists.

the Trinity. ‘Lord’ has not been used when it might be taken to refer to or to privilege a male hierarchy, but where

is our Lord – not Caesar...). The 1997 inclusive language Statement of Faith has been introduced into the body of the text so that it might be more readily used – and a responsive version of it (without changing a word since it has been approved by Assembly) has been provided. All references to the person or persons being baptised, received, ordained, inducted, or commissioned are in plural and in italics – they, those, them – to leave options open and to resist a binary description.

of the changes that there have been made in the URC over the past 20 years; the transfer of some functions from District Councils to Synods, the strength of the distinction between Assembly Accredited and Locally Recognised Worship Leaders, and the reality that congregations may not always have a minister, or a minister present, and these have been amended. The further promise that Assembly agreed should be made by Elders at ordination and induction has been added. The decision of General Assembly 2005 that the ordination of Elders should recognise that Elders serve the whole Church and not just

the revised service.

in new translations and versions still faithful to the original languages from the NRSV. Prayers have been created for when the Lord’s Supper is celebrated at the ordination and induction of Elders and commissioning of Lay Preachers or Worship Leaders,

since it would normally be the case to share Communion at these services. In many services it is suggested that a ‘welcome’ might be given, and the biblical origin of the ‘right hand of fellowship’ is explained.

Prayers using traditional Trinitarian language have not been excluded, but the URC’s resolution to expand language has been honoured. No language, when used of God, can be either literal or adequate, for all is metaphor and glimpse. But God gives us the sources of tradition, our mother tongue of the Scriptures, and the wells of our imagination with which to pray, praise and bless.

so that they can be adopted or adapted – or discarded – as worship leaders feel led, to wrap around the Schedules approved in the Basis of Union.

Susan Durber
Andy Braunston

Other parts of our worship, such as occasional acts of worship or parts of services infrequently used by churches, are available to download for free from the URC website:

www.urb.org.uk/worship-book

Printed editions of the URC Worship Book are available to buy from the URC shop: **www.urbshop.co.uk**

The Communications Committee expresses thanks to all the contributors

Introduction

The four services presented here – the service of Word and Sacrament is the normative service of the church – as we read in Acts 2:42, ‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.’

the church came together to meet it should involve the reading of scripture, preaching and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. This should be done at least every Sunday.

For reasons of history, the predecessor denominations of the United Reformed Church (except for the Churches of Christ) have never been, or felt, able to do this. However, they never lost sight of the centrality of the service of Word and Sacrament, and even when the Lord’s Supper has not been celebrated we still look to that service to provide us with an order for our worship of God.

written especially for this book, and both contain a wealth of new material. provides a full order of worship for a service of Word and Sacrament with the use of many of the liturgical items found in *Rejoice and Sing*. The language draws on a very rich range of biblical imagery, especially from the Old Testament. Within the service the narrative of the institution (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) may be used as a warrant before the thanksgiving prayer or included within it. While the former position is traditionally Reformed, both practices are ecumenically acceptable.

A greater degree of participation by the



The preparation

The congregation stands as the Bible is brought into the church and placed open upon the lectern, pulpit or communion table. The Minister follows and greets the people.

Greeting

All **Grace to you and peace.** Romans 1:7

or

All **And also with you.** 2 Corinthians 13:13

A Scripture sentence, seasonal or general, may replace the greeting or be used in addition.

Sentence

All **This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.** Psalm 118:24

All **This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.** Genesis 28:17

or

All **Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.** Psalm 124:8

Hymn or Psalm

An appropriate hymn or psalm can be used.

Prayer of Approach

God our source and guide and goal:
you have made us in your image
and set us in a world full of beauty;
you dwell in light unapproachable,
yet you have come to be among us, full of grace and truth;
you are the power from on high,
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Gracious God, awaken us from sleep
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth:

All **Amen.**

The Great Commandments

Alternatively, 'A New Commandment' (*Rejoice and Sing 745*) or the Ten Commandments may be used.

Hear, O Israel:

All **The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

All

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord says: See, I am making all things new. Revelation 21:5

All **If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.** 2 Corinthians 5:17

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself 2 Corinthians 5:19

Through him your sins are forgiven.

All **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

The Ministry of the Word

Appropriate Scripture readings may be found in the Revised Common Lectionary. The readings may be interspersed with hymns or sung responses.

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Lord, break the bread of your word among us
and nourish us with your truth.

At the end of the readings a response may be used:

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Old Testament reading (Hebrew Scriptures)

Psalm, canticle, hymn or sung response

(eg *Rejoice and Sing* canticles 736-758 or sung responses 394, 395, 397, 403)

New Testament reading(s)

Sermon

A short silence may be kept after the readings and/or the sermon.

A f r mation of faith

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759-761; 36-37, 103, 118, 219, 258, 262, 275, 283, 749, 752.)

Prayers of Intercession

The intercessions mayn

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Let us celebrate this joyful feast.
People will come from east and west and north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Luke 13:29

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the triumphant hymn of your glory:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

He sought the unloved and the lost
and welcomed all who came to him;
he taught us lessons of forgiveness
he brought us healing for our sickness,
and showed us how to live according to your will.
For this he was rejected,
for this he endured grief and sorrow,
for this he gave himself up to death upon the Cross.
But you broke the power of sin and death
and raised him to the heights,
that through the blood of his Cross
and by the gift of the Holy Spirit
everything in earth and heaven might be reconciled to you.

Ἰησοῦς ἔλαβεν τὸ ἄρτον καὶ εὐχαριστήσας ἐπέσπασεν αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπεν:
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said:
'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

or

All **Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth;
come, eternal Saviour: remake us in your likeness;
come, Holy Spirit, transform these gifts:
that Christ may be known to us in the breaking of the bread
and that we may be strengthened to serve him in the world.

The Sharing of the bread and the wine

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

All **Alleluia.**

or

Holy things for a holy people.

All **Only one is holy, the Lord Jesus Christ.
We are made holy in him.**

Take, eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of him.

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ,
shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin.

Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of him.

or

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

or

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Prayer after Communion

Hymn or Psalm

An appropriate hymn or psalm can be used.

Dismissal

Go out into the world with the food of your pilgrimage
in peace and gladness.

All **Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.**

or

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ.**

Amen.

Blessing

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Responses may be used between the sections. Sung responses will be found at *Rejoice and Sing* 5, 393, 397, 398, 402). Times of silence may also be left. Y @ ^ ! ^ Á] [• • à | ^ Á c , [Á [! Á c @ ! ^ ^ Á á á ^ ! ^ } c Á ç [á & ^ • Á { æ ^ Á à ^ Á ~ • ^ á É Á Q } Á c @ ^ Á] ! æ ^ ^ ! • Á - [! Á peace, justice and the integrity of creation, candles may be lit for human rights, the peace of the earth, and the harmony of creation.

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Second order of Holy Communion

Especially when all ages are present

1.	The call	D2
2.	Hymn or song	D2
3.	Prayer of praise	D2
4.	Prayer of Confession and words of forgiveness	D3
5.	Prayer for grace	D4
6.	Hymn or song	D4
7.	Readings.....	D4
8.	Presentation of the Good News.....	D4
9.	Hymn or song	D4
10.	The invitation	D5
11.	The story of the Lord's Supper	D5
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13.	Hymn or song	D5
FIÉÁ	U ^!á} *	D5
FÍÉÁ	U ^!á} *Á]!æ^!	D6
16.	The Thanksgiving.....	D6
17.	The breaking of the bread and the blessing of the cup	D8
18.	The Sharing of bread and wine.....	D8
19.	The Peace	D8
20.	Prayers	D8
21.	Hymn or song	D10
22.	Sending out and blessing	D10

Welcome, greetings and introductions.

Music may be rehearsed, news shared and any necessary explanations or instructions given.

The responses in this service are either well known or are based on repeating a line. The congregation need to know when a line is to be repeated. This can be indicated either by the worship leader or by having a designated 'cantor' who speaks only the lines to be repeated.

The call

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and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news!

Mark 1:15

Hymn or song

Prayer of praise

Let us pray.
Loving God,
you create the world
and all the people.
You make bread and wine
and all good things.
You are holy and we praise you.

R^•~•ÁÔ@!â•cÉÁ

child of God
and friend of us all,
you are with us today
as we break the bread
and share the wine.
You are Lord and we love you.

Holy Spirit,
breath of God,
moving in all creation,
you bring us close to God
and make us holy and strong.
You are here and we adore you.

A short Trinitarian verse of praise may be sung, preferably from memory
(eg *Rejoice and Sing 21-25*).

or

Loving God,
in the company of all your people
we come to you,
and your presence is joy to us.
We come here
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to meet with you and with each other
and to listen for your word for each one.
We are ready to break bread and to drink wine,
to remember again the stories of our faith,
and to be changed by being here with you.
As we worship
in the company of angels,
surrounded by the saints,
and embraced by your love,

Prayer for grace

Eternal God,
we believe the good news
of your mercy and love,
and rejoice that we are forgiven and free.
Receive us as your children,
part of your new community of love,
and give us strength to do your will,
today and always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn or song

Readings

A reading from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

Psalm

The psalm is 'lined out', the leader saying one line of text and the people repeating it. Psalm 117 is given as an example.

Praise the Lord, all you nations!

Psalm 117

All **Praise the Lord, all you nations!**

Extol him, all you peoples!

All **Extol him, all you peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

All **For great is his steadfast love toward us,**

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

All **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.**

Praise the Lord!

All **Praise the Lord!**

A reading from a Gospel (and/or other New Testament book)

Let anyone with ears to hear listen!

Mark 4:9

All **Let anyone with ears to hear listen!**

Presentation of the Good News

(in ways appropriate for the day)

Hymn or song

The invitation

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He shared many meals with his friends,
and they long remembered his words at the table.

Though some disapproved of the company he kept,

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and showed everyone the love of God.

Wherever people met together

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He welcomes us,

whoever we are and whatever we bring,

and he will feed us at his table.

Old or young, rich or poor, joyful or in sorrow,

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to share bread and wine with him,

to remember the story of his life and death,

and to celebrate his presence with us today.

On the night before he died,

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The Gospel writer tells us what happened that night.

The story of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke

it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and

after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to

them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Trulye cTjTj0 hen h-n3.8

Offering prayer

We bring this bread and this wine
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With them we bring ourselves,
all that we are and all that we own.
May the ordinary become holy,
and heaven be opened to the people of earth.

May God be blessed forever!

All **May God be blessed forever!**

The Thanksgiving

God is with us!

All **God is with us!**

We give thanks and praise to God!

All **We give thanks and praise to God!**

Loving God,
the world you made is beautiful
and full of wonder.
You made us, with all your creatures,
and you love all that you have made.
You gave us the words of your prophets,
the stories of your people through the generations,
and the gathered wisdom of many years.

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to be born and to grow up

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He embraced people with your love
and told stories to change us all.

He healed those in pain
and brought to life those who had lost hope.
He made friends with anyone who would listen
and loved even his enemies.

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For these things, he died.

And he was raised from death and lives with you forever.

You give us your Holy Spirit,
to teach and to strengthen us,

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and to make us one in him.

For all these gifts we thank you,
and we join with all your people
on earth and in heaven,
in joyful praise:

Hosanna!

All **Hosanna!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

All **Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Mark 11:9b,10b

We praise you that we are here today,
We have heard the good news of your love;
the cross is the sign of your arms
stretched out in love for us
and the empty tomb declares your love
stronger than death.

Christ has died!

All **Christ has died!**

Christ is risen!

All **Christ is risen!**

Christ will come again!

All **Christ will come again!**

Send your Holy Spirit
upon this bread and wine,
and upon your people,
that Christ may be with us,
and we may be made ready to live for you
and to do what you ask of us,
today, and every day to come.

We make this prayer

in the power of the Holy Spirit,
in the love of the Creator,
one God,
to whom be glory and praise forever,

All **Amen.**

The breaking of the bread and the blessing of the cup

Eat this bread. It is the bread of life.

Drink this wine. It is the cup of blessing.

The Sharing

The Elders (or those chosen) may take the bread and wine to the congregation, or the people may pass the bread and cup from hand to hand as they are gathered around the table. There may be singing during the sharing of the bread and wine.

Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.

All **Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words.**

The Peace

of all.' Then he took a little child and he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9:35a-37

Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

Prayers

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you have fed us generously at this table,
and rejoiced that he is with us today.
We are ready now to follow him,
and to be your people in the world.
May your Holy Spirit show us the way,

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church,
for the great Church throughout the world,
and for our own church community
gathered today for worship and prayer.
grow in understanding of him,
and learn to love you and our neighbours.

Fill us with your Spirit,
and make us people of peace,
of faithful prayer and loving action.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the whole world;
for the people, the animals,
the earth, the sea and the air.
May all that you have made
be sustained in peace and harmony,

and may all your creatures
share in the goodness of creation.
and may all your people share in hope
especially ...

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves,
for our families and our friends,
for all those we love
May young and old respect one another,
and the generations honour one another.

May nothing divide us or come between us,
Bless us with your peace,
that together we may praise you forever.

All Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All Glory to God
Glory to God

All Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest

All Today and always
Today and always
Amen.

Hymn or song

Sending out and blessing

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'Go home to your friends,
and tell them how much the Lord has done for you,
and what mercy he has shown you.'

Mark 5:19

The blessing o:M4.3 (t)-25 (h)1.uo.6 (r y)15.4 (o)3.2 (u)13.3 (,)10.2 ()JT0 -1.348 5 (h th)3.C

Third order of Holy Communion

- 1. Scripture sentences E2
- 2. Prayer, Confession, and Assurance of Pardon E2
- 3. Theme introduction and Scripture readings E3
- 4. Sermon E3
- 5. Open or responsive prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession E3
- 6. The Lord’s Prayer E3
- 7. The Peace E3
- 8. The Peace E3
- 9. The Approach to Communion E4
- 10. Narrative of the institution E4
- 11. Thanksgiving and Sharing E5
- 12. Prayer after Communion..... E7
- 13. Blessing E7

Scripture sentences

All Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God's steadfast love endures for ever. Psalm 136:26

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the main corner-stone.
All **This is the work of the Lord;
it is wonderful in our eyes.** Psalm 118:22-3

Prayer, Confession, and Assurance of Pardon

Eternal God, creator of all things, giver of life,
we praise and worship you.
We thank you that you have
always loved the world you have made;
and that, however far we stray from you,
your love is always there to welcome us home.

We do not deserve your love,
but we dare to believe the good news of your mercy
we set forth in this bread and wine.

Be present at this your table
as with penitent and forgiving hearts
we break bread and drink wine in your name.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that our worship may truly express our love
for you and for one another.
Make us glad and give us joy and peace.

Let us confess our sins:

All **God our Father,
we have sinned against you
and against one another,
in thought, word and deed;
we have not loved you with all our heart;
we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
But you have kept faith with us.
Have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and restore us to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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To all who turn to him he says:

‘Your sins are forgiven.’ He also says: ‘Follow me.’

Theme introduction and Scripture readings

Old Testament; Epistle; Gospel.

Sermon

Open or responsive prayers of

The Approach to Communion

As we gather at this table, we remember

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he lived our common life on earth;

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on the third day God raised him from the dead;

and he is always present with us through the Holy Spirit.

In his presence,

and in the company of all the people of God,

past, present, and to come,

we celebrate the Supper of the Lord.

'Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;

if you hear my voice and open the door,

I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'

Revelation 3:20

or

P [, Á•@æ||ÁQÁ!^] æ~Ác@^ÁŠ [!áÁ- [!Áæ||Á@ã•Áà^}^, c•Ác [Á { ^ÑÁ

I will take the cup of salvation,

and call upon the name of the Lord.

QÁ, ä||Á [^!Á^ [~ÁæÁ•æ&!ã, &^Á [-Ác@æ} \•*ãçã} *ÉÁ

and call upon the name of the Lord.

Psalms 116:11-12; 16

or

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail

~ [!Ác@^Á•@æ||Áà^Á•æcã•, ^áÉÁ

Tæcc@^, ÁÍKÎÁ

Narrative of the institution

Hear again the words of institution of this feast as they are given by the
Apostle Paul:

Thanksgiving and Sharing

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give thanks to you, O God,
that from the earth you cause the grain to come
for the making of bread.

We praise you for Christ, the bread of life,
whose body was given for us.

By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and this loaf,
that the bread which we break may be to us
the communion of the body of Christ,
and that we may be made one in him.

As of old you fed your people in the wilderness,
so feed us now that we may live to your praise;

c@! [~ * @ÁR^• ~ •ÁÔ@!ä•cÁ [~ !ÁŠ [!äÈ

All **Amen.**

The Minister pours the wine and distributes it saying:

Y @ ^ } Á R ^ • ˇ • Á @ æ á * ì ç ^ } Á c @ æ } \ • É
he gave the cup to his disciples and said:
'Drink this, all of you;
for this is my blood of the new covenant,

The Minister pours the wine and distributes it saying:

Y @^}ÁR^•~•Á@æÁ*îç^}Ác@æ}\•É
he gave the cup to his disciples and said:
‘Drink this, all of you;
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

Prayer after Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things.
May the ears that have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute.
May the eyes that have seen your great love
shine with the light of hope.
May the tongues that have sung your praise
also speak the truth.
May the feet that have walked in your house
ever walk in the light.
May the bodies that have tasted your living body
be restored to newness of life.
Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.

All **Amen.**

or

All **Now, Lord let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared
in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Luke 2:29-32

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Blessing

Fourth order of

The Bible may be brought into the church; the Minister may call the people to worship.

Let us worship God.

Scripture sentences

This is the day which the Lord has made;

All

The

Lord, have mercy on us.

All **Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayer for grace

The collect of the day or prayer for grace may be said here or after the sermon.

The theme of the service may be introduced, particularly to any children present, and a hymn sung before they leave; or this may be done following one of the readings.

Old Testament reading

and/or a New Testament reading

Psalm, canticle, hymn or anthem

New Testament reading

or readings: Epistle and Gospel

Hymn

The sermon may be followed by silence and/or prayer.

Prayers for the Church and the world

After each paragraph a response may be said, such as

All Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The subjects after the words 'We pray for' are suggestions. Intervals of silence may be kept. The prayer may be made continuous by omitting the words 'We pray for' and the words in italics.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
whose Spirit helps us in our weakness
and guides us in our prayers;
we pray for the Church and for the world
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We pray for

*our Ministers, Elders and members
local unity and witness*

Renew the faith and life of the Church;
strengthen its witness;
and make it one in Christ.

Grant that we
and all who confess that he is Lord
may be faithful in service
æ } āĀ , ||^āĀ , āc@Ā@ā•Ā•] ā!ācĒ
and that the world may be turned to Christ.

We pray for

*the nations of the world
our own country
all who work fhky (f)it one6:10(k)20Eoma0s*

anpeacech;
ant heit tmed tseekit thunityss

Give to our King and to all in authority
wisdom to know and strength to do what is right.

We pray for

all who serve the community

Grant that men and women
in their various callings
may have grace to do their work well;
and may the resources of the earth be wisely used,
truth honoured and preserved,
and the quality of our life enriched.

We pray for

*victims of injustice
the lonely and the bereaved*

Comfort those in sorrow;
heal the sick in body or in mind;
and deliver the oppressed.
and help us so to bear the burdens of others

We pray for

*our families
friends and neighbour*

The invitation and the gracious words

All those present may be invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

Hear the gracious words of

[~ i Á S [i á Á R ^ • ~ • Á Ô @ i ä • c L

in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper,



All Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Hosanna in the highest.

Holy Lord God,
by what we do here
in remembrance of Christ
, ^Á&^|^à!æc^Á@i•Á] ^!-^&cÁ•æ&!ã, &^Á [}Ác@^ÁÔ! [••Á
and his glorious resurrection and ascension;
we declare that he is Lord of all;
and we prepare for his coming in his kingdom.
We pray that through your Holy Spirit
this bread may be for us the body of Christ
and this wine the blood of Christ.

œ&&^] cÁ [~ iÁ•æ&!ã, &^Á [-Á] !æã•^L
and as we eat and drink at his command
unite us to Christ as one body in him,
and give us strength to serve you in the world.

And to you, one holy and eternal God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we give praise and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lory

If the narrative of the institution has been used earlier in the service, as the bread is broken the Minister may say:

The bread which we break

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Most gracious God,
we praise you for what you have given
and for what you have promised us here.
You have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life,
and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you;
and we ask that our daily living
may be part of the life of your kingdom,
and that our love may be your love



Easter

We praise you

c@æcÁæ-c^!Á@^Á@æáÁ•ˇ ^!^á

and been put to death on the cross

he was raised from the dead by your power;

that he is the true Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world;

and that by his glorious resurrection

he has restored us to eternal life

and given us the joy of your kingdom.

Ascension

We praise you

c@æcÁ@æçá} *Á•ˇ ^!^ááæ}ááá^áÁ-[!Áˇ•Á

and being raised from the dead

he lives and reigns for ever in your glory,

Baptism service

and encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here. **There are, however, some parts of the text that must be used and these are indicated by the orange boxes.**

Where possible, the sacrament of baptism should follow the reading of Scripture and the proclamation of the Word. This service may be used for either baptism

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who lived our human life,
died for sinners on the cross;
who was raised from the dead,
and proclaimed by the apostles, Son of God;

All **who lives eternally,
as saviour and sovereign,
coming in judgement and mercy,
to bring us to eternal life.**

We worship God, ever present in the Holy Spirit;
who brings this Gospel to fruition,
assures us of forgiveness,

All **strengthens us to do God's will,
and makes us sisters and brothers of Jesus,
sons and daughters of God.**

We believe in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
united in heaven and on earth:
on earth, the Body of Christ,

All **empowered by the Spirit to glorify God
and to serve humanity;
in heaven, eternally one
with the power, the wisdom and the love of God in Trinity.**

We believe that, in the fullness of time,
God will renew and gather in one
all things in heaven and on earth through Christ,
and be perfectly honoured and adored.

All **We rejoice in God who has given us being,
who shares our humanity to bring us to glory,
our source of prayer and power of praise;
to whom be glory, praise and adoration, now and evermore.**

Amen.

The A f r mations

**Two forms of a f r mation for the baptismal promises are included here
and two others may be found in the Basis of Union Schedule A. These are
the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United
Reformed Church.**

By the candidate for believer's baptism either:

Do you believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth,

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I do.

Ö [Á^ [~Á!^] ^ } cÁ [-Á^ [~!Á•ā } •ÉÁc~!; } Áæ, æ^Á~! [{ Á^çā|ÉÁæ } āÁc~!; } Ác [ÁÔ@!ā•cÑÁ

By God's grace, I do.

Ö [Á^ [~Á& [] ~^••ÁR^•~ •ÁÔ@!ā•cÁæ•Á^ [~!ÁÛæçā [~!Áæ } āÁŠ [!āÑÁ

I do.

çV@^Áæ ! { æcā [] •Á& [] cā } ~^Áæ~c^!Ác@^Áàæ] cā • { ÁæcÁc@^Á [] [ā] cÁ [-Á!^&^] cā [] Áā } c [Ác@^Á~] ||Á
privileges and responsibilities of membership.)

or

A form including the following elements:

- a Trinitarian confession of faith
- repentance of sin

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An example:

Do you believe that God is the Creator of all things,

c@æcÁR^•~ •Á] ^!~^&c|^Á^ { à [āā^•Áāçā } ^Á [] ç^É

æ } āÁc@æcÁc@^ÁP [|^ÁÛ] ā!ācÁ { [ç^•Áā } Á^ [~!Á@^æ!cÑ

I do.

Are you ready to reject all that is wrong in your life and in the world,

æ } āÁc~!; } Ác [Á, æ|Ác@^Á, æ^Á [-ÁR^•~ •ÁÔ@!ā•cÑ

I am.

Ö [Á^ [~Áæ&&^] cÁR^•~ •Áæ•Á^ [~!ÁÛæçā [~!Áæ } āÁ *āç^!Á^ [~!Á|ā~^Ác [Á@ā { ÑÁ

I do.

Statement or Testimony

A short statement or testimony, telling the story of their coming to faith, may be
*âç^}Àà^Ác@^Á] ^!•[]}Ác[Áà^Áàæ]câ•^ãÁ^âc@^!Á@^!^Á[!Á|æc^!ÁæcÁ&[] , ! { æcã []ÉÁ

To the parent(s) or those bringing the child to be baptised

... A ... and ... B ... , you have come for the baptism of ... N ... in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us hear that you confess your faith in Christ.

Do you believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth,

*âç^!Á[-Á|â~^ÉÁ!^ã^^ { ^!Á[-Ác@^Á , [!|ãÑÁ

I/We do.

or

Come, living God, eternal love,
who gives form to Creation,
and known in the Holy Spirit,
draw us this day
into the love you share
with Son and Spirit,
that ... N ... may be made holy
and receive a new life
as one of your own,
in the company of your people,
now and forever,

All **Amen.**

or

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
In your goodness, you give us water
to sustain our life and renew the earth.
May it be for ... N ... the water of new birth.

All **Blessed be God forever.**

Gracious God, we thank you for your love in all creation,
especially for the gift of water,
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
In the beginning you moved over the waters
and to a formless void brought light and life.
You once parted the waters of a sea
to lead your people out of slavery
to freedom in a land of promise.

and your Spirit was upon him.

that we might have eternal life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that ... N ... ,
being born anew of water and the Spirit,
may remain for ever in the number of your faithful children,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

The Baptism

In the case of believer's baptism, an Elder and/or sponsors may stand with the candidate; in the case of infant baptism, with the baptismal party. The candidate is immersed in water or has water poured over their head.

... N ... , I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the God who loves, the beloved Christ and the very Spirit of love.

The minister may make the sign of the Cross on the forehead of the newly-baptised person. Others (such as Elders, sponsors, family members) may also do so.

... N ... , I sign you with the Cross of the beloved Christ.

The Promises

Two forms of a formation for the baptismal promises are included here and two others may be found in the Basis of Union Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

When the newly baptised is able to answer for themselves, reception into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership follows, in the form

We are now to receive ... N ... into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership.

From the beginning, believers have continued in the worship and fellowship of the Church.

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I do, with God's help.

With the whole Church, will you proclaim by word and action the good news

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I will, with God's help

Other promises may be added or inserted:

^*KÁÖ [Á^ [~Áæ&&^] cÁc@^Á*ã-cÁæ} áÁ& [•cÁ [~Á- [|| [, ä } *ÁÔ@ !ã•cÁá } Á^ [~ !Áãæã|^Á|ã~^Áæ} áÁ , [!\ÑÁ

I do with God's help.

or

Another form of words may be used that includes a promise to share in the worship, fellowship and mission of the church.

An example:

Y ä||Á^ [~ Á] !æ^Áæ} áÁ , [!•@ã] ÈÁæcÁ@ [{ ^Áæ} áÁ , äc@Á [c@^!•ÑÁ

I will

Y ä||Á^ [~ Á [^!Á^ [~ !Á*ã-c•Áæ} áÁcã { ^Ác [Ác@^Á|ã~^Á [-Ác@^ÁÔ@ ~ !&@Áæ} áÁ• [Áà^| [] *Á , äc@Á ~ •Ác [ÁÔ@ !ã•cÑÁ

I will

Y ä||Á^ [~ Áb [ä } Áã } Ác^|ã } *Ác@^Á* [[áÁ } ^ , •Áæ} áÁ•@æ!^Áã } Á•^!çã&^Ác [Ác@^Á& [{ { ~ } äc^ÑÁ

I will.

Will you pursue justice and peace, and care for God's creation,

[~ !Á& [{ { [] Á@ [{ ^ÑÁ

I will

Promise by the congregation

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church, do you welcome ... N ... and promise to share with them what you yourselves have received, the gift of

All **We do with God's help.**

When the newly baptised is an infant, those bringing the child for baptism make these promises

From early times the Church has received the children of believers by baptism so that with help and support they may grow up in Christ, and by the grace of God serve Christ all their days.

This child belongs to God in Christ. Tell ... N ... of their baptism that they may know they are baptised and may come to make their own response of faith and love.

V@^Á}^,|^Á&[] ,! {^âÁ {^ {à^!Á•cæ}â•ÉÁ

Q}Ác@^Á}æ {^Á [-Ác@^ÁŠ [!âÁR^•~•ÁÔ@!â•cÉÁc@^Á []|^Á@^æâÁ [-Ác@^ÁÔ@~!&@ÉÁæ}âÁâ}Á
accordance with the decision of this local church meeting, we welcome you
into membership of this congregation of the United Reformed Church.
May your sharing in our life together bring blessing to you and to us all.

V@^ÁTâ}â•c^!Áæ}âÁÔ|â^!Ç•DÁ {æ^Á [^!ÁæÁ•â* }Á [-Á ,^!& [{^ÉÁÁ

Confirmation service

Reaffirmation of Baptism and admission to Church Membership

For those baptised at some time in the past who come to make their own confession of Christian faith and enter into the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of Christ's Church.

Those who are confirmed are encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here. **There are, however, some parts of the text that must be used and these are indicated by the orange boxes.**

The service follows after the reading of Scripture and the proclamation of the Word.

Two forms of reaffirmation for baptismal promises are included in number 3, and two others may be found in the Basis of Union, Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

1.	Introduction	H2
2.	Proclamation of faith	H2
H2A	V@^Áæ { æcá [} •	H3
4.	Statement or testimony	H5
5.	The promises	H5
H2A	V@^Á& [} , { æcá [} ÉÁ [! Á • c ! ^ } * c @ ^ } ä } * Á ä } Á - æ ä c @	H6
7.	Welcome	H7

Introduction

By the sacrament of baptism we are all made one in the Body of Christ. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live as the people of God and to serve God's purpose. In baptism God says 'Yes' to us. Today, in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit, ... N ... comes c[Áæ | { Átheir baptism, to say 'Yes' to God, to make *their* own profession of faith

â}ÁR^•~•ÁÔ@!ã•cÉÁæ}áÁc[Áà^Á!^&^ãç^áÁã}c[Ác@^Á~||Á]!ãçã|^*^•Áæ}áÁ!^•] []•ää|ãcã^•Á [-Á { ^ { à^!•@ã]Á[-ÁÔ@!ã•cç•ÁÔ@~!&@ÉÁÔ^Á& [] , ! { æcã [] Áthey are promised the strengthening of the Holy Spirit so that *they* may be a faithful follower/s of Christ and member of the Church.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done

~[!Á^ [~ÉÁT^ÁÔæc@^!Áã•Á*|[!ã, ^áãã^Ác@ã•ÉÁc@æcÁ^ [~Áà^æ!Á { ~&@Á~!~ácÁæ}áÁà^& [{ ^Á { ^Á disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

R [@ } Á F Í K Í É Á T È J É Á F Î È F Î Á

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of c@^Áæ] [•c|^Áæ}áÁ]! [] @^c•ÉÁ, áç@ÁÔ@!ã•cÁR^•~•Á@ã { •^|^Áæ•Ác@^Á& [!] ^!•c [] ^ÉÁQ}Á@ã { Á the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Proclamation of faith

A large candle, such as an Easter (Paschal) candle, may be lit.

The Apostles' or Nicene Creed or a Statement of Faith of the United Reformed Church may be used (see the statement of faith approved by General Assembly in 1997 [here in a responsive form), or a hymn of faith may be sung.

Let us proclaim the faith of the Church through the ages:

We believe in the one and only God, Eternal Trinity,
from whom, through whom and for whom all created things exist.

All **God alone we worship;**
in God we put our trust.

We worship God,
source and sustainer of creation,

All **whom Jesus called Father,**
whose sons and daughters we are.

Y ^ Á , [! • @ ã] Á Õ [ã Á ! ^ ç ^ æ | ^ ã Á ã } Á R ^ • ~ • Á Õ @ ! ã • c É Á
c @ ^ Á ^ c ^ ! } æ | Á Y [! ã Á [- Á Õ [ã Á { æ ã ^ Á ' ^ • @ L Á
who lived our human life,
died for sinners on the cross;
who was raised from the dead,
and proclaimed by the apostles, Son of God;

All **who lives eternally,
as saviour and sovereign,
coming in judgement and mercy,
to bring us to eternal life.**

We worship God, ever present in the Holy Spirit;
who brings this Gospel to fruition,
assures us of forgiveness,

All **strengthens us to do God's will,
and makes us sisters and brothers of Jesus,
sons and daughters of God.**

We believe in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
united in heaven and on earth:
on earth, the Body of Christ,

All **empowered by the Spirit to glorify God
and to serve humanity;
in heaven, eternally one
with the power, the wisdom and the love of God in Trinity.**

We believe that, in the fullness of time,
God will renew and gather in one
all things in heaven and on earth through Christ,
and be perfectly honoured and adored.

All **We rejoice in God who has given us being,
who shares our humanity to bring us to glory,
our source of prayer and power of praise;
to whom be glory, praise and adoration, now and evermore.**

The affirmations

Two forms of affirmation are included below, and two others may be found in the Basis of Union, Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

The Elder responsible for their pastoral care or another sponsor may present the candidate to the congregation with appropriate introduction.

Either:

... N ... , you have come in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit to confess your faith in Christ. Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life,

I do.

I do.

By God's grace, I do.

By God's grace, I do.

I do.

I do.

or a form including the following elements:

- a Trinitarian confession of faith
- repentance of sin

I do.

An example:

Do you believe that God is the Creator of all things,

I do.

I do.

Are you ready to reject all that is wrong in your life and in the world,

I am.

I am.

I do.

I do.

Statement or testimony

A short statement or testimony, telling the story of their coming to faith, may be

Promise by the congregation

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church,
do you welcome ... N ... and promise to share with *them* what you yourselves

or

**All 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.**

(See Rejoice and Sing 420 for a sung version of these words)

V@^Á}^,|^Á&[] ,! { ^áÁ { ^ { à^!Á•cæ}á•ÉÁ

Welcome

... N ... , by baptism you were received into membership of the one, holy, &æc@ [|â&Áæ } áÁæ] [•c [|â&ÁÔ@ ~ !&@ÉÁÿ [~ Á@æç^Á } [, Áæ | { ^áÁ ^ [~ !Áàæ] cá • { Áæ } áÁ & [] ~ ^ • • ^ áÁ ^ [~ !Á - æâc@Áâ } ÁR^ • ~ • ÁÔ@ !â • cÁæ • Á ^ [~ !Á Ûæçâ [~ !Áæ } áÁŠ [!áÉÁÿ [~ Á@æç^Á accepted the privileges and responsibilities of membership of the Church. Q } Ác@^Á } æ { ^Á [- ÁR^ • ~ • ÁÔ@ !â • cÉÁc@^Á }] | ^ Á@^æáÁ [- Ác@^ÁÔ@ ~ !&@ÉÁæ } áÁâ } Áæ&& [!áæ } & ^ Á with the decision of this local church meeting, we welcome you into membership of this congregation of the United Reformed Church. May your sharing in our life together bring blessing to you and to us all.

U } ^Á [- Ác@^Á - [|| [, ä } * Ác^çc • ÉÁ [!Áæ } [c@^!Áæ]] ; [] !æc^Ác [Ác@^Á } ^ , | ^ É& [] , ! { ^ áÁ member, may be used.

T æ ^ Ác@^ÁÔ [áÁ [- Á@ [] ^ Á , || Á ^ [~ Á , âc@Áæ | Áb [^ Áæ } áÁ] ^æ & ^ Áâ } Á à ^ | â ^ çâ } * ÉÁ • [Ác@æcÁ ^ [~ Á may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

For once you were darkness, but now in Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Ephesians 5:8, 14

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and • [~ !Áæ } áÁà [á ^ Á à ^ Á \ ^] cÁ • [~ } áÁæ } áÁà [æ { ^ | ^ • • ÁæcÁc@^Á& [{ ä } * Á [- Á [~ !ÁŠ [!áÁR^ • ~ • Á Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

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ŒÉÁÓ à | á ÉÁ [! Á [c@^!Áæ]] ; [] !æc^Áà [[\ ÉÁæ } áÁæ Á Ô [] , ! { æcá [] Á & ^ ! cá , &æc^Á { æ ^ Á à ^ Á presented.

The congregation may say together:

All **In the name of Christ we welcome you.
May we grow together in unity,
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,
to the glory of God, the eternal and holy Trinity.
Amen.**

The service continues with the Lord's Supper. The new member(s) may bring forward the bread and wine.

After the dismissal and blessing the Minister (and Elders) may lead the new member(s) through the church and members of the congregation may be encouraged to greet them.

Reception of members

Members are encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here.

For use when members are being received into membership of a local church.

This follows the reading of Scripture and proclamation of the Word.

1.	Introduction	12
2.	Prayers and material	12
3.	The welcome	13

Promise by the congregation

In welcoming ... N ... as a fellow member in the life of this church, do you promise your friendship in Christ, and will you give *them* your support in prayer and service, so that *they*, with us, may continue to grow in the knowledge and

All We do, and with God's help, we will.

God of grace, you call us to be your people, and gather us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending us ... N ... to work with us in serving your

All Amen.

The welcome

The Minister and one or more of the Elders greet the new member(s).

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Paul wrote in Galatians 2:9;

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So we, recognising the grace that is in you, shake your hand.

The congregation may say together:

All In the name of Christ we welcome you.
May we grow together in unity,
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,
to the glory of God, eternal and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

The service may continue with the Lord's Supper. The new member(s) may

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child

Introduction

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Psalm 106:1

We come together as part of the family of God. We welcome especially

Thanksgiving, dedication and blessing

All stand. The Minister asks the parents:

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We do.

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We do.

Do you promise so to order your lives that ... N ... will be surrounded by love

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We do.

Where parents are not members the following question may be omitted:

Do you promise, by God's help, to provide a Christian home for ... N ... and to bring *them* [Á ä } Á c @ ^ Á - æ ä c @ Á [~ Á c @ ^ Á Ö [•] ^ | Á æ } á Á c @ ^ Á - ^ | [, • @ ä] Á [~ Á c @ ^ Á Ö @ ~ ! & @ Ñ

We do.

If there are older children in the family the Minister may include a suitable promise for them to make.

May God bless you and give you grace faithfully to carry out these promises; and may God grant you joy and patience, love and peace.

To the congregation:

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or the blessing of Aaron:

May God bless and protect you,
May God smile on you and be kind to you,
May God look on you with love and bring you peace.

or

God is the One who'll bless and keep you;
yours is the radiance from God's face.
God is the One who calls and meets you;
yours is the promise of God's grace.

God is the One whose favour holds you;
yours is the gift of love to claim.
God is the One whose peace enfolds you;
yours is the bearing of God's name.

Suggested tune: Spiritus Vitae ('O Breath of life, come sweeping through us')

or as at Rejoice and Sing 420

The Minister or Elder may present a Bible to the parents.

Prayers

God our creator, we thank you for the gift of ... N
We thank you for the love that prepared for *their* coming and welcomed *them*
into the world,
and we rejoice with ... A ... and ... B ... in their hopes for the future.
Be with them in their home; guide them in the upbringing of their child
and deepen their knowledge and love of Christ.
Give us grace so to live that they, their family, and every kind of family,
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a source of strength and love.
God of love, we commend ... N ... to your care.
Give *them* health of body and mind,
@æ]] ä} ^••Äæ} äÄ~|, | { ^} cÄä} Ä*their* days,
and in due time draw *them* to come to you in baptism,
to make *their* own profession of faith in you,
and to commit *their* life to Christ.
May *they* grow in kindness, goodness and service to others,
and learn to walk in the ways of peace, courage and love;
c@! [~*@ÄR^•~•ÄÖ@!ä•cÄ [~!ÄÜæçä [~!ÉÄ

All **Amen.**

Service of the Word

When God's people gather for worship a service of the Word may be used. It is simple and adaptable, having a three-fold structure based around the reading and exposition of Scripture: preparing to hear God's Word; hearing God's Word and responding to God's Word. The resources which follow provide a variety of material for a service of the Word. They are drawn from a wide range of liturgical voices and are indicated by **the numbers in brackets**.

Preparing to hear God's Word

Call to worship (1)	K2
Hymn/Song	
Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession (2)	K3
Assurance of Pardon (3).....	K6

(1) Call to worship

Let us worship God.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

O God, your loving kindness is better than life itself;
All **our lips shall give you praise.**

All So we will bless you as long as we live
and lift up our hands in your name.

or

meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

letting go of our security.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

All **Let us walk his way with joy.**

or

We are God's people.

How good it is that we have all

(2) Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

All-holy God,
you call us together to be your holy people,
and so we join to give you praise
 for the joy of our creation;
 for our redemption in Christ;
 for the empowerment of your Spirit.
Gracious God,

,

Wise and Holy One

you are not completely beyond our imagination,

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you are not completely beyond our understanding

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you are not completely beyond our humanity

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And because you are beside us

we can walk alongside you as a companion

we can speak honestly with you as a friend

we can keep silence with you as a lover.

Wise and Holy One

not completely beyond us,

not only beside us but deep within our being.

Spirit of God

when we feel confused,

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when we feel abandoned,

help us to know your love and share it with others;

when we feel at a loss,

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when we fail to love you,

help us to know your forgiveness and share it with others;

encourage us to leave what is past and travel on,

with you and all your people,

into your glorious future.

All **Amen.**

and/or

God of love and mercy,

we come before you

knowing that we are in need of forgiveness.

We have sinned against you

in our speaking and in our silence;

in our thinking and in our thoughtlessness;

in our actions and in our inaction.

We have sinned against you,

in not loving you with our whole heart

and soul and strength;

in not loving our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Grant us, O Lord, your forgiveness,

restore us in the image of your Son,

and lead us along the way to your kingdom,

to the glory of your name.

All **Amen.**

(3) Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!
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who died,
yes,
who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

Romans 8:34

So if anyone is in Christ,
there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;

see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

All **Amen.**

Receive God's gift of forgiveness
and be at peace.

or

O God,
your heart is full of mercy.
May we hear and trust your words to each of us:
'Your sins are forgiven.'
May we forgive each other
and forgive ourselves.

Thanks be to God.

All **Amen.**

(4) Prayer for grace

O Lord, heavenly Father,
in whom is the fullness of grace and wisdom,
enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit,
and give us grace to receive your Word
with reverence and humility,
without which no-one can understand your truth. (it)-6.4 (h)-6.1 (r)-1.4 (e)15.3 (v)or25 Gm

Eternal God,
who longs for us to know all good things
and to walk along a peaceful path,
open the eyes of our hearts
that we may see the way to life,
open our ears that we may hear the truth,
and open our lips that we may praise you,
this day and all our days,

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All Amen.

(5) Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving God,
we give you thanks and praise
for all that you have done for us.

For your whole created universe
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a universe created and yet still being created.

For the beauty and fragility of our spinning planet,
the blue oceans, swarming with life,
and the green and verdant earth.

For all these things we give you our joyous praise,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

or

God, Maker and Lover of all,
we know that your way is not always easy;
that peace is not given lightly,
that sometimes justice comes only through struggle.

We pray for the places in your world
where we long to see justice
and dream of peace.

We remember especially the peoples of ...
that we cannot imagine resolution;
and we pray for wisdom and reconciliation ...

We remember communities divided by poverty and racism,
especially ...
where the gaps between privilege and powerlessness
seem to grow ever wider;
and we pray for justice and healing.

We remember your church,
sometimes fragmented and confused,
where in spite of division,
your people seek to live out the

Liberating God,
we bring our prayers for those whose lives are limited,
by their own attitudes or beliefs,
by the pain of their circumstances,
by the actions of others,

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We pray for those worn down by illness,
or exhausted by caring for others,
longing to feel the freshness and energy
of a bright new day.

Y^Á]!æ^Á-[!Ác@[•^Á&[], }^áÁà^Á[]]!^••á[}ÉÁ
their opportunities limited by prejudice,
longing to experience the possibility
of travelling on an open road.

We pray for those limited by their own lack of self-worth,
held back by doubts and fears, and repeated rejection,
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of striding out freely along their own path.

We pray for those trapped in poverty,
their energies sapped by the struggle against greed and injustice,
longing to know the abundance
of an earth where resources are freely shared.

All Amen.

(6) Offering prayers

Eternal God
we come with these gifts
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and the service of our lives;
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All Amen.

or

Loving God, we bring these our gifts,
in thanksgiving for all that you have given us;
asking that we may be servants of others
and witnesses to your love.

Q}Ác@^Á}æ { ^Á[-ÁR^• ~ •ÁÔ@!â•cÈ

All Amen.

or

Generous God
we bring our gifts to you
with cheerfulness and joyful hearts.
Give us courage that with these gifts

Daily worship

This is based around the Lord's Prayer and may be used by individuals or in a group setting. The use of movement and/or symbols may be appropriate.

Our Father in heaven

A candle is lit and the Bible is opened.

Let us wait upon the Lord, God of heaven and earth.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven

The following prayer, or another for God's kingdom, is used:

God of all,
your kingdom is the coming of peace and justice,
the dawn of your tender mercy and compassion.
Your will for all is lived out in his teaching and healing,
his dying and rising to new life, for the world.
Your kingdom is in our midst,
your Spirit is at work, here and now,
so we pray:

Your kingdom come:

All **Your will be done.**

Among our families and friends ...

Your kingdom come:

All **Your will be done.**

In our community ...

Your kingdom come:

All **Your will be done.**

In our nation ...

Your kingdom come:

All **Your will be done.**

Among the nations of this world ...

Your kingdom come:

All **Your will be done.**

In the life of your Church, across the world and in this place ...

Your kingdom come:

All **Your will be done.**



All **By the power of your Spirit
turn us from evil to good,
help us to forgive others,
and keep us in your ways
of righteousness and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Assurance of pardon

In words of Scripture such as these.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 1:15

Our sins are forgiven for his sake.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

One of the following prayers is used:

All **Great God, you have chosen the weak things
of the world to confound the mighty;
shed forth continual day upon us
who watch for you
that our lips may praise you,
our life may bless you
and our meditations glorify you.
Amen.**

or

All

All Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Amen.

or

All Help us, God of truth and mercy,
to act justly,
to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with you,
this and every day.
Amen.

or

All God of grace, clothe us with the armour of Christ,
and defend us from all evil.
Empower us by your Spirit,
that we may wear truth and integrity,
walk the way of peace,
hold fast to faith and salvation
and carry your word of life within us.
For we pray in the name of Christ,
who for the sake of us all,
hung naked on a cross.
Amen.

or

All God of grace,
pour your love into our hearts;
pour your Spirit into our being;
create within us new hearts and minds
and lead us in the way of Christ.
Amen.

or

All Strengthen us for your service, Lord.
Lead us in your way of peace.
Amen.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

A New Testament Canticle or hymn is read or sung.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able
to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask

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to all generations, for ever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20-21

All **Amen.**

The grace

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

The gathering of the people

The people gather and wait in silence.

The lights are dimmed.

Psalm verses and the lighting of candles

Where appropriate the words may be shared by a number of voices.

O Lord, God of my salvation,

when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you;

incline your ear to my cry.

Psalm 88:1-2

(after silence, a candle is lit)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in

the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Psalm 92:1-2

(after silence, a second candle is lit)

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:2-3

(after silence, a third candle is lit)

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All **Come bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!**

**Lift up your hands to the holy place,
and bless the Lord.**

May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

Psalm 134

Hymn or song

Prayer for Christ's presence

As the darkness falls and the shadows grow ...

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

When we are tired and weary and longing for rest ...

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

While the business of the world goes on
and when there is no silence ...

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Whenever we meet together to curse the darkness

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All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Y @ā| ^Á , ^Á&æ} } [cÁ , } áÁ ^ [~ iÁ] ^æ& ^Áä } Ác@ ^Á , [i | áÁ
and long for your blessing ...

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we join in the great circle of prayer with all your saints ...

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

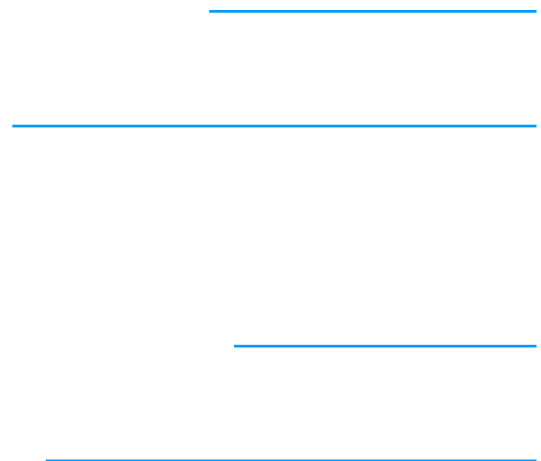
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

A night Psalm

Let us, who come bearing many fears,
and marked by disappointment and failure,
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the hope of new beginnings,
and the promise of the coming dawn.

They urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and
the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at
the table with them, he took bread, blessed ane059 (t)117 (5 (e))5ced gly os,e with these



We pray for justice in business and in government,
for true community in the Church,
and for goodness in all our deeds and words.

All Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands
as an evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

We pray for food and drink for the hungry,
for rescue for those in peril and danger,
for comfort for those sorrowing or deeply troubled.

All I call upon you O Lord, come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.

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for those who cry out for the morning,
that they may know the presence of God in the dark hours.

All Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands
as an evening sacrifice.

We pray for those new born this day,
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and for those newly baptised and received into the Church.

All I call upon you O Lord, come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.

We pray for those who are close to death,
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and be received into God's eternal presence with all the saints.

All Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands
as an evening sacrifice.

Silence

We pray these and all our prayers
in the name of Christ.

All I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waita rt fo9word2.

Prayers for healing and laying-on of hands

1.	Call to worship	N3
2.	Opening responses.....	N3
3.	Hymn	N3
4.	Prayer of Confession	N4
5.	CE i { æcā [} Áæ } áÁCE••~ iæ} &^Á [~ÁÚæ!á [} Á	N4
6.	The Lord's Prayer	N5
7.	U ^!á} *	N5
8.	Hymn or chant	N5
9.	Reading(s)	N5
10.	Ú^! { [} Á [!Á!^' ^&cā [}	N5
11.	Hymn or chant	N5
12.	Prayers of Intercession	N5
13.	Invitation	N6
14.	Hymn	N6
15.	The laying-on of hands	N7
16.	Anointing with oil.....	N7
17.	Closing prayer and blessing	N8

Before the service the leader explains that it will include prayer for the healing of people and situations as well as the laying-on of hands for any who wish it.

The laying-on of hands may be helpful when two or more people, who may have helped to lead other parts of the service, share in this. Some congregations have teams of people who administer the laying-on of hands. Other churches invite people to participate in giving as well as receiving the laying-on of hands. People need to feel valued and at ease whether or not they are actively involved at this point. It is best if those who share the leadership of the laying-on of hands begin or , }ã•@Áâ^Á {ã}ã•c^!ã} *Ác[Á []^Áæ} [c@^!ÉÁ Where anointing takes place, a little olive oil is normally placed on the forehead in the form of a cross, after the laying-on of hands.

Prayers of intercession can be a time of silence during which people may call out names. Alternatively, names { æ^Áâ^Á&[||^&c^âÁ, !•cÁæ} âÁ*! [~]^âÁ

from pieces of paper on a board or]!æ^!Ác!^^ÉÁW•ã} *Á []^Á, !•cÁ}æ { ^•Á helps to show that God knows us all. Not specifying the illness or distress may help the prayer to focus on health. Prayers could be for healing in body, mind and spirit, for relationships and situations, for the bereaved and dying, and for the healing of the nations. It is good to include those in the medical services and all aspects of healing and reconciliation, as well as giving thanks for those who are recovering. It is helpful to involve more than one voice in leading these prayers.

CE} ^Á•^! { []}Á [!Á!^' ^&cá []Á•@[~ |ãá^Á brief and lead on to the intercessions and laying-on of hands. This may [^!Ác@^Á&@æ}&^Ác[Á&|æ!ã-^Áæ}Áæ•]^&cÁ of the service that relates to the Bible passage, or a short piece of prose or poetry may be used to shed light on the reading. The address could even come before the reading on occasions.

At the end of the service people may wish to stay in quietness for a while.

Call to worship

R^•ˇ•Á•æiáK

Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,

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Tæcc@^, ÁFFKG ÌÉGJ

or

R^•ˇ•Á•æiáK



Prayer of Confession

Living God,
always near to those who call on you:
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and responsive to your word,
that we may know your peace in our hearts
and your healing in our lives.

Loving God,
in silence we ask you to lift from us
all that weighs us down
or spoils our relationship with others
or separates us from you.

Silent confession

A f r mation and Assurance of Pardon

You are merciful to me, O God,
in your faithful love.

All You cleanse me of my sin
and remove the guilt that clings.

You desire deep and inner truth:
you accept me as I am.

All You create in me a pure heart
and renew me from within.

You restore to me the joy of your salvation;
you support and strengthen me.

All You open my lips
that my mouth may proclaim your praise.

Ÿ [~ Á æ & & ^] c Á c @ ^ Á [^ ! á } * Á
of a broken spirit.

All A broken and a contrite heart
you do not despise.

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Christ has set us free.

All Thanks be to God.

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Generous God, we bring to you our gifts,
our prayers, ourselves.
Let our gifts be used well,
our prayers be sincere

Generous God, we bring to you our gifts,
our prayers, ourselves.
Let our gifts be used well,
our prayers be sincere

Prayers for healing, caring, reconciliation and thanksgiving, which may conclude:

God of compassion and love,
Give us strength to bear our weakness,
healing even when there is no cure,
peace in the midst of turmoil

and glory to the Holy Spirit,
who brings light to the darkest places.

All Amen.

Invitation

People who are able to come forward are invited to do so, during or after the
also be mentioned. Any who remain in their seats are invited to hold in prayer
those receiving and administering the laying-on of hands. It is made clear
that those ministering will come to any who are unable to move forward.
The invitation ends with these or similar words:

This is God's word, the word of your creator:
'Do not be afraid – I will save you.
I have called you by name – you are mine.
When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you;
your troubles will not overwhelm you.'

So come with your fears and your hopes,
come with your sadness and your regrets,
come with your pain and your doubt,
come with whatever faith you have.
Whether the storm is around you or within,
the Saviour holds you;
you are not alone.

Hymn

The laying-on of hands

In preparation for the laying-on of hands, the following prayer may be said:

Compassionate God, encircle us as we reach out in love.
Wounded Christ, touch us in our weakness and our strength.
Life-giving Spirit, breathe through us, channels of your peace.

As hands are laid on each person in turn, the following prayer may be said:

Healing Spirit of God,
present here and now,
free you of all harm,
and give you peace.

All **Amen.**

Anointing with oil

When some present request anointing each is told:

I anoint you with oil of gladness

after anointing:

Rise up and take courage:
God is all around you,
banishing the darkness
and bathing you in light.

or

Turn your face to Christ:
his mark is upon you
as, through all your days,
he gently leads you home.

or

Lift up your head:
the Spirit is within you,
cleansing and renewing you,
bringing you new life.

When some present request anointing each is told:

I anoint you with oil of gladness

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and when this has been completed all are addressed together:

Lift up your head
and seek the face of Christ.
His spirit is within you,
cleansing and renewing;
his presence is around you,
bathing you in light;
his mark is upon you,
as, through all your days,
he gently leads you home.

Closing prayer and blessing

When all have returned to their places:

All 1(as)d[317]roCelhis prese2..5 (e)n.]n cl1-r hr6-8m11.4(s)2 u-1.65 (e)i3.3 (tn .26 (no))
cleansingprotected by God

The Lord's Prayer

First Form

All Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Second Form

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

or

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

Wedding service

The phrases marked by a star * and in bold italic print are alternative forms of the words required by law in England and Wales. Guidance notes are available from the Registrar for those conducting weddings in Scotland.

1.	Welcome and introduction	P2
2.	Hymn or song	P2
3.	Statement of purpose	P2
4.	Prayer	P3
5.	Readings from Scripture	P4
6.	Sermon	P4
7.	Declarations	P4
8.	Prayer for Assurance and sincerity	P5
9.	The promises	P6
10.	The Vows	P7
11.	The giving and receiving of rings	P7
12.	The Marriage blessing	P9
13.	The declaration of Marriage	P10
14.	Greeting	P10
15.	Hymn or song	P10
16.	Prayers of Intercession	P10
17.	The Lord's Prayer	P11
18.	Hymn or song	P11
19.	The signing of the register(s)	

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to ... church,
for the celebration of the marriage between ... AB ... and ... CD

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and

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In marriage, husband and wife begin a new life together.
They are a sign to the world of unity and loyalty;
their love enriches society and strengthens community.
Marriage is a way of life made holy by God.
It is both joy and demand, grace and work.
It is a gift and calling of God
and is not to be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly,
but reverently and responsibly.
This is the way of life that ... A ... and ... C ... have chosen.
They come to accept each other freely,
to give their consent to one another in solemn promises,
and to ask for God's blessing.

Prayer

Readings from Scripture

Some suggested readings:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a, Psalm 23, Song of Songs 7:10-13

New Testament:

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FÁÔ [!à } c@âæ } •ÁFHKFÈ ìæÉÁFHÉÁÒ] @^•âæ } •ÁHKF I ÈGFÉÁFÁR [@ } Á I K Î È F J

Sermon

The readings and the sermon may come later in the service,
after the marriage ceremony.

Declarations

The Minister says to the couple:

Before God and before this congregation,
I will ask you to declare your freedom and readiness to
enter into the covenant of marriage.

I will also ask your families and this congregation to
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the years to come.

Due notice of the intention of ... AB ... and ... CD ... to be married
has been given and no objection has been made.

or

I ask the congregation:
if you know of any reason in law
why ... AB ... and ... CD ... may not be joined in marriage,
please declare it now.

To the couple:

I ask you, ... A ... and ... C ... ,
to declare that you know of no reason in law that
you may not be married.

As required by law each one declares in the presence of the Authorised Person, or the Registrar, and two witnesses:

or

or

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œ!^Á^ [~ÉÁÈÈÈÁÔÖÁÈÈÈÁÈÁ~!^^Á|æ, ~||^Ác [Á { æ!;!^ÁÈÈÈÁÓÁÈÈÈÁÑ

Prayer for Assurance and Sincerity

O God of all faithfulness,
we pray for those who will make promises today:
bless them with sincerity and give them your grace.
May ... A ... and ... C ... know that their love
is both your will and your delight.
May the promises they make govern the life they will lead.

The promises

The man is asked:

... AB ... will you take ... CD ...

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Will you love, comfort, honour and protect her,

in times of prosperity and health

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CE}ãÁ , ã||Á^ [~ Áà^Á-æãc@-~ |Ác [Á@^!Áæ•Á| [] *Áæ•Á^ [~ Áà [c@Á•@æ||Á|ãç^Ñ

I will.

The woman is asked:

... CD ... will you take ... AB ...

c[Áà^Á^ [~ |Á@~•àæ}ãÁà}ÁÔ@!ã•cãæ}Á { æ!|ãæ*^Ñ

Will you love, comfort, honour and protect him,

in times of prosperity and health

æ}ãÁà}Ácã { ^•Á[-Ác! [~ à|^Áæ}ãÁ•~ ^!ã} *Ñ

CE}ãÁ , ã||Á^ [~ Áà^Á-æãc@-~ |Ác [Á@ã { Áæ•Á| [] *Áæ•Á^ [~ Áà [c@Á•@æ||Á|ãç^Ñ

I will.

If either, or both, has children:

Y ã||Á^ [~ Á] : [{ ã•^Ác [Áà^Á-æãc@-~ |ÉÁ| [çã } *Áæ } ãÁ&æ!ã } *Á] æ!^ } c•Ác [ÁÉÉÉÁ Þ ÁÉÉÉÁçæ } ãÁÉÉÉÁ Þ ÁÉÉÉÁDÑ

We will.

The immediate family is asked:

Will you, the families of ... A ... and ... C ... ,

give your blessing to their marriage

æ}ãÁ , ã||Á^ [~ Áæ] , æ^•Á•~] [!cÁæ } ãÁ^ } & [~ !æ*^Ác@^ { Ñ

We will.

The congregation is asked:

Will you, the friends of ... A ... and ... C ... ,

•~] [!cÁæ } ãÁ^ } & [~ !æ*^Ác@^ { Áã } Ác@^!Á { æ!|ãæ*^Ñ

All We will.

The vows

The couple turn to face each other and join right hands. In the presence of the Authorised Person, or the Registrar, and two witnesses they exchange vows in this form or one of the alternative forms (pp 150-152).

**in accordance with God's holy will,
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.
This is my solemn vow.**

**in accordance with God's holy will,
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.
This is my solemn vow.**

The giving and receiving of rings

The rings are given to the Minister who prays:

Eternal God,
whose love encircles us all,
bless the giving and receiving of these rings.
May they be signs of a love which never ends,
beautiful, holy and strong.
May they be tokens of commitment and faithfulness
and reminders of the promises and vows made today.
In the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Each says in turn:

**I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
all that I have I share with you,
within the holy love of God.**

or

**I give you this ring in God's name
as a sign of all that we have promised
and all that we shall share.**

If only one ring is used, the Minister prays:

Eternal God,
whose love encircles us all,
bless the giving and receiving of this ring.
May it be a sign of a love which never ends,
beautiful, holy and strong.
May it be a token of commitment and faithfulness
and a reminder of the promises and vows made today.
In the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The man says:

**I give you this ring as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
all that I have I share with you,
within the holy love of God.**

or

**I give you this ring in God's name
as a sign of all that we have promised
and all that we shall share.**

the woman replies:

**I receive this ring as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
all that I have I share with you,
within the holy love of God.**

or

**I receive this ring in God's name
as a sign of all that we have promised
and all that we shall share.**

The couple may exchange other appropriate symbols and gifts.

The Marriage blessing

Most gracious God, source of all true love,
we give you thanks that ... A ... and ... C ...
have answered your call
and have given themselves today to one another
in the covenant of marriage.
Pour out the fullness of your blessing on them.
Lead them into that love
which never comes to an end.
Give them grace to forgive when words or actions hurt.
Give them strength to persevere through times of testing
and to support each other through darkness and distress.
May they be thankful
for all that has brought them to this moment.
May they joyfully embrace this new beginning,
and journey on with ever new delight.
Bless their families and friends,
that they may be a constant source of strength.
Bless their home,
that it may be a place of welcome.
*(Bless them in the gift of children,
that they may be wise and loving parents).*

Bless all who celebrate with ... A ... and ... C ... ,
and friendship touch the lonely.
And grant that we, who today have witnessed
the sharing and exchange of words and signs of love,
May love, the greatest of all your gifts,
stronger than death, gentle as a touch,
bring us through every passing moment

All **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon your

All

The declaration of Marriage

... A ... and ... C ... have declared before God and before you
that they will live together in Christian marriage.
They have made promises to one another,
have exchanged solemn vows
and have symbolised their marriage today
by joining hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. (*a ring*)
I therefore declare them to be husband and wife,
in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

Greeting

The couple may kiss. The congregation may applaud.
The sign of Peace may be shared.

Hymn or song

Prayers of Intercession

O God of love,
we pray for all those who
have made a commitment to love another;
for all those newly married today,
and for those who have celebrated many anniversaries.
Be with us all in the joy and vulnerability of loving.
Strengthen us in commitment and loyalty,
and comfort us whenever love ends.

We pray for the Church,
the church communities we know,
and the one Church throughout the world.
May your people be united in love,
embody your peace and grow in faith.
May our worship be joyful and sincere
and our communities welcoming and warm.
Let faith be expressed with integrity

We pray for the world,
that the peace of God will reign among the nations
and between all peoples.

Tæ^Ác@^!^!à^!æ}Á^}áÁc[Á&[} 'á&cÁæ}áÁæ* *!^••â [}É
a growth in understanding between faiths and traditions,
and among all people a desire for justice.

May the hungry be fed, the enslaved set free,
æ}áÁc@^! , ^æ\Á , }áÁc@^!á!Á•c!^} *c@É
May the earth be honoured
and all creatures treated with respect.

We pray for all in need, in sorrow or pain,
for those who are sick,
for those who are sad to be alone,
and for all afraid for the future
or grieving for the past which is gone.

Tæ^Áæ||Áá}Áæ* [}^Á , }áÁ&[{ ~[!cÉ
all who cry aloud be heard,
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On this day so full of joy and promise,
we bring the sorrows and struggles which are always with us,
á}Ác@^!Á& [} , á^}&^Ác@æcÁ^ [~Á , á||Á@^æ!Á~•
and that your love will bless us with new hope.
We pray in the name of Christ,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The service may continue with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Hymn or song

The signing of the register(s)

The register(s) or the marriage schedule is/are signed in the presence of witnesses.

Blessing

May God who is light shine in your darkness.

May God who is love be the love between you.

May God who is life be your life everlasting.

And the blessing of God,

Father, Son and Holy Sp5 (e)/o(y S7 (i43.2 S)0.8 (,)]/C2/TT0 1 -Tf0.0w [0FF20FFB2)-370F260 6

Text A

I declare my love for you.
I give myself to you
as your husband in Christian marriage.
From this day,
I will share with you
in sorrow and joy,
in poverty and prosperity,
in sickness and health.
I will love you and honour you.
I promise to be faithful to you,
until death parts us.
This is my vow.

I declare my love for you.
I give myself to you
as your wife in Christian marriage.
From this day,
I will share with you
in sorrow and joy,
in poverty and prosperity,
in sickness and health.
I will love you and honour you.
I promise to be faithful to you,
until death parts us.
This is my vow.

Text B

**in accordance with God's holy will,
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.
This is my solemn vow.**

**in accordance with God's holy will,
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.
This is my solemn vow.**

Text C

**I declare my love for you.
I give myself to you
as your husband in Christian marriage.
From this day,
I will share with you
in sorrow and joy,
in poverty and prosperity,
in sickness and health.**

Blessing of a marriage

This service may be used after a civil marriage. It may take place in a church building or another place – on the same day as the civil marriage or on a subsequent occasion. It is desirable that Elders and members of the local church are present, along with the person conducting the service (normally a minister), to make evident and real the presence of the Church.

A service of blessing does not supersede or invalidate any marriage previously solemnised and no record should be entered in a marriage register.

1. Welcome	Q2
2. Hymn or song	Q2
3. Prayer	Q2
4. Statement	Q2
5. Readings from Scripture	Q3
6. Sermon	Q3
7. Hymn or song	Q3
8. Prayer	Q3
9. The promises	Q4
10. The rings	Q4
11. The prayer of blessing	Q5
12. Declaration.....	Q6
13. Greeting	Q6
14. Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession.....	Q6
15. The Lord's Prayer	Q7
16. Hymn or song	Q7
17. Blessing	Q7

Welcome

The Minister welcomes the people and continues:

Bless God,
and acknowledge him in the presence of all the living
for the good things he has done for you.

Bless and sing praise to his name.

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the deeds of God.

Tobit 12:6

Hymn or song

Prayer

God of love,
on this day of joy
we come to praise you.
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you are with them
and in their faces we see your delight.
When love is expressed in promises
we see a faithfulness like yours.
When the future beckons with hope
we are restored and renewed.
Bless our celebration today
with your presence and promise,
that all of us may be touched by grace
and strengthened with joy,
c@! [~ * @ÁR ^ • ~ • Á Ô @ ! ä • cÁ [~ ! Á Š [! ä È

All **Amen.**

Statement

... A ... and ... B ... have been married in law.
They have made solemn vows
and have contracted to live together
as husband and wife
until death parts them.
Now they come before God,
in the presence of the Church,
to ask for a blessing for their marriage.
We rejoice in the love they share
and gladly pray for the blessing of God upon them.
In marriage,
a man and woman love each other.

They promise to be faithful,
in good times and in bad,
and to honour one another for all their days.

*(In marriage,
children may be born and grow up,
in the security of a loving home.)*

In marriage,
a new community is made
and all may celebrate a sign of unity and faithfulness.
Marriage is a gift and a calling,
and God's blessing strengthens us
to live according to the promises we have made.

Readings from Scripture

Some suggested readings:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):
Psalm 67

New Testament:
Philippians 4:4-9, Colossians 3:12-17

Tæcc@^, ÁÍKFÉJÉÁR [@ }ÁGKFÉFF

[\(Tobit 8:4b-9a may also be used\)](#)

Sermon

Hymn or song

Prayer

Eternal God,
whose love is always faithful
and whose promises never fail,
we pray for ... A ... and ... B ...
as they ask for your blessing on their marriage.
Strengthen them by your Spirit,
that they may remember the vows they have made,
grow in love and hon.2 1 (l)2.5 (e)0.6 (s)-2.4 (sn)3 (d h)2.1 (o)1 3Tc 0.004 T,r .DWP2€

The promises

The husband says to his wife:

... B ... , you are my wife.
I promise to be faithful to you,
to love and honour you,
to comfort and protect you,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn promise.

The wife says to her husband:

... A ... , you are my husband.
I promise to be faithful to you,
to love and honour you,
to comfort and protect you,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn promise.

If either, or both, has children the Minister may say to the couple:

Do you promise to include ... N ... (and ... N ...)

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We do.

Do you promise to care for the children you now have,

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We do.

The rings

Eternal God,
whose love, like a circle, never ends,
we pray that these rings
may be signs of unending faithfulness.
Give ... A ... and ... B ... a love that lasts,
joy in one another,
and years of peace together.
And may your presence,
the perfect Trinity of love,
be always with them.

All **Amen.**

If there is only one ring, the Minister prays:

Eternal God,
whose love, like a circle, never ends,
we pray that this ring
may be a sign of unending faithfulness.
Give ... A ... and ... B ... a love that lasts,
joy in one another,
and years of peace together.
And may your presence,
the perfect Trinity of love,
be always with them.

All **Amen.**

The prayer of blessing

God our Creator,
you make us in your image,
and bless us with the gift of love.
In the longing of our bodies,
the passion of love's touch
your love and blessing are already known.
We pray for your blessing to be upon
... A ... and ... B ... , married in your sight.
who once blessed a wedding
by turning water into wine,
we pray that ... A ... and ... B ...
may taste the good wine
of a happy and joyful marriage.
Holy Spirit,
bless them with your gifts
of love and joy,
of peace, patience and kindness,
that they may be good for one another
through the years to come,
and have strength to go on
through times of sorrow and struggle.
May your love, bound with theirs,
keep them faithful to one another,
and close to you all the days of their life,

All **Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

Numbers 6:24-26

Declaration

... A ... and ... B ... you are husband and wife.
You have declared your commitment to one another
before your friends and before God.
In the presence of the Church,
in the strength of God's grace, you have made solemn vows.
Let no-one separate you. Be together always.

Greeting

The couple may kiss. The people may applaud.
The sign of Peace may be shared.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving God,
we thank you for every blessing we have known.
Thank you for the simple, everyday pleasures of life
and for the great, amazing days when life is made as new.
Thank you for the moments when we know
that we are blessed and that life is good.
Thank you for this day,
for what it means to ... A ... and ... B ... and to all of us,
and for everyone for whom today brings joy.

and on the darkest days in all our lives you are there.

We pray that the poor will be blessed with justice,
and that all who work and pray for peace will receive their reward.

We pray that broken hearts will be mended,
that bitter disputes will be ended.

We thank you that we have seen this day,
and witnessed such joy together.

May we carry your blessing with us
to our homes, our friends, our families.

May the places where we live, and the places where we work,
the people we love, and the people we serve,
be blessed by your presence and by holy joy.

May your (e)3 3.61m(1 (m)2 Td[(b)1.4 (e b)2.6 (l)2.5 (e)0.6 (s)-2.5 (s)3.6 (e (e 8)17.2 (,)]T0 -1.348

Funeral services

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after a death needs to be prepared
and conducted with dignity, grace
and sensitivity. The mourners want to
do what is right to give honour to the

Services for a Funeral – One

Prayers with the dying

1.	Scripture sentence	R3
2.	Prayer of Assurance	R3
3.	The Lord's Prayer	R3
4.	Commendation at the time of death	R3
5.	R4
6.	Prayers with the family.....	R4

Now Lord you let your servant go in peace:
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers with the family

Loving God, we turn to you now in our need.
The moment of death has come.
to release ... N ... to you,
& they may know the joy
of your eternal keeping.
You have shared these last days and hours
as you share all our days.
Stay close to us in the days to come.
Be our good shepherd,
light for our darkness, hope for our sorrow.
Hold us now and always
in the comfort and peace of your love.

All **Amen.**

or

Holy and gracious God,
we thank you that death is past
and you welcome home your precious child, ... N
As we have waited and watched and prayed,
you have been with us.
Because you love us so much
we may trust ... N ... to your mercy
and ourselves to your care.
We thank you for the years shared,
the precious memories that remain,
the legacy of love that is treasure beyond price.
Now we turn to you for hope, strength and comfort,
and cling to your promise to be with us always.
Guide us in the ways of your love
and lead us to the glory of your eternity.

All **Amen.**

Service before a Funeral

This order may be used when a service is requested at the home, at the chapel of rest, or in church at some time before the funeral.

1.	Scripture sentences	R6
2.	Prayer of Approach	R6
3.	Readings from Scripture	R7
4.	Prayers of Assurance.....	R7
5.	The Lord's Prayer	R8
6.	The grace.....	R8

A service of witness to the resurrection

1.	Scripture sentences	R10
2.	Preface	R10
3.	Hymn or song	R10
4.	Prayers of Approach and Confession	R10
5.	Readings from Scripture	R12
6.	Sermon on the Christian hope	R13
7.	Hymn or song	R13
8.	Thanksgiving for the victory of Christ	R13
9.	Thanksgiving for the life of the departed	R13
10.	Prayers of petition and Intercession	R13
11.	The Lord's Prayer	R14
12.	Hymn or song	R14
13.	Commendation	R14
14.	Blessing	R15

Committal

15.	Scripture sentences	R16
16.	Words of committal	R17
17.	The Lord's Prayer	R17
18.	Prayer	R17
19.	Dismissal and blessing	R17



All Amen.

or

God who gave us birth,
you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray.
You know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.
Show us now your grace,
that as we face the mystery of death
we may see the light of eternity.
Speak to us once more
your joyful message of life and of death overcome.
Help us to live as those who are prepared to die,
and when our days here are ended,
enable us to die as those who go forth and live,
so that living or dying

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All Amen.

God of compassion and grace,
faced now with the reality of death, sorrow and sin,
grieving and guilt intertwine.
In our frailty we confess
the regrets we can do nothing to change
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We ask you to heal our hurt with pardon and love.
In the mystery and mercy of your eternal love
from which nothing in life or death can ever separate us,
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All Amen.

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'Your sins are forgiven.' Thanks be to God.

All Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Loving God,
we turn to you now, and to your Word,
so that we may renew our trust and our hope,
and be lifted from darkness and distress
into the light and peace of your presence,
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or

In scripture we read:

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Sermon on the Christian hope

Hymn or song

Thanksgiving for the victory of Christ

Almighty and everlasting God,

Blessing

The peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
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And the blessing of God our Creator,
Christ, our Saviour,
and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter,
be with you always.

All **Amen.**

or

The blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you,
now and evermore.

All **Amen.**

or

All **The grace**

The funeral party may proceed from the church to the place of committal.

Services for a Funeral – Two

A service of committal

The Minister greets the mourners at the cemetery or crematorium and leads them into the chapel or to the graveside.

Scripture sentence

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Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

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Words of introduction

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our risen and ascended Lord.

Through him God has given us new birth into a living hope, which nothing can destroy, or spoil, or wither.

We come to commit our beloved ... N ... into God's hands where *they* will be safe and complete for ever.

We come to seek strength from God to face the unknown future without ... N ... 's presence and support.

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in which we may express private grief

before facing in public

the wider world of ... N ... 's circle of family, friends, and acquaintances.

Let us hear from the Scriptures the promises of God, and receive their comfort.

Readings from Scripture

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Let us thank God for ... N ... 's life, as we recall how much *they* meant to us;

let us commit ... N ... to God's sure keeping;

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and ask for God's comfort in our sorrow;

let us remember others who also mourn loved ones today;

let us pray for grace and strength to reach out to others in their need;

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All **Our Father ...**

Words of committal

Now that the earthly life of ... N ... has come to an end,
we commit *their* mortal body to *the ground/the elements*,
(*earth to earth*), ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
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creator of all things, visible and invisible,
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To God be glory for ever.

A f r mation of faith

God will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:8a, 9

Prayer

A service of Thanksgiving and release

1. Call to worship	S5
2. Hymn or song	S5
Approaching the mystery	S6
3. Words of introduction	S6
4. Prayer	S7
Celebrating hope	S7
5. Readings from Scripture	S7
6. Sermon on Christian hope	S7
7. Hymn or song	S7
Remembering with Thanksgiving	S8
8. Lighting of Thanksgiving candles	S8
9. Tribute	S8
10. Prayers of Thanksgiving	S8
11. Hymn or song	S9
Releasing in hope	S9
12. The commendation	S9
13. The Lord's Prayer	S10
14. Blessing	S10

mourners at the entrance to the church or chapel. The following sentences may be read during the entry or when all have taken their places.

Call to worship

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

Psalm 124:8

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2a, 4b

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

The souls of the righteous are in God's hands;
no torment will touch them. They are at peace.

Wisdom 3:1, 3b

By his great mercy God has given us
a new birth into a living hope
and unfading.

1 Peter 1:3-4b

Hymn or song

Approaching the mystery

Words of introduction

We have come together because ... N ... has died
and the life we shared with *them* has come to an end.
This is a time of parting, loss and sadness.

All of us who knew ... N ... had a unique relationship with *them*.
Death does not bring to an end *their*
nor the love and respect
in which *they* were held during *their* life.
They will continue to be powerful
for as long as *they* are remembered.

... N ... was made in the image of God

Every moment of *their* life *they*
were a dearly loved child of God.
Their death does not alter God's love for *them*.
They bear God's name
and is lovely in the eyes of God who created *them*.

At the heart of death there is mystery.
There is much we cannot know or understand.
Death marks for every person the boundary
between the life God gives in this world
and the new life God gives beyond death.
We stand on this boundary,
not knowing what lies beyond our seeing,
our hearing or our imagining.
Yet by faith we grasp God's promise,
that we shall not die into oblivion but shall all be changed.

Even in sorrow,
we are empowered by the Holy Spirit
working in our hearts to say
'Thanks be to God who gives us the victory



We pray for those among us whose loss is greatest,
especially ... A ... and ... B ... and ... C

We remember those who lovingly cared for ... N ...
and ministered to *their* needs.

Give courage to all who mourn.

Comfort them when their pain seems unrelenting
and no light shines in their darkness.

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to know when to speak and when to be silent.

Silent prayer

Lord, remembering ... N ... with gratitude,
and celebrating *their* life and deeds,
we also give thanks for all whom we love
who have passed from our sight

into the joy of your heavenly kingdom1p4 (n)5.4/7[fleg uuites i (o)1.1 (n)4 wh0-2.5 (l)6.4 ((a)5.5 (

an the wh0-2.5 (2)1.5 (u)iver6-2.9 (s)3.6 (t s)5.3 (h)1.2 (a)5 (6.9 (p(n)2 (r)1.1 (6)5.5 (i)7.5 (s)3.6 (



God of peace,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant.
Show us the peace we should seek,
show us the peace we must try to give,
show us the peace we may keep,
show us the peace you have given,
and make us what you want us to be:
to whom be glory for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

or

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the gentle night to you,
moon and stars put their healing light on you,
deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.

The Lord's Prayer

If the committal is to take place elsewhere, this part of the service concludes with the blessing. If the whole service takes place in the crematorium chapel the committal follows.

Blessing

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

Committal

When the committal follows the service of thanksgiving and release.

1.	Scripture sentences	S12
2.	Words of committal	S12
3.	Prayers	S13
4.	Ascription of glory	S13
5.	Blessing	S14

Committal

When all have gathered at the graveside or crematorium the Minister says:

Scripture sentences

Prayers

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding;
pour into our hearts such love towards you,
that we, loving you above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all we can desire;

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All **Amen.**

or

O Lord, support us by your grace
through all the hours of life's day;
until the shadows lengthen,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over,
and the evening comes.
Then, Lord, in your mercy,
grant us safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Ascription of glory

Now to the One who is able to keep us from falling,
and set us in the presence of his glory,
jubilant and above reproach,
to the only God our Saviour,
be glory and majesty,
power and authority,
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before all time, now, and for evermore.

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Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;

Services for a Funeral – Three

A service of Thanksgiving for one who has died

to be preceded or followed by the committal

1. Opening words.....	T2
2. Scripture sentences	T2
3. Hymn or song	T2
4. Opening prayers	T2
5. Tributes from family and friends	T3
6. Readings from Scripture (and other appropriate sources)	T3
7. Sermon	T3
8. Hymn or song	T3
9. Prayers	T3
10. Words of commendation	T4
11. Hymn or song	T5
12. Blessing	T5

Opening words

We are here today
because ... N ... has died.
We are here to remember *them* before God
and to give thanks for *their* life.
We are here to express our sorrow,
the grief which hurts because we loved *them*.
We are here to listen to words from the Bible

Scripture sentences

St Paul says;
as it is written,
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
... God has prepared for those who love him.'

1 Corinthians 2:9

Hymn or song

Opening prayers

God our Creator,
you made all the rhythms and patterns of creation,
and just as you give us birth
so you are there when death comes.
You have made us mortal beings,
and you give us a span of life,
a time to be born and a time to die.
Today we see the value of life
and are glad that it may be lived
within the knowledge of your eternity.

Loving God,
you comfort those who mourn.
We come before you
believing you share our love for ... N ...
and know our sense of loss at *their* death.

Assure us of your love
and support us with your strength,
today and in the days to come.
Even as we feel lost and sorrowful
hold us in your strong embrace.

have mercy upon us and bring us your peace.
When we are cast down or low in spirit,
keep us safe in your love
awaiting the day when we will know again
the possibility of joy.

God of all creation,
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Spirit bringing hope and new life,
God the Holy Trinity,
we give you praise and claim your comforting love
this day and always,

All **Amen.**

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who taught us to pray together the Lord's Prayer.

All **Our Father ...**

Tributes from family and friends

Members of the family, or friends, may speak about the life of the one who has died.

Readings from Scripture (and other appropriate sources)

Sermon

Hymn or song

We give thanks that *they* were such a person
that we are moved to grief and sorrow by *their* loss.

Help us, through *their* death,

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Interment or scattering of ashes

1.	Scripture sentences	U2
2.	Prayer	U2
3.	The Lord's Prayer	U2
4.	Scripture reading	U3
5.	Prayer	U3
6.	Interment or scattering	U3
7.	Prayer	U3
8.	Blessing	U3

Scripture sentences

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By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope

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and into an inheritance that is imperishable,

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Prayer

Eternal God,

Creator of life and conqueror of death,

we are in your presence now

and this is a holy place.

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you stand beside us in every sorrow.

Holy Spirit, you are always with us,

to comfort us and to 0.2 (i)0.6 (p)-2.6 (t)-itieife arp12.1 (,)10.2 ()]T0 -1.34862ch1 @ (h4 (o)3.2 (u n)

Scripture reading

Silence for reflection

Interment or scattering

We have commended ... N ... to God's eternal love,
and committed *their* body to be cremated.

We now inter *their* ashes in this ground

(scatter *their* ashes in this place),

in sure and certain hope

of the resurrection to eternal life

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All **Amen.**

In the earth, we give *them* a peaceful rest.

In our memories, we will not forget *them*.

In the eternal love and mercy of God, *they* will be at peace.

Prayer

Eternal God,
who unites as one
the people on earth
and the company of heaven,
may we know and rejoice
that we are within your community of saints,
both the living and the dead.

May we praise you with our lives
as the angels praise you in heaven.
Cheer us with the hope of your eternal life,
support us with the knowledge of your love
and bring us at the last to see you in glory,

c@! [~ * @ÁR^•••ÁÔ@!ã•cÁ [~ !ÁŠ [!ãÈ

All **Amen.**

Blessing

The peace of God
which is beyond all understanding,
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And the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Comforter, (*Father, Son and Holy Spirit*)
be with you, now and always.

All **Amen.**

Readings for Funeral services

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

'A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,
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Since their days are determined,
and the number of their months is known to you,
and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass.'

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
God has made everything suitable for its time.

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
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And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

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All people are grass,

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V@^Á*!æ••Á , ãc@^!•ÉÁc@^Á' [, ^!Á-æã^•É

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

V@^Á*!æ••Á , ãc@^!•ÉÁc@^Á' [, ^!Á-æã^•L

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

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lift it up, do not fear;

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'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

Pæç^Á^ [~Á } [cÁ\ } [, } ÑÁPæç^Á^ [~Á } [cÁ@^æ!ãÑÁ

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

but those 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.

Ši•c^}Ác[Á { ^ÉÁUÁ@ [~•^Á[-ÁRæ& [àÉ
all the remnant of the house of Israel,
who have been borne by me from your birth,
carried from the womb;
even to your old age I am he,
even when you turn grey I will carry you.
I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save.

My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, 'Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.'
V@^Ác@[~*~cÁ[-Á { ^Áæ ã&cā [}Áæ}áÁ { ^Á@[{ ^|^••}^••Á
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
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they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
{ ^Á&~]Á[ç^! ' [, •È
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

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,

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My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'
Our feet are standing
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R^i ~ •æ|^ { . à ~ ã|cÁæ•ÁæÁ&äc^ Á
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To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
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'May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.'
For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
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If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even,

Y @^}AR^•~•Á•æ, Ác@^Á&! [, á•ÉÁ@^Á, ^}cÁ~] Ác@^Á { [~ }cæi}LÁ
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

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Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

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would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you
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her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who
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'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming
into the world.'

'In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I
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'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed,



Ordinations, Inductions and Commissioning services

The nature of the tradition to which the United Reformed Church belongs, and the heritage to which it lays claim, are clearly seen when we meet as a synod or local congregation to ordain a new Minister or Elder, to commission a Church Related Community Worker, an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher or Locally Recognised Worship Leader. As people commit themselves to service of the one Church, through ministry within the United Reformed Church, we celebrate both the patterns of service we have inherited from the past and the new traditions we are developing. These services may be opportunities for the wider Church to hear us proclaiming the faith we hold and hopefully to see us putting it into action.

At such services it is right that there are some words and acts which we always say or do and that all is conducted with continuity and integrity. The Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church is therefore very important. For some services of ordination, induction and

commissioning there are Schedules of the Basis of Union which have been agreed by the General Assembly. These contain the words of the promises which individuals are expected to make before entering on a new way of serving the church. The texts which follow include all the relevant Schedules, including any options. These parts of the texts must always be used, on every occasion, because they express the unity we share.

There is also, as is right for a Church which celebrates freedom and diversity, much space for creativity, individuality and local variety. As well as those words which we have agreed always to use, there is still a great deal of material which is there as a suggestion or guide, and can readily be adapted or changed.

There are many more possibilities and local situations with creative people will provoke new ideas and new prayers.

Ordination and Induction of Elders

Eldership has been, and remains, an essential feature of the United Reformed Church. Where people of our tradition have the joy of worshipping as part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership, not all the wording here will be appropriate for the induction of their local leaders, but the use of some of the key elements is encouraged.

Ministers and worship leaders are free and encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here. **There are, however, some parts of the text that must be used and these are indicated (by the orange boxes).**

The ordination and induction of Elders should take place during Sunday worship in the local church where the Elders are to serve. The service should normally be led by a Minister of the Word and Sacraments. Recognising that an Elder is part of the leadership of the whole Church as well as of the local congregation the explicit involvement of representatives from the wider Church is encouraged in the ordination and induction of Elders.

The Structure makes it clear Elders are normally ordained by the Minister, or in a vacancy the Interim Moderator. However, pastorates have evolved since the Structure was drafted, and

it might be impossible for either the Minister or the Interim Moderator to conduct the ordination of Elders.

In naming the Minister and the Interim T establishing the principle that Elders are ordained by a representative of the wider Church, not just the local, and Ministers and Interim Moderators are ordaining Elders in their capacity as members of the synod rather Therefore, in order of preference, the following may preside at the ordination of Elders: the Minister, a duly appointed Local Church Leader (themselves an ordained Elder), the Interim Moderator, another relevant Mission Enabler, Pastoral Convener etc, provided that they themselves are either an ordained Minister or Elder, another URC Minister, an Assembly accredited Lay Preacher, with the holder.

It is the custom of the United Reformed Church to lay hands on those who are ordained which Spirit that the person is equipped for their new ministry.

The worship should include the reading of Scripture and proclamation of the Word, and

normally the celebration of the
Lord's Supper. Section 5

1.	Introduction	X3
2.	Statement of purpose	X3
3.	Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church (Schedule D)	X4
4.	Prayer for the Church •	X6
5.	Ordination	X7
6.	Induction	X7
7.	Declaration of Ordination and/or Induction	X8
8.	Renewal of commitment	X8

Introduction

Through baptism, members of the Church are called to serve God in the world and to proclaim the love of Christ by the way they live. There are a variety of ministries within the Church and, in the United Reformed Church, some are called to be elders, to share in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local church. Today, according to the decision of the Church Meeting, we are ... C ... and ... D ...) to serve in this congregation.

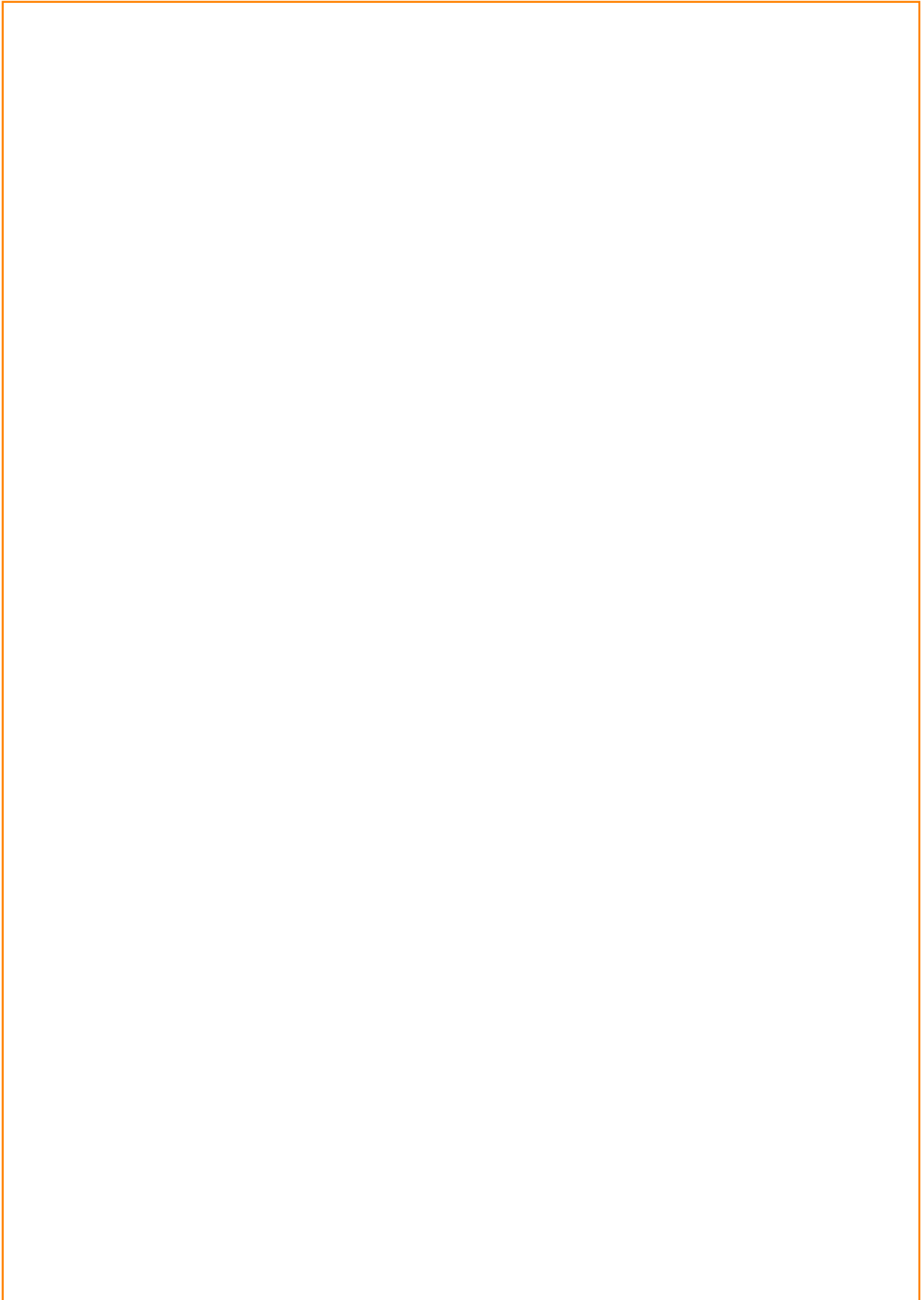
Statement of purpose

people of God called and committed to his service. To equip them for this ministry he gives particular gifts, and calls some of his servants to exercise Elders. Elders share in the leadership of the local church and the pastoral oversight of its members. In the Elders' Meeting they take counsel together for the whole congregation.

They are responsible for making provision for Christian worship and discipleship, for maintaining proper standards of membership, and for promoting witness and service to the community, encouraging mission and fostering the peace, unity, and welfare of the Church. It is their duty to arrange for the proper maintenance of church buildings, and to ensure the oversight of of the Church, and by virtue of their membership of these Councils represent the whole Church to the local church.

Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

This Statement (Basis of Union, Schedule D) is read in one of the approved



Ordination

This section is only used for those not previously ordained.

All those to be ordained Elders may kneel.

Thank you, God,
for the various gifts which you give to your people,
and for the varieties of ministry in the Church.
Thank you for all *those* of faith and integrity who have served this local church.
Thank you, now, for ... A ... (and ... B ...).

The presiding minister, and appointed Elders lay hands on each person to be ordained, praying thus:

Empower *them* with your Holy Spirit,
give *them* humility and grace,
so that by *their* faithfulness,
they may show your love to your people:
in the name of *our Saviour*

All **Amen.**

In your name, and trusting it to be your will, we now ordain ... A ... to be an Elder.

Induction

The Minister asks the members of the church to accept the ministry of all the Elders named, both newly ordained and any previously ordained:

Will you encourage and support them,
and respond to their ministry
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All **We will**

Eternal God,
you have called us all to serve you in the world
and to share your love with each other and our neighbours.
Through the decision of this local church
you have called ... A ... (... B ... , ... C ... and ... D ...) to serve us as
an Elder/Elders.

Give *them* the promised blessings of your Holy Spirit
æ} â Á, || Á them with fresh vision and courage,
to lead us in the work you have called us to do.

Make *them* wise with the mind of Christ,
and give *them* Ác @ ^ Á * â - c • Ác @ ^ Á } ^ ^ â Ác [Á ~ | , | Ác @ â • Á • ^ ! ç â & ^ Á - æ â c @ ~ || ^ L Á
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All **Amen.**

Communion Prayer for use at a service Ordaining and Inducting Elders

The newly ordained Elders may be invited to read I Corinthians 11:23-26:

On the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

God is here!

All **God's Spirit is with us!**

Lift up your hearts

All **we lift them up to God!**

Let us give God our thanks and praise!

All **This is indeed our duty and joy!**

Eternal Majesty,

before the ages began you formed the heavens and the earth,
the moon and the stars proclaim your glory,
and all that was created sings your praise.

You make humanity in your own image,
intending us to glorify and enjoy you forever.

Again and again, we turn away from your love,
despite the guidance of your Law and the warnings of your prophets.

In the fullness of time, you emptied yourself of all but love and dwelt with us.

You proclaimed good news to the poor,

freedom for prisoners,
sight for the blind and liberation for the oppressed,

but we preferred to turn away from freedom

choosing the bondage of sin, and nailed you to the Cross.

Yet you defeated the powers of death and evil
and revealed a new life for all who follow you.

Before you were given over to the powers of your age,

you shared in the simplicity of a meal with your friends,

and, during that meal, you took bread, said the ancient blessing,

When Supper was over, you took the cup of wine,
again prayed the ancient prayer of blessing,
gave the cup to your friends and said:

Take this all of you and drink from it,
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Come, O Holy Spirit,
on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be, for us, the body and blood of Christ.
Lift us into your presence that our faith may be renewed,
our commitment to follow strengthened,
and our understanding of Church deepened.

Bless those who serve this congregation as Elders,
that through their Meetings the mind of Christ may be discerned,
this congregation strengthened in its mission
of worship and witness, evangelism and service,
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V@! [~*~@ÁR^•~•ÉÁ , äc@ÁR^•~•ÉÁä}ÁR^•~•É
in the loving power of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are Yours, O Most High,
forever and ever,

All Amen!

QcÁá•Á, ccã} *Á- [!Ác@^Á}^ , |^Á [!áæã}^áÁæ}áÁá}á~&c^áÁÒ|á^!•Ác [Á•^!ç^ÁÔ [{ { ~}ã []É

Some suggested Scripture readings: Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Exodus 18:13-27, Numbers 11:16-17, 24-30, Isaiah 42:1-9,
Ezekiel 34:11-16 New Testament: Matthew 25:14-28, Mark 10:35-45,

Ordination and Induction of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments

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Welcome and Call to Worship

Including one or more Scripture sentences, in simple or responsive form
(suitable sentences include Ephesians 6:23-24; Revelation 1:4b;
Colossians 1:15-16, 18a-b, 19a)

Hymn or song

Prayers of Approach

Beginning with praise:
either

- Sovereign God, you are neither made nor fashioned:
- All* **you are the Creator and source of life,
perfect Saviour,
Intercessor and giver of spiritual gifts.**
- God of all grace, whose love for us is unconditional:
- All* **you are the Source and Guide and Goal of all that is;
we stand in awe at your majesty and might.**
- When we are in your holy presence,
- All* **our hearts are renewed with adoration, we praise you;
our souls are renewed with lasting peace, we praise you;
our minds are renewed with inspiration, we praise you;
and our strength is renewed with hope, we praise you.**

or

- We praise you, God, the Creator:
- All* **through your love and power all things came to be and continue
in their being.**
- All* **through your death and resurrection
we are reconciled within God's family
and born into a new and living hope.**
- We praise you, Holy Spirit, the Giver of life:
- All* **through wind and fire the Church was born,
and by your gifts the body of Christ is built up.**
- With the whole Church on earth and in heaven we praise you:
- All* **one God for ever.
Amen.**

or

- For the wonders of creation and the beauty of this earth:
- All* :
- All* :

Continuing with assurance of forgiveness:

either

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance:

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1 Timothy 1:15

To all who turn to God, who take hold of the grace that has been revealed,
this is Christ's gracious word:

Statement

The presiding Minister says:

We meet today as the ... X ... Synod of the United Reformed Church, in the company of members of ... YZ ... churches (representatives of ...) ... and friends from far and wide. We welcome you all.

Christians share, through their baptism, in the ministry of Christ; and all Christians are called to be ministers of God's love. The life of faithful discipleship is cradled in worship, shaped in study of the Scriptures, and expressed in loving service in the Church and in the world. God gives a variety of gifts, from the same Spirit, to equip the Church for the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ.

Continuing with either (at an Ordination and Induction):

In succession to the apostles and in company with all who follow in Christ's way, some are called to be Ministers of the Word and Sacraments; and it is to this ministry that we have come to ordain ... N ... , and to induct *them* to serve in ...

or (at an Induction of a previously-ordained Minister of the Word and Sacraments):

In succession to the apostles and in company with all who follow in Christ's way, some are called to be Ministers of the Word and Sacraments; and it is within this ministry that we have come to induct ... N ... to serve in ...

Readings from Scripture

The following readings are appropriate:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Exodus 33:12-14; Deuteronomy 30:11-20; 1 Kings 19:1-21; Nehemiah 8:1-12;
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New Testament:

Matthew 5:1-12; Mark 3:13-19; 6:30-44; 10:35-45; Luke 4:14-21; 10:1-11;
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1 Corinthians 12:4-13; 2 Corinthians 4:1-15; Ephesians 3:8-21; 4:1-16;
Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Peter 4:8-11; 5:1-4.

An appropriate response may be used before and/or after each reading, for example:

Let us listen for God's word to us today.

All **May our ears and our hearts be open.**

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn or song

Presentation of the Candidate

The Interim Moderator may present the candidate to the presiding Minister with these or similar words:

Moderator, I present to you ... N ... for [ordination and] induction.

At an Ordination with Induction:

... N ... was accepted as a candidate by the United Reformed Church,
has been prepared for ordination by ... College,
is commended for ordination by ... *their* sending Synod,
and, through a process of prayerful discernment,
has been called to serve here by decision of ... (church meeting/appointing body)
[with the concurrence of ...]

Or, at an Induction of a previously ordained Minister:

... N ... has previously served as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments
at ... AB ... ,
and, through a process of prayerful discernment,
has been called to serve here by decision of ... (church meeting/appointing body)
[with the concurrence of ...]

Narrative of the Call

One or more representatives of the congregation/s or appointing body makes a

Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC

(URC Basis of Union, Schedule D)

This Statement is to be read aloud in one of the two prescribed forms.

VERSION II is printed here, however **VERSION I** may be used if preferred.

With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift
continually received through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

All **We acknowledge the gift and answer the call,
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible,
alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

All **We respond to this Word, whose servants we are
with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ
in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

All **Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union
in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe
contain the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;

8. Do you promise
as a Minister of the United Reformed Church
to seek its well-being, purity and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches
and to endeavour always to build up

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By the grace of God, I do.

9. Will you undertake to exercise your ministry
in accordance with the Statement concerning

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I will, and all these things I profess and promise

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**So far as I know my own heart,
I believe that zeal for the glory of God,
love for the Lord Jesus Christ,
obedience to the Holy Spirit
and a desire for the salvation of the world,
are the chief motives which lead me to enter this ministry.
Relying on the strength of Christ,
I promise to live a holy life,
and to maintain the truth of the gospel,
whatever trouble or persecution may arise.**

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**By the grace of God
I promise to lead the Church in worship,
to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments,
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,
to take my part in the councils of the Church,
and to give leadership to the Church in mission to the world.**

**As a Minister of the United Reformed Church
I promise to seek its well-being, purity, and peace,
to cherish love towards all other churches,
and to endeavour always to build up
the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I undertake to exercise my ministry
in accordance with the Statement concerning the Nature,
Faith and Order
of the United Reformed Church.
All these things I profess and promise in the power of the
Holy Spirit.**

* The presiding Minister (after appropriate consultation) may modify the wording
[~Ác@^Áæ}•, ^!Ác [Á~^•cã [}ÁHÁc [Á, cÁc@^Áã}ãÁ [-Á {ã}ã•ci^Ác [Á, @ã&@Ác@^Á&æ}ããæc^Á
has been called.

Promises

The presiding Minister asks the congregation:

either

Do you confess again your faith in one God, the Trinity of love –

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All **We do.**

or

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All **We do.**

Continuing:

Do you receive ... N ... as from God, as a Minister of The Word and

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All **We do.**

Will you pray for ... N ... in this ministry,

giving *them* Á ä ~ ^ Á @ [] [~ ! É Á • ~] [! c Á æ } ä Á ^ } & [~ ! æ * ^ { ^ } c Ñ Á

All **We will.**

Continuing with a question addressed to those in particular who will receive

Hymn of the Holy Spirit

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(NOTE: At an Ordination and Induction, this hymn is instead used earlier in the
•^!çâ&^ÉÁæ-c^!Ác@^ÁU!ââ}æ}âq•Áæ | { æcâ [} •É

Induction Prayer

The presiding Minister prays:

Eternal God, you have called and gathered us, with all your Church,
to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed;
and, in your Holy Spirit, we receive all the gifts we need.
We give thanks, today, because you have called and set apart ... N ...
to be a Minister of The Word and Sacraments in this place [or, in this pastorate].

As we receive and induct *them* }Ác@^Á}æ { ^Á [-ÁR^•~ •ÁÔ@!â•cÁc [Á•^!ç^Á^ [~Á@^!^É
strengthen and encourage *them*, we pray,
that the ministry and mission of your people may bear fruit.
Inspire *them* in leading worship,
in preaching and teaching and service;
may the Gospel be celebrated when *they* preside at the sacraments.
Nurture *them* with love and humility
c [Ác^ } áÁ^ [~!Á' [&\ÉÁc [Á-^^áÁc@^Á@~ } *!^ÉÁ@^æ|Ác@^Á , [~ } á^áÉÁæ } áÁ, } áÁc@^Á [•cÉ
Bless *them* with power and patience,
to witness with all Christians to your way,
and labour with all people of goodwill for justice and mercy in society.

Give *them* joy in *their* ministry,
æ}áÁc@^Á~|, | { ^ } cÁ [-Áà^á} *Á! [[c^áÁá} Á^ [~!Á , â||ÉÁ
Watch over *them* in times of trial; in weariness, disappointment, or frustration;
and keep *them* from complacency and spiritual pride.
Fill *their* home with your peace.

(Special petitions may be added at this point)

Give grace to the people of this church [or, this pastorate; or other suitable
description],

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May they work together in unity and joy for the glory of your name.
And may the good work you have begun today
à^Áà! [~ *@cÁc [Á& [{]|^câ [} Áâ} ÁR^•~ •ÁÔ@!â•cÉ
who lives and reigns with you, God who brought us to birth,
and with the Holy Spirit, the Breath of life:
one eternal Trinity of love, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing and create.

All With the assurance of God’s blessing, we go.

Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

All With the assurance of God’s blessing, we go.

Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle and remember.

All With the assurance of God’s blessing, we go.

Go forth remembering who you are and to whom you belong.

All Thanks be to God!

Amen.

or

Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish
in the presence of divine glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Saviour,

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be glory, majesty, power and authority,
before all time, now and for ever.

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All Amen.

or

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
@^|] Ác@^Áæ î&c^âLÁ
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Continuing with:

(And) The blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
[or, Author of all, and living Word, and Voice of love within]
[or, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,]
be with you always.

All Amen.

Commissioning and Induction of Church Related Community Workers

God of justice,
you called your Church into being
to serve your cause,
and to challenge prejudice and oppression.

All **Forgive our prejudice,
and our hardness of heart;
fill us with compassion and make us merciful.**

God of peace,
you called your Church into being
to teach the world the things that make for peace.

All **Forgive our enmity and bitterness,
make us truly your children,
faithful in our bearing of your image,
and courageous in our peacemaking.**

Continuing with assurance of forgiveness:

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance:

All **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Statement

The presiding Minister says:

We meet today as the ... X ... Synod of the United Reformed Church, with the members of ... Church-in-Community, representatives of ... and other friends.

All Christians are called to the duty and delight of continuing the ministry of Christ in the Church and for the world. Within this shared ministry, some are called in particular to the Ministry of Church Related Community Work: to pray and care for the community, to challenge both the community and the Church alike, to enable the proclamation in word and deed of God's love and mercy, and to help the Church to work with others for peace and justice.

Continuing with either (at a Commissioning and Induction):

It is to this ministry that we have come to commission ... N ... , and to induct them to serve here.

Readings from Scripture

The following readings are appropriate:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Zechariah 8:1-8.

New Testament:

Matthew 5:1-16; Matthew 7:7-20; Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 4:21-32;
Luke 1:46-55; Luke 4:14-21; Luke 6:20-26

Statement by the Candidate

The candidate makes a brief statement about *their* call to this particular ministry.
The candidate makes a brief statement about *their* call to the Ministry of Church Related Community Work.

Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC

(URC Basis of Union, Schedule D)

This Statement is to be read aloud in one of the two prescribed forms.

VERSION II is printed here, however **VERSION I** may be used if preferred.

With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift
continually received through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

All **We acknowledge the gift and answer the call,
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible,
alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

All **We respond to this Word, whose servants we are
with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ
in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

All **Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union
in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe
contain the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;

to change the Basis of Union
and to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the living Christ.

**All Our crucified and risen Lord,
who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.
For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide

**All We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love
and grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church
a government distinct from the government of the state.

the Church is not subordinate to the state,
its only Ruler and Head.

Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

All While we ourselves are servants in the world



VERSION I

... N ... , do you confess anew your faith in one God,
Øæc@^!ÉÁÙ [}Áæ}áÁP [|^ÁÙ]á!æcÑÁ

I do.

Do you believe that the Word of God
in the Old and New Testaments,
discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
is the supreme authority

- [!Ác@^!-ææc@Áæ}áÁ& [}á~&cÁ [-Áæ||ÁÕ [áq•Á]^ []|^ÑÁ

I do.

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lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross,
and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore,

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Do you believe that through him
God's love, justice and mercy are revealed
and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life

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Œ}áÁ , á||Á^ [~Á-ææc@~||^Á]! [&|æä { Ác@ä•ÁÕ [•]|^ÑÁ

Do you promise to care for, to challenge and to pray for the community,

Do you promise to take your part in the councils of the Church
and to enable the church to live out its calling

to proclaim the love and mercy of God
through working with others in both church and community

By the grace of God, I do.

Do you promise

as a Church Related Community Worker of the United Reformed Church
to seek its well-being, purity and peace,

to cherish love towards all other churches

and to endeavour always to build up

By the grace of God, I do.

Will you undertake to exercise your ministry

in accordance with the Statement concerning

I will, and all these things I profess and promise

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

or

VERSION II

**I confess anew my faith in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**I believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments,
discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary,
lived our common life on earth, died upon the cross,
and who was raised from the dead and reigns for evermore,
is the gift of God's very self to the world.**

**I believe that through him
God's love, justice and mercy are revealed
and forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life
are offered to all people.**

And by the grace of God

I promise to proclaim this gospel faithfully.

**I believe that the Church is the people gathered by God's love
to proclaim the reconciliation of the world to God through Jesus Christ.**

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**So far as I know my own heart,
I believe that zeal for the glory of God,**

Do you promise to pray for each other and for ... N ... ;
and do you promise to share with *them*
in seeking and doing the will of God,
to give *them* encouragement, consideration and support,

All **We do.**

According to circumstances, the presiding Minister may also invite representatives of other bodies to make a similar promise using suitable words.

Hymn of the Holy Spirit

(NOTE: At a Commissioning and Induction, this hymn is instead used earlier in the service.)

A possible hymn of the Holy Spirit is included on page a1.

Induction Prayer

The presiding Minister prays:

Eternal God, you have called us into the Church
and, in your Holy Spirit, we receive all the gifts we need.
We give thanks, today, because you have given ... N ...
the necessary gifts to challenge and encourage us
in our work within the community where we live.
As we receive and induct *them*
strengthen and encourage *them*
with the assurance of your presence, your purpose, and your power.
Energise *them* in *their* tasks of caring, of challenge, and of prayer;
bless *them* with resilience, imagination, and hope
in the discerning of your will for this community's well-being.
Here, and in the councils of the Church,
and in every place where community is found,
let doors and hearts be opened, through *their*
Give *them* joy in *their* ministry,
Watch over *them* in times of trial; in weariness, disappointment, or frustration;
and keep *them* from complacency and pride.
Fill *their* home with your peace.

(Special petitions may be added at this point)

Give to *them*, and to all of us,
 ever-deeper understanding of your ways in the world;
 keep *them*, and all of us,
 compassionate and courageous in engaging with other people,
 and labouring with all people of goodwill for justice and peace in society.
 Through ... N ... 's ministry here
 may all of us be more and more challenged and inspired to respond to human
 need;

and the strength to build a better community, at one with itself,
 Amen.

All

Declaration of [Commissioning and] Induction

The presiding Minister says:

and representing the ... X ... Synod of the United Reformed Church,
 I declare ... N ... to be [commissioned and] inducted
 to the Ministry of Church Related Community Work
 with ... Church-in-Community.

Signing of the CRCW Covenant

Copies of the Church Related Community Work Covenant are signed by the
 Church Related Community Worker and representatives of the Church-in-
 Community, the CRCW programme sub-committee, and the synod.

Welcome

The newly inducted CRCW is greeted by the presiding Minister and by others
 duly appointed, who may include representatives of the Church-in-Community,
 and of such local grouping or area of churches as may exist within the synod,
 as well as by ecumenical, civic and community representatives.

Giving of gifts

The Church Related Community Worker may be presented with gifts.

Prayers of Intercession

the Lord's Prayer (if not used earlier).

Prayer of Commitment

Help us, God, to trust you

Be there with us in every experience,

and give us what it takes to express your love for the world

in all our words and works.

Take us where you want us to go,

renewing our faith and hope, forgiving our sin,

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

as it has been already and will be for ever

All

Amen.

Hymn or Song

Dismissal and Blessing

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Hymn of the Holy Spirit

(Suitable for use at services of Ordination, Commissioning, and/or Induction)

Spirit of God, uniting us in worship:
yours is the breath that livens every soul.
Guarding and guiding us to take each footstep,
inspire our growth in faith and make us whole.

Spirit of God, equipping us for service:
yours is the voice that summons us by name.
Comfort and challenge, stretch us and preserve us;
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Spirit of God, deploying us in mission:
yours is the song of world-transforming grace.
Bring now our destiny to full fruition,
making your purpose known in every place.

Spirit of God, among us and between us,
you who unite, equip, and so deploy:
, ^ Á] | ^ á * ^ Á [~ ! • ^ | ç ^ • Á æ } ^ , Á c [Á | ä ç ^ Á - [! Á R ^ • ~ • È
until we come to share in heaven's joy!

*Suggested Tunes:
Highwood ('Hark, what a sound')*

Commissioning of Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers

and encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here. **There are, however, some parts of the text that must be used and these are indicated by the orange boxes.**

A commissioning service is conducted by the Synod after accreditation by the Ministries Committee on behalf of the General Assembly. The commissioning may be a special service and the Synod Lay Preaching Advocate/Commissioner may share in the leadership of it. Where the service is part of an act of worship at a meeting of the synod, the Moderator or their representative normally presides. If the service takes place on a Sunday at the lay preacher's own church, a representative of the synod normally presides.

Please adapt the pronouns in the service as appropriate.

The act of commissioning should follow the proclamation of the Word.

1.	Introduction	b2
2.	Statement	b2
3.	Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church (Schedule D)	b2
4.	Prayers	b4
5.	Commissioning	b5
6.	Declaration.....	b5
7.	Presentation.....	b5



The highest authority for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible,
alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

**All We respond to this Word, whose servants we are
with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ
in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

**All Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union
in which we give expression to our faith
in forms which we believe
contain the essential elements of the Church's life,
both catholic and reformed;
to change the Basis of Union
and to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the living Christ.

**All Our crucified and risen Lord,
who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.
For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide

**All We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love
and grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church
a government distinct from the government of the state.
the Church is not subordinate to the state,
its only Ruler and Head.

Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

All **While we ourselves are servants in the world
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

Y ^Áæ ! { Á [~ !Áâ } c^ } cá [} Ác [Á * [Á [} Á] !æ ^ â } * Áæ } á Á , [! \ â } * É Á
with all our fellow Christians,
for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses,
so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God
and praise him more and more for ever.

All



The presiding Minister asks the congregation:

Do you, the members of this local church and the members of ... XY ... Synod receive ... N ... as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher and promise them

Commissioning of Locally Recognised Worship Leaders

Introduction

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Psalm 49:1-3

or

Come, listen, all who revere God, and I will tell you what the Most High has done in my life. My mouth cried to God, my tongue extolled the Eternal One. Blessed be the Most High who has not left undone my prayers nor removed loving kindness from me.

Psalm 66:16-17, 20

or

God, our Sovereign, has bestowed on me a disciple's tongue that I may discern how to help those who are tired and weary with a word. Each morning God rouses me and excites my ear to listen as a disciple.

Isaiah 50:4

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the only Head of the Church,

we are now to commission ... N ... as a Locally Recognised Worship Leader, who has been commended by the ... X ... Synod

to lead God's people in worship within this congregation/pastorate.

Statement by the Locally Recognised Worship Leader

The Worship Leader makes a statement concerning their faith and sense of calling.

Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

This Statement (Basis of Union, Schedule D) is read in one of the approved forms such as the one below:

This Statement is to be read aloud in one of the two prescribed forms.
VERSION II is printed here, however **VERSION I** may be used if preferred.

With the whole Christian Church
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift
continually received through the Word, the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.

All **We acknowledge the gift and answer the call,
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do
is God's Word in the Bible,
alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

All **We respond to this Word, whose servants we are
with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ
in which they stated the faith
and sought to make its implications clear.

All **Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide

All **We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love
and grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church
a government distinct from the government of the state.

the Church is not subordinate to the state,
its only Ruler and Head.

Civil authorities are called
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

All **While we ourselves are servants in the world
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom
to se-4.5 (o)-3.7 (d)- b9.4 (s)eteneae o3.6 (r)3.-47 (t)yzitA9.5 (s)m6.2 (en)-3.7 (t).TJ/C201**

Do you believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for

I do.

Do you promise as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, unity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always so far as you are able to

I do.

Do you promise as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher of the United Reformed Church to seek its well-being, unity and peace, to cherish love towards all other churches and to endeavour always so far as you are able to

By the grace of God I do, and all these things I profess and promise in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The presiding Minister asks the congregation:

Do you, the members of this local church/pastorate receive ... N ... as a Worship Leader and promise *them* your prayerful support and encouragement

All We do.

Commissioning

O Most High,

in worship you proclaimed good news for the poor,

All May we find meaning in the music of Your praise.

O Risen Saviour,

in worship you proclaimed good news for the poor, freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind, and liberation for the oppressed;

All may we find strength to follow and proclaim your message.

Most Holy Spirit,

in worship you speak to and empower us,

in silence and song, in laughter and listening;

All may we find strength to live as committed disciples.

We give thanks today for ... N ... ,

whom you have called to lead Your people in worship, and in your name we commission *them*

to be a Locally Recognised Worship Leader to minister in this congregation/pastorate.

Inspire *them* with your Holy Spirit
 so that *they* and always seek deeper understanding of the worship they lead.
 Sustain *them* in *their*
 Keep *them* humble, but make *them* aware of what *they* bring
 to the life and well-being of the Church, as,
 through *their* leading of worship Your people are strengthened.
 Keep *them* ever hopeful and ever joyful.

All Bring ... N ... and all of us at the last
 to full maturity in Christ, in whose name we pray.
 Amen.

Declaration

the only Head of the Church,
 and in accordance with the decision of the Synod,
 of Locally Recognised Worship Leader in this church/pastorate

p , Psalm 150 (for musicians), Isaiah930:1-1o, ()TJ 0-0.6.1 Tf-0.018 Tw 0 -1.348 T

Presentation

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The service concludes with the Lord's Supper; a prayer for this is included on
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 Thhoec]T(t)-8.o (ho5.9 (l o)1.

Communion Prayer for use at a service Commissioning

Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers and Locally Recognised Worship Leaders

God is here!

All **God's Spirit is with us!**

Lift up your hearts

All **we lift them up to God!**

Let us give God our thanks and praise!

All **This is indeed our duty and joy!**

Eternal God,
from the beginning of time all creation worships you,
the sun, moon, and stars dance with joy in your presence,
all your creatures praise your most holy name,
and we, your people, thank you for your Word.

Since the earliest times you have spoken to us;
long ago your voice rang over the waters of the deep,
and now sounds through natural wonder, ancient story, and bold prophet.
who taught us to love and to worship, to question and to challenge.
He stood against the powers of his age
and calls us to do the same today.

Before he was given over to torture, degradation, and death,
took bread, prayed the ancient blessing, and said:



Renewal of Baptismal promises by the congregation

This act will normally take place after the sermon. The congregation may be invited to gather around the baptistry or font, or to turn to face it. The act of renewal may be followed by a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

- 1.

Introduction

As a community of God's people,
let us remember that we have been baptised
In baptism, God has set us as a seal upon his heart.
In baptism, God has brought us into union with Christ,
made us one with all his people in heaven and on earth
and assured us of everlasting life.

Scripture sentences

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.

Isaiah 61:10

You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
I am giving you these commands
so that you may love one another.

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For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body –
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Profession of faith

Let us now proclaim the faith of the Church
in which we were baptised.

[The people proclaim their faith. The Apostles' or Nicene Creed \(Rejoice and Sing 759, 760\) or Statement of Faith of the United Reformed Church \(Basis of Union, para. 17 or para. 18\) may be used, or a hymn of faith may be sung.](#)

By grace, let us respond to grace.

All



We praise you for your Holy Spirit,
the Spirit of joy,



A service for Rededication Sunday

Based on the Five Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Mission originated at the 1988 Lambeth Conference and were endorsed by the Forum of Churches Together in England in 1997. They are to proclaim the good news of the kingdom (tell), to teach baptise and nurture new believers (teach), to respond to human need by loving service (tend), to seek to transform unjust structures of society (transform) and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation (treasure).

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prayer of confession or the renewalFo9.9 20

Call to worship

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Psalm 19:7-9

Hymn or song

Prayer of Approach

Powerful, ever present God,
you make yourself known to us
through the mystery and energy of your creation.
Help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

You reveal your purposes

who lived and died and rose to life again.

Help us to trust in him as our Lord and saviour.

You send your Holy Spirit
to help us glimpse your kingdom
and give us hope to strive for it.
Enable us to work with you
for your rule of justice and peace.

All **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,
we confess we have failed to answer your call to mission.

You invite us to tell others the good news;

yet too often we have been silent and fearful.

For our unwillingness to share your gospel

forgive us, we pray,

All **and help us to start again.**

You call us to teach others

and to keep growing in faith ourselves;

yet we have settled for easy answers

and avoided challenging issues.

For our resistance to your teaching

forgive us, we pray,

All **and help us to start again.**

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what it means to care for others;

yet we would sooner sit on our hands

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forgive us, we pray,

All **and help us to start again.**

You give us this world

and all living things as gifts to treasure;

yet we have damaged and despoiled them

by ignorance, impatience and greed.

For our failure to take care of the planet entrusted to us

forgive us, we pray,

All **and help us to start again.**

You challenge your people

by your prophets, old and new,

to confront the injustice in their lives and communities;

yet we feel uncomfortable

when our double standards are brought home to us.

For our failure to work for peace with justice

forgive us, we pray,

All **and help us to start again.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, present in all creation,
we pray for your world and your Church.

Awaken us to the pain of those in poverty,
the distress of those in nations burdened by debt,
the sick, the sorrowing, victims of violence and war.
May we discover our common humanity with them
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Where your people have lost their way
and fallen into decline or complacency,
give them eyes to see
and ears to hear your summons to mission.
Where your Church is vibrant and growing,
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the lessons they are learning.

Give us courage and humour for what lies ahead.
Fill us with wisdom to face the world
and childlike trust in the power and goodness
of your ultimate purposes for all you have made.
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All **Amen.**

Hymn or song

Renewal of commitment to mission

The congregation may be invited to stand.

We will delay our mission no longer.
We will live in ways that show those around us
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We will demonstrate by our actions
as well as by our words how much God longs
for the healing and wholeness of the world.

We will build one another up in love,
so that those who encounter our common life
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All **Amen.**

Dismissal and blessing

We entrust to God
our companions on the road,
this place from which we journey,
and the neighbours who will share our work of mission.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon us now and always.

All **Amen.**

Service of rededication on the theme of unity

1.	Call to worship	h2
2.	Hymn or song	h2
3.	Introduction	h2
4.	Prayers of Approach	h2
5.	Confession.....	h3
6.	Assurance of Pardon	h4
7.	Prayer of the day	h5
8.	Hymn or song	h6
9.	Readings from Scripture	h6
10.	Sermon or other proclamation of the Word	h6
11.	Hymn or song	h6
12.	Thanksgiving and rededication	h6
13.	Confession of faith	h8
14.	Prayers for the Church and the world	h8



Be present among us
as we seek to remember our past
and rededicate ourselves to your future.
Called to be your people,
we pray in the name of your Son,
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All **Amen.**

or

Eternal God,
you give us light to guide us
on our journey through life.
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so that we may know
we are truly your children.

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who is for us the way,
the truth and the life.

Help us never to depart from this way
but to walk it with patience and humility.
May we always seek the truth,
with honesty and openness,
knowing that it will set us free.
So Christ's life will be in us
and we may come to fullness of life.

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All **Amen.**

Confession

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and so we make confession of our brokenness
and seek God's forgiveness.

Silence

We have built up walls to divide the body of Christ
and ignored its unity.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

We have dwelt upon what separates us,
and not sought what makes us one in the body of Christ.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

We have belittled each others' gifts and traditions.

All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

We have not loved you, Lord,

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All **We have sinned, God forgive us.**

or

Let us confess our sins to God.



Prayer of the day

Almighty God,
you promised through your Son
that you would remain with your Church forever.
We praise and thank you for those
who brought to birth the United Reformed Church,
in answer to your gospel call.

For all who by word and deed
have brought this church into being,
for their living example to us,
for their faith and their hopes and dreams

All All praise and thanks to God.

or

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have led us as a shepherd,
We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for the future you have prepared for us
and the mission you share with us
until all things are gathered into one in Christ
and there is no hurt, no harm, on all your holy mountain.

Until that day
may we proclaim the gospel with courage and integrity,
point to the kingdom with excitement and commitment,
and let our self-seeking plans die
so that resurrection may burst forth
surprising us with joy.

Encourage us in the tasks which are before us,
give us your consolation in our failures,
and never let us become complacent.

Grant us the strength to live in the world for your reign

All Amen.

Covenant God, in your presence,
within the living community of the gathered saints,
in the company of the communion of those
who journeyed alongside you before us

All You have been our God and we have been your people.

We renew our commitment to serve and follow you.

All You are our God and we are your people.

Statement of Faith – adopted in 1972

We believe in the one living and true God,
creator, preserver and ruler of all things
in heaven and earth,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Him alone we worship,
and in him we put our trust.

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who became man,
lived on earth in perfect love and obedience,
died upon the cross for our sins,
rose again from the dead
and lives for evermore, saviour, judge and king.

We believe that, by the Holy Spirit,
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so that through faith we receive the forgiveness of sins,
newness of life as children of God
and strength in this present world to do his will.

We believe in the one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church,
in heaven and on earth,
wherein by the same Spirit,
the whole company of believers is made one Body of Christ,
to worship God and serve him and all men
in his kingdom of righteousness and love.

We rejoice in the gift of eternal life,
and believe that, in the fullness of time,
God will renew and gather in one all things in Christ,
to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

Alternative Statement of Faith – adopted in 1997

We believe
in the one and only God,
Eternal Trinity,
from whom, through whom and for whom
all created things exist.
God alone we worship;

A treasury of prayers

Eastern Church Liturgy, Third Century

We give thee hearty thanks for the rest of the past night,
for the gift of a new day,
with its opportunities for pleasing thee.
Grant that we may so pass its hours
in the freedom of thy service,
that at eventide we may again give thanks unto thee;

αὐτῆς τῆς νυκτὸς ἧς ἔσθ' ἡμεῖς ἐπιχαίρομεν,

All **Amen. Amemen.**

Mozarabic Sacramentary, Seventh Century

Grant us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace,
without stumbling and without stain;
that reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation,
we may praise thee, the eternal God,
who art blessed, and dost govern all things,
world without end.

All **Amen.**

Gregorian Sacramentary

May God Almighty direct our days in his peace,
and grant us the gifts of his blessing;
may he deliver us in all our troubles,
and establish our minds in the tranquillity of his peace;
may he so guide us through things temporal

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All **Amen.**

Gelasian Sacramentary

Almighty and everlasting God,
let the prayers of those that cry out of any tribulation
come unto thee;

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through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Alcuin (735-804)

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts,
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,
Eternal Power, be our support,

Sarum Breviary, Eleventh Century

O God, who through the grace of thy Holy Spirit,
dost pour the gift of love into the hearts of thy faithful people;
grant unto us health, both of mind and body,
that we may love thee with our whole strength,
and with entire satisfaction may perform those things
which are pleasing unto thee;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Merciful God, to thee we commend ourselves
and all those who need thy help and correction.

All **Amen.**

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
yours are the only hands with which he can do his work,
yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world,
yours are the only eyes through which his compassion
can shine forth upon a troubled world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

All **Amen.**

after John Donne (c.1571-1631)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no dark.

All

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

O Lord, in whom is our hope,
remove far from us, we pray thee,
Make our hearts so right with thy most holy and loving heart,
that hoping in thee we may do good;
until that day when faith and hope
shall be abolished by sight and possession,
and love shall be all in all.

All **Amen.**

Cardinal Newman (1801-1890)

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over and our work is done;
then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging,
a holy rest and peace at the last;

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All **Amen.**

or

Lord, support us by your grace
through all the hours of life's day:
until the shadows lengthen, the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over, and the evening comes.
Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;

c@! [~ * @ÁR^• ~ •ÁÔ@!â•cÁ [~ !ÁŠ [!âÈ

All **Amen.**

G E Darlaston (1876-1931)

Acknowledgments

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English translations of the '*Nunc* ', '*Kyrie*', '*Gloria in Excelsis*', '*Sanctus*', '*Benedictus*', '*Agnus* ' and 'Lord's Prayer' (adapted) © English Language Liturgical Consultation, and used by permission.

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