

Order of Service Outline for Celebrating the Church Community

Churches are not expected to use this service outline without modification. Churches are anticipated to adhere to their customary liturgical format. *The hymns and prayers are suggestions only.* This outline simply offers ideas to help and encourage churches to run their own Lay Worship Month service involving as many members of their community as possible, while clergy or a lay member of the church's leadership team provides continuity.

Prelude: the community's musicians to provide music as a prelude to formal worship. If no musicians are available a YouTube clip could be played as a substitute, for example:

We are a Chosen People <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npoGEdkmmmU>

*We are a Chosen People, a Royal Priesthood
A Holy Nation, belonging to God [2]*

You have called us out of Darkness
to declare Your praise
We exalt You and enthrone You
Glorify Your Name

*We are a Chosen People, a Royal Priesthood
A Holy Nation, belonging to God [2]*

You have placed us into Zion
in the New Jerusalem
Thousand thousand are their voices
singing to the Lamb

*We are a Chosen People, a Royal Priesthood
A Holy Nation, belonging to God [2]*

By David J. Hadden © 1982 Authentic Publishing

Call to Worship

Leader: Brothers and sisters, what should we say then? When you come together, each of you brings something. You bring a hymn or a teaching or a message from God. You bring a message in another language or explain what was said in that language. Everything must be done to build up the church.

- 1 Corinthians 14:26 New International Reader's Version

All: **Lord God, we come once more to worship you, combining the talents you have given each of us for your glory through the building up of your church.**

Opening Hymn: choose a hymn that celebrates the worshipping community Christ has formed. For example:

We are God's People: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZd6ypvfmrk>

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

By Bryan Jeffery Leech 1976

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

*A member of the community leads the congregation in prayer,
preferably their own composition or as follows:*

All Your People

All your people God have been endowed with talents,
gifts given as a blessing for the community of faith.
From among your people you have raised up individuals
whom you have equipped to pray, preach and make music.
**Today we honour these people, thanking them
for their contribution to the worship of your church.**

All your people God have been endowed with knowledge,
expertise used as a blessing for the community of faith.
From among your people you have raised up individuals
whom you have equipped to be stewards and elders.
**Today we honour these people, thanking them
for their contribution to the oversight of your church.**

All your people God have been endowed with friendliness,

a sociability which is a blessing for the community of faith.
From among your people you have raised up individuals
whom you have equipped to facilitate hospitality.

**Today we honour these people, thanking them
for their contribution to the fellowship of your church.**

All your people God have been endowed with compassion,
kindness that is a blessing for the community of faith.
From among your people you have raised up individuals
who have a heart to serve people less well off than themselves.

**Today we honour these people, thanking them
for their contribution to the philanthropy of your church.**

Today as a community of your people gathered to worship
we acknowledge that the church is indebted to lay people
who freely give of their time and their specialised skills
in support of the work and worship of the church.

**Today we honour every church member, thanking them
for all the sacrifices they have made for your church. Amen.**

By Joy Kingsbury-Aitken

Celebrate the Children

Acknowledge the important contribution children make to the church. This could be built around telling the stories of some of the young people who were used by God for God's purposes in Biblical times; for example Miriam keeping watch over her baby brother, Joseph the dreamer of dreams, Samuel hearing and responding to God's call, David confronting Goliath, Jeremiah being called to be a prophet when only a teenager, the twelve year old Jesus among the scribes at the temple in Jerusalem, the boy who contributed his lunch for the feeding of 5,000. Perhaps have a member of the congregation write a small (five minute) play retelling one of these stories and have it performed by the children.

Hymn: *Choose a hymn children will love to sing for example:*

One More Step along the World I Go <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jhAzbdKq6U>

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should;

Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

By Sydney Carter

OR

He's got the whole world in his hands

<https://www.godtube.com/news/10-classic-christian-sunday-school-songs-that-kids-love-to-sing.html>

He's got the whole world in his hands he's got the whole wild world in his hands
He's got the whole wild world in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands

He's got the little bitty baby in his hands he's got the little bitty baby in his hands
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands...

He's got you and me brother in his hands he's got you and me sister in his hands
He's got you and me brother in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands...

He's got everybody here in his hands he's got everybody here in his hands
He's got everybody here in his hands he's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands...
He's got you and me brother...
He's got the whole world in his hands...

By Obie Philpot

Notices – the Life and Activities of the Church

Reading the Scriptures: *In addition to, or in place of, one or more of the lectionary readings being used, have a member of the congregation read 1 Corinthians 12:4-26:*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To

each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

– New Revised Standard Version

The Contribution of Members of the Community to the Life of the Church

Acknowledge the many ministries that members of the community contribute to the life of the congregation, and the individuals who give of their time and talents to serve the church and the wider community in which the church is located.

Hymn: *choose a hymn that speaks of the people of God serving one another, for example:*

The Servant Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAYzxzk2TY0>

Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on the journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born to all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

By Richard Gillard

Prayer for Illumination

A member of the community leads the congregation in praying for understanding of the scriptures, preferably in their own words, or as follows:

Speak to Us

Speak to us through your words Lord.
Speak plainly so that we can comprehend,
Speak compellingly so that we will hearken,
Speak kindly so that we can feel encouraged,
Speak tenderly so that we will feel loved.
Speak to us through your words Lord,
read and reflected upon today. Amen.

By Joy Kingsbury-Aitken

Reading the Scriptures

A member or members of the community reads the scriptures to be preached upon today.

Sermon

Clergy, or a member of the congregation who is experienced in preaching, reflects on the scripture readings. Consider focussing on "the priesthood of all believers".

Hymn: *The offering could be taken up during the singing of this hymn. Choose a hymn that aligns with the theme of the sermon or celebrates the greatness and great love of God: for example*

Praise to you, O Christ, Our Saviour https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv_oh5zkI6I

*Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life;
Son of God who leads us to freedom,
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
You are the Word that leads us into light;
You are the Word who brings us through the desert;
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise to you...

You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;
You are the one who speaks to us today;
You are the one who leads us to our future;
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise to you...

You are the Word that calls us to be servants;
You are the Word whose only law is love;
You are the Word made flesh who lives among us;
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise to you...

You are the Word who binds us and unites us;
You are the Word who calls us to be one;
You are the Word who teaches us forgiveness;
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Praise to you...
by Bernadette Farrell

Offering Prayer *A community member leads the congregation in prayer for a blessing on the offering, preferably their own composition, or as follows:*

Living Our Lives for You

We are committed to living our lives for you God,
giving of our time and talents for you,
giving of our substance to you.
May these offerings we give to you
further the mission you have us do.
We thank you for all you give to us.
Bless the little we give back to you. Amen.
By Joy Kingsbury-Aitken

Prayers for the People *A community member leads the congregation in a prayer of intercession, preferably their own composition, or as follows:*

Living in a Pain Filled World

Loving God we live in a pain filled world;
a suffering world where
bombs fall and innocent children die;
a suffering world where
a murderous white supremacist
shoots peaceful people at prayer;
a suffering world where
a new disease sweeps round the world
causing distress and killing the vulnerable.

Loving God, we live in a pain filled world
so help us elect leaders of compassion

who don't retaliate bombings by dropping more bombs.
Help us create communities of welcoming people
who embrace not exclude folk of different faiths and traditions.
Help us become a knowledgeable people
able to limit the spread of panic and pandemics.

Loving God we live in a painful world
but we have the hope that comes from knowing
that you are faithful and always with us.
Giving us strength in times of testing
and never letting us be tested beyond our endurance.
Giving us hope in troubling times
and never letting us fall into despair.
Giving us joy even when sorrow threatens to rob us of laughter
and filling us with your light when the world seems very dark.

Loving God, we live in a pain filled world
Be with the people in war torn regions of this world
Protect them and bring them the peace they crave.
Be with the people persecuted because of their race or religion
Protect them and bring them the peace they crave.
Be with the people suffering from or living in fear of illness
Protect them and bring them the peace they crave.
Lord God, hear our prayer for this pain filled world. Amen.

By Joy Kingsbury-Aitken

Concluding Hymn *Choose a hymn that summons the congregation once more to go out and accomplish the great commission (Matthew 28:16-20), for example:*

The Summons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

Will you come and follow Me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let My love be shown,
Will you let My name be known,
Will you let My life be grown
In you and you In Me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let Me answer prayer
In you and you In Me?

Will You Let The Blinded See
If I But Call Your Name?
Will You Set The Prisoners Free

And Never Be The Same?
Will You Kiss The Leper Clean,
And Do Such As This Unseen,
And Admit To What I Mean
In You And You In Me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow You
and never be the same.
In Your Company I'll go
where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in You and You In me.

By Graham Maule & John L. Bell

Commissioning: *Clergy or a community member to pronounce a benediction over the congregation in his/her own words, or as follows. End the service as you would normally, which may include a sung blessing.*

A Priesthood of all Jesus Believers

1 Peter 2:4-10; Ephesians 2:19-22

You are a treasured member of the household of God.
You are a living stone being built into a holy dwelling place,
a new temple of which Christ is the cornerstone.
You belong to God's royal priesthood of all Jesus believers,
called to serve humanity within and beyond the church's walls.
Go from here knowing that God accompanies you
wherever your life journey takes you,
and whatever you choose to do.
Go from here knowing that you will always be
the recipient of God's love and mercy,
and the object of God's joy. Amen.

By Joy Kingsbury-Aitken

We Are God's People

SYMPHONY

Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

Johannes Brahms, 1877

Arr. Fred Bock, 1976

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christa - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
 to re - turn the gift of love once given: O let us share each
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
 on its own each em - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es Heaven.
 gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Text and Tune (c) 1976 Fred Bock Music Co.

96 One More Step Along the World I Go

Unison

1 One more step a - long the world I go,
 2 Round the cor - ners of the world I turn,
 3 As I trav - el through the bad and good,
 4 Give me cour - age when the world is rough,
 5 You are old - er than the world can be,

one more step a - long the world I go; from the old things
 more and more a - bout the world I learn; all the new things
 keep me trav - el - ing the way I should; where I see no
 keep me lov - ing though the world is tough; leap and sing in
 you are young - er than the life in me; ev - er old and

to the new, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:
 that I see you'll be look - ing at a - long with me:
 way to go you'll be tell - ing me the way, I know:
 all I do, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:
 ev - er new, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:

Refrain

And it's from the old I trav-el to the new; keep me trav-el-ing a-long with you.

The English pacifist and hymn writer Sydney Carter was involved in both Anglican and Quaker communities. Of his hymns, including this one, he notes, "They are songs which can be sung in a Christian context, but they all had to mean something to me because I was often on the edge of not believing."

518 He's Got the Whole World

In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:10

Unison

1. He's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the
 2. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the
 3. He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands, he's got the
 4. He's got you and me, broth - er, in his hands, he's got

whole world in his hands, he's got the
 wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the
 ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands, he's got the
 you and me, sis - ter, in his hands, he's got

whole world in his hands, he's got the
 wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the
 ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands, he's got the
 you and me, broth - er, in his hands, he's got the

D.C. Coda (after Verse 4)

whole world in his hands. He's got the whole world in his hands.

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American Spiritual

WHOLE WORLD
Irregular

