



## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR LITURGICAL WORSHIP

Please use this guide to better understand the different parts of our worship service.

The **Call to Worship** draws us together to begin focusing on our worship of God.

The **Votum & Sentences** set the tone for our worship. The **Votum** (which is a Latin word meaning vow or promise) begins our sentences with an affirmation that we live dependent on the help of God who made heaven and earth. The **Sentences** are typically taken from Scripture and often from the Psalms but several times a year we draw on other sources for our opening to worship such as Remembering Our Baptism.

**Hymns** help us to demonstrate praise, to ponder the theme of our worship, and to follow Christ's example.

The **Salutation** is meant to be heard as God's welcome and blessing to us as God's people.

In the **Prayer of Confession** we open our lives before God in prayer for forgiveness, healing and guidance asking God to give us the strength to follow God's ways.

The **Words of Assurance and God's Guide for Grateful Living** are a declaration of God's promise of grace and forgiveness as well as an invitation to commit ourselves to living in God's ways as a sign of our gratitude for that grace.

An **Acclamation of Praise** is an opportunity to rise and praise God for the grace and forgiveness we have received. Sometimes this hymn is called a **Response** and we are invited stay seated as we reflect on God's call to live faithfully or express our commitment to such a way of life.

The **Peace** is an opportunity for God's people to greet one another in worship, demonstrating our unity in Christ and our call to reconcile with each other as we have been reconciled with God through Christ.

The **Word with the Children** provides an opportunity for the youngest worshippers to engage some aspect of God's Word. Children leave after this Word to go to their Children in Worship center during the program year or to church school in the summer.

In the **Prayer for Illumination**, we ask for God's spiritual enlightenment through the Word and Holy Spirit. This is often spoken but sometimes sung.

The **Lessons** from Scripture come from the Old Testament, the Psalms (often sung), the Epistles (one of the New Testament Letters) and the Gospel. These lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary which provides a three-year cycle of readings based on the liturgical church year.

The **Sermon** is the proclamation of the meaning of the scripture lessons.

The **Prayer for Blessing** asks that the words we have heard will bear in us the fruit of the Spirit. This prayer is often a time of silent meditation and is occasionally a sung prayer.

The **Confession of Faith** provides an opportunity to say what the church believes. These words can come from scripture, historical creeds, or denominational confessions.

The **Life of Hope** announcements invite the congregation to respond to God's word through a life of ministry and service. These announcements connect people to opportunities for learning, fellowship, action, and connection both within and beyond the ministry of Hope Church.

The **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession** give thanks to God and ask God to help others. We are called into this prayer through a sung response and conclude the time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught to his disciples.

The **Offering** is more than just a time to take a collection of financial resources to support the ministry of the church. It is also a time for us to reflect on all of the ways we will give of ourselves to the work of God's realm in the world.

The **Benediction** is a blessing of the congregation as they begin a new week, sending them into the world to be witnesses of Christ.

## CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptism** is a sign of being chosen by God and marked as belonging to God. Baptism becomes a visible sign of what God has already done for us by drawing us into the family of God, the church.

The **Celebration of the Lord's Supper** is the sacrament in which we give thanks to God for God's saving love and grace; remember Jesus as the One whose life, death and resurrection redeems us to true life; celebrate being a part of the family of God, the church; and receive nourishment to participate in God's work of redemption in the world.