

Service Notes

It's almost impossible to plan a worship service around prayer without incorporating a lot of different kinds of prayers! In this service there are ideas for ways to pray in creative and interactive ways to show that prayers are not only done while seated, folding our hands and closing our eyes. The possibilities are endless to let these suggestions spark ideas for ways to pray through an entire service. Begin your worship talking a bit about prayer and how all of our worship and all of our lives can be prayer. God always wants to hear us and be close to us and there are many ways to stay connected to God through our prayers each day. The outline of the service is based on the petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in Heaven

Begin the service with lighting a Christ candle.

We light this candle to remind ourselves that God is with us.

God is here. God's light shines in the darkness

We light this candle to remind ourselves that Jesus Christ receives our worship and hears our prayers.

God is here. We praise Jesus Christ, the light of the world

We light this candle to remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit moves among us and encourages us to worship and pray

God is here. We praise the Holy Spirit who breathes on us and gives us light and life.

We light a candle to remember that God is here and God is also with those who are not here today. Whether they are home and unable to come to church, they don't yet know God, or are on the other side of the world scared to go to church - God is with them too. So as we light these candles, we say a prayer for those who need to remember that God is with them today.

Hallowed Be Your Name

Sing! When we praise God we are praying. St Augustine's famous quote "Whoever sings, prays twice" helps us realize that when we sing songs of praise to God we are

praying. We aren't singing because we love to sing (even though we do). We aren't singing because we have to. We sing because we are praying to God when we sing. What do we want to praise God for today? Spend some time doing a creative exercise in praising God. You could hand out sidewalk chalk and invite people to go write chalk prayers saying "God is ____". People could decorate a rock with their favorite name/attribute of God and then you could have a rock garden of praise either indoors or outdoors. Make sure you find a way to do this intergenerationally so all ages can participate. How powerful to hear names and praise for God from the lips of your youngest and your oldest.

Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done on Earth as It is in Heaven

God hears the prayers of all God's children around the world. Consider hanging a large map on the wall, or lay it flat on a table. Invite people to put a pin or a flag in a specific part of the world they want to pray for that day. For some it might be their country of origin. It might be a place where there is war. It might be a place where they have a personal connection or have recently visited. Insert a short fill responsorial prayer so people can place their pin/flag and then say

God of all nations, we pray for _____

Lord, hear our prayer

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

This is an opportunity to pray specifically for our own needs and also for the needs of those we know and love. These prayers could be offered up outloud and prayed for corporately. They could be done in silence. You could allow for both. There are lots of options for creative prayers: have people bring a photo of something/someone they are praying for and hang it on the wall, write on rocks with sharpies and build a prayer 'cairn', gather in small groups for prayer, offer prayer stations with elders/pastors available for prayer. There are also many other ideas on the faith practices website so check them out and find a way to pray that works best in your own context!

Forgive Us our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors

God wants to hear all of our prayers - prayers of praise, prayers for others and prayers for ourselves. But God also wants us to say that we are sorry when we know we have done something wrong. Sometimes our sin is right in the front of our minds because we did something that we know is very wrong. Sometimes we need to think about all that is going on in our world and realize that we are sinning by NOT doing anything at all.

Consider ordering [tiny 1 inch by 1 inch mirrors](#) in bulk. They are not expensive! Pass them out so everyone has one. Invite people to look into this tiny mirror and see pieces of their own reflection. It's impossible to see anything except yourself so take time to examine yourself in this mirror in silence. Read through Psalm 139, repeating verses 23-24 at the end. Allow for more silence.

People can either take home their small mirrors or you could invite them to do something creative with them. They could be arranged randomly as a mosaic display. They could be glued on a board creating the word "Search Me" and used for future services. They could be adhered to a board neatly to create a full length mirror for future use. There are lots of creative ways to incorporate these little mirrors.

Lead Us Not Into Temptation but Deliver us From Evil

Sometimes God doesn't answer prayers in the ways we had hoped. We don't always understand what God is doing and why. That can lead us to give up, or be angry or think that God is not listening. This is an opportunity to acknowledge those feelings and know that God wants to hear these emotions and these prayers too.

This might be a nice section to do some silent prayer or private written/drawn prayers. You could bookend the silence with a refrain from "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

"Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer."

Silent Prayers asking God "why"

“Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.”

Silent Prayers asking God “please help.”

“Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.”

For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever

Not only is God trust-worthy, promising to hear our prayers - God is so good and deserves all of our praise. Go back to the Psalms! Sing and speak of our great God as the one who hears, who answers, who promises to be with us forever.

Amen

Let all the people say, Amen! “Amen” means “Let it be” so find a way for everyone to participate in saying “amen.” You could solicit people’s “amen” ahead of time. They could write it, color it, build it out of sticks of legos, sing it, say it in sign language or another language, shout it from a mountain, whatever! Stitch all the clips together and have everyone say their amens. This would be a wonderful way to end this service but also for services to come. Let all the people say, Amen!

Music Ideas

- Lord’s Prayer
 - “Abana in Heaven”
 - “Our Father” by Don Moen
- Short Refrains (good options for interspersing with spoken prayer)
 - “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” (Taize)
 - “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”
 - “I Love the Lord, He Heard My Cry”
 - “Lord, I Pray”
- “In Your Presence” by William McDowell
- “O Come to the Altar” by Elevation Worship
- “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

- “Speak, O Lord” by Keith and Kristyn Getty
- “All I Need” - Brian Courney Wilson
- “Boldly I Approach The Throne” - Rend Collective
- “Saturate” - Fred Hammond
- “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God” by Keith and Kristyn Getty
- “Jesus at the Center” by Israel Houghton
- “Show Us Christ” by Sovereign Grace
- “A Christian’s Daily Prayer” by Sovereign Grace
- “If You and I Believe in Christ”
- “Hear Our Prayer” featuring Christian Roberts
- “Make My Life a Prayer to You” by Keith Green
- “Lord, I Need You” by Matt Maher
- "God Our Father (Let Your Kingdom Come)" by Sam Hargreaves and Resound Worship