

## THE BASIC PATTERN OF WORSHIP

*A recommended order of worship for United Methodists is presented on this and the following pages. This order for proclaiming God's Word and celebrating the Lord's Supper expresses the biblical, historical, and theological integrity of Christian worship. The several formats demonstrate its flexibility for different situations, but in its essentials it is one order.*

*The Basic Pattern of Worship described below makes plain the structure of all the General Services of the Church.*

### ENTRANCE

The people come together in the Lord's name. There may be greetings, music and song, prayer and praise.

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Scriptures are opened to the people through the reading of lessons, preaching, witnessing, music, or other arts and media. Interspersed may be psalms, anthems, and hymns. Responses to God's Word include acts of commitment and faith with offerings of concerns, prayers, gifts, and service for the world and for one another.

### THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

In services with Communion, the actions of Jesus in the Upper Room are reenacted:

- taking the bread and cup,
- giving thanks over the bread and cup,
- breaking the bread, and
- giving the bread and cup.

In services without Communion, thanks are given for God's mighty acts in Jesus Christ.

### SENDING FORTH

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's blessing.

## AN ORDER OF SUNDAY WORSHIP USING THE BASIC PATTERN

*This order shows the variety that is possible within the basic pattern of worship. It is a guide for those who plan worship, not an order to be followed by the congregation. The congregation may be guided through the service by a bulletin or by announcement, whether or not Holy Communion is celebrated. This order is the basis of the following forms of service provided for congregations that wish to use this book for all or part of the service of Holy Communion.*

### ENTRANCE

### GATHERING

*The people come together in the Lord's name. While they are gathering, one or more of the following may take place:*

- Informal greetings, conversation, and fellowship
- Announcements and welcoming
- Rehearsal of congregational music and other acts of worship
- Informal prayer, singing, testimony
- Quiet meditation and private prayer
- Organ or other instrumental or vocal music

### GREETING AND HYMN

*Facing the people, the leader greets them in the Lord's name. Scripture sentences or responsive acts between leader and people declare that the Lord is present and empowers our worship. The hymn may precede or follow the greeting.*

### OPENING PRAYERS AND PRAISE

*One or more of the following may be spoken or sung:*

- Prayer of the day, such as a collect
- Prayer of confession and act of pardon
- Litany, such as the "Lord, Have Mercy"

*If an act of praise is desired, one or more of the following may be spoken or sung:*

- A "Glory to God in the Highest"
- A psalm or other scripture song
- The Gloria Patri
- An anthem

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*The blessing of the Holy Spirit is invoked upon the reading, preaching, hearing, and doing of the Word. This may be included with the opening prayers, if there has not been an act of praise.*

SCRIPTURE

*Two or three Scripture readings should be used. If there are not Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings at each service, care should be taken that over a period of time the people hear representative readings from each.*

*The Scripture readings may be interspersed with:*

A psalm or psalm portions, sung or spoken, after the first reading

A hymn or song related to the Scriptures of the day, or a sung alleluia, before the final reading

SERMON

*One or more of the Scripture readings is interpreted.*

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Responses may include one or more of the following:*

Invitation to Christian discipleship, followed by a hymn of invitation or of response, or a baptism or confirmation hymn

Appropriate portions of the Baptismal Covenant:

Holy Baptism

Confirmation

Reaffirmation of Faith

Reception into The United Methodist Church

Reception into the Local Congregation

A creed, except when already used in the Baptismal Covenant

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

*Joys and concerns to be included in the prayers may be expressed.*

*Prayer may take one or more of these forms:*

Brief intercessions, petitions, and thanksgivings by the leader or members of the congregation. Each of these prayers may be followed by a common response, such as "Lord, hear our prayer," spoken or sung by all.

Litany of intercession and petition

Pastoral prayer

*During this time persons may be invited to kneel at the communion rail.*

CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE

*A prayer of confession and act of pardon are used here, if not used during the Entrance.*

*The people may offer one another signs of reconciliation and love, particularly when Holy Communion is celebrated.*

OFFERING

*An offering may include:*

Monetary gifts

Other appropriate gifts, such as memorial gifts or other items to be dedicated

The bread and wine, if Holy Communion is to follow

*As the gifts are received and presented, there may be:*

A hymn

An anthem

A doxology or other musical response

THANKSGIVING

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

*The pastor prepares the bread and cup.*

*The pastor and people join in the Great Thanksgiving.*

*All pray the Lord's Prayer.*

*The pastor breaks the bread and lifts the cup.*

*The bread and cup are given to the people.*

*The congregation may sing hymns.*

*The table is set in order.*

*There may be a brief prayer.*

WITHOUT HOLY COMMUNION

*A prayer of thanksgiving is offered.*

*All pray the Lord's Prayer.*

SENDING FORTH

HYMN OR SONG AND DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*Facing the people, the leader declares God's blessing.*

*The hymn may precede or follow the blessing.*

GOING FORTH

*One or more of the following may be included:*

Organ or other instrumental voluntary

Silence before the congregation disperses

Informal greetings, conversation, and fellowship

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE I

*A congregation may use this text for the entire service.  
Parts of the service marked in brackets [ ] are optional.*

### ENTRANCE

#### GATHERING

#### GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
The risen Christ is with us.  
**Praise the Lord!**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

#### OPENING PRAYER

*The following or a prayer of the day is offered:*

**Almighty God,**  
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

[ACT OF PRAISE]

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds**  
**by the power of your Holy Spirit,**  
**that, as the Scriptures are read**  
**and your Word proclaimed,**  
**we may hear with joy what you say to us today.**  
Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

[PSALM] *May be sung or spoken.*

[SCRIPTURE LESSON]

#### HYMN OR SONG

#### GOSPEL LESSON

#### SERMON

#### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Responses may include one or more of the following acts:*

*Invitation to Christian discipleship, followed by a hymn of invitation or of response, or a baptism or confirmation hymn*

*Baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation of faith, or other reception of members*

*The following or another creed:*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

*Brief intercessions, petitions, and thanksgivings may be prayed by the leader, or spontaneously by members of the congregation. To each of these, all may make a common response, such as: "Lord, hear our prayer."*

*Or, a litany of intercession and petition may be prayed.*

*Or, a pastoral prayer may be prayed.*

#### INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

\*universal

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,  
 we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
 We have failed to be an obedient church.  
 We have not done your will,  
 we have broken your law,  
 we have rebelled against your love,  
 we have not loved our neighbors,  
 and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
 Forgive us, we pray.  
 Free us for joyful obedience,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

*All pray in silence.*

*Leader to people:*

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
 that proves God's love toward us.  
 In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*People to leader:*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

*Leader and people:*

**Glory to God. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

*All exchange signs and words of God's peace.*

## OFFERING

As forgiven and reconciled people,  
 let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung as the offering is received.*

*The bread and wine are brought by representatives of the people to the Lord's table with the other gifts, or uncovered if already in place.*

*A hymn, doxology, or other response may be sung as the gifts are presented.*

*If a Great Thanksgiving other than that which follows here is to be used, the service proceeds with "A Service of Word and Table III." Otherwise, the service continues as follows:*

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

## TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are prepared for the meal.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The musical settings on pages 17-25 may be used if desired.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
 Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
 your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
 and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him

to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant

by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
 he promised to be with us always,  
 in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
 he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
 gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;  
 this is my blood of the new covenant,  
 poured out for you and for many  
 for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,  
 in remembrance of me."

And so,  
 in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
 as a holy and living sacrifice,  
 in union with Christ's offering for us,  
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
 that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
 redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
 one with each other,  
 and one in ministry to all the world,  
 until Christ comes in final victory  
 and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,  
 now and for ever.

**Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

#### BREAKING THE BREAD

*The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:*

Because there is one loaf,  
 we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.  
 The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

*The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:*

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

#### GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:*

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

*The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.*

*When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.*

*The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:*

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery**  
**in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world**  
**in the strength of your Spirit,**  
**to give ourselves for others,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,**  
**Amen.**

#### SENDING FORTH

#### HYMN OR SONG

#### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
 and the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
 be with you all.

**Amen.**

#### GOING FORTH

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EARLY IN LENT

*This text is intended for use early in Lent, such as Ash Wednesday, the First Sunday in Lent, or the first Sunday in March (if it falls within Lent).*

*It is used by the pastor while the congregation uses A Service of Word and Table II (UMH 13-15) or III (UMH 15-16) or one of the musical settings (UMH 17-25).*

*The pastor stands behind the Lord's table. See 28.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. *The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.*

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.  
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,  
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,  
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,  
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.  
When your people forsook your covenant,  
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;  
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The pastor may lower hands.*

**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.**

*The pastor may raise hands.*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
When you gave him to save us from our sin,  
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,  
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.  
When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,

presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,  
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.  
Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,  
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,  
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced  
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread, or touch the bread, or lift the bread.*

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the cup, or touch the cup, or lift the cup.*

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*The pastor may raise hands.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread and cup.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

*The pastor may raise hands.*

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EASTER DAY OR SEASON

*This text is used by the pastor while the congregation uses A Service of Word and Table II (UMH 13-15) or III (UMH 15-16) or one of the musical settings (UMH 17-25).*

*The pastor stands behind the Lord's table. See 28.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. *The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.*

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey,  
and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The pastor may lower hands.*

**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.**

*The pastor may raise hands.*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.  
By your great mercy we have been born anew  
to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead  
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.  
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,  
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,  
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread, or touch the bread, or lift the bread.*

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the cup, or touch the cup, or lift the cup.*

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*The pastor may raise hands.*

On the day you raised him from the dead  
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,  
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued  
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

*The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread and cup.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

*The pastor may raise hands.*

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and for ever.

**Amen.**