

*National Capital Presbytery staff and members of the Church Development Commission have collaborated on offering this “**simple strand of devotionals**” as a guide for one of many next steps we recognize congregations will be taking. The liturgy comes from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship.*

Who is this for?

For laity and clergy to be the spiritual leaders for your congregation and community. Consider the folks who already lead with a contemplative presence in your congregation. This is a great chance to affirm and amplify lay leadership. **We strongly encourage small groups of no more than 10.**

How to use it?

All you'll need is a copy of this guide and a way to read the scripture passages. **You can choose to use the guide word for word or use it as a base to build your own liturgy.** Our hope is that you will continue to do 3 things; **pray together, read scripture together, and share openly and honestly about your faith.** This time together can be around 45 minutes.

Where to use it?

The intent is to echo the structure of the ancient church when Christians met in homes. We realize that meeting in homes might be hard to do. **Consider what is comfortable, safe and inviting for a small group. Gather on driveways, in parks and or coffee shops.** These locations can be inviting, offer enough space for initial distancing and can still be sacred and intimate. **ZOOM is still** a viable option as folks may feel this is still safest for them.

When to use it.

In answering this question, we suggest using this equation: consider the most up to date information and recommendation from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) + current restrictions from your local or state jurisdictions + your own level of safety. We don't want anyone to rush into coming together.

Please note you can reach out to your Presbytery office for questions or ideas.

Peace Be with Us,

NCP Staff



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
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Week 1

Opening sentences

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Ps. 51:15

The Lord's unfailing love and mercy never cease,
Fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.

Lam. 3:22–23

Showing up....

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

With a bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all glory, we give you thanks
that through the gift of our baptism
we have been crucified with Christ
and united with Him in resurrection.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, let
our lives proclaim the good news
That we are dead to sin and alive to you;
through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 77:1-2,11-20

Luke 9:51-62

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

Mighty God of mercy,
We thank you for the resurrection dawn
bringing the glory of our risen Lord
who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you for
The mission and ministry of the church . . .
Every service that proclaims your love . . .
The people and relationships that sustain us . . .
Our calling to daily discipleship . . .
Signs of new life and hope . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: “people of God, for what else do we give thanks?”

Merciful God of might,
renew this weary world,
Heal the hurts of all your children,
and bring about your peace for all
in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for
The church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .
The stewardship and healing of creation . . .
Friends and family members . . .
Neighbors in special need . . .
All who serve your mission in the world . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: “people of God, for what else do we pray?”

There may be silent prayer.

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
be our starting point and our haven,
And accompany us in this day’s journey.
Use our hands
To do the work of Your creation,
and use our lives
To bring others the new life You give this world
in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all. **Amen.**

The Lord’s prayer may be sung or said

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

The grace of God be with us all,
Now and always. **Amen.**

1 Tim. 6:21

Bless the Lord. **The Lord’s name be praised.**

Week 2

Opening sentences

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

Ps. 51:15

You created the day and the night, o God;
You set the sun and the moon in their places;
You set the limits of the earth;
You made summer and winter.

Ps. 74:16–17

Showing up....

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

With a bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Merciful God, we give You thanks
that through the gift of our baptism
You offer the forgiveness of sin
And wash us clean from all evil.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit,
Renew our lives and make us worthy
To enter into Your eternal sanctuary;
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 30

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with Your love in the morning,
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

We praise You, God our Creator, for Your handiwork
in shaping and sustaining Your wondrous creation.

Especially we thank You for
The ministry of all the baptized . . .
Those who provide for public safety and well-being . . .
Those with whom we work or share common concerns . . .

Opportunities to share good news with others . . .
The treasure stored in every human life. . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

We dare to pray for others, God our Savior,
Claiming Your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world,
Committing ourselves to care for others in Jesus' name.

Especially we pray for
The church in Asia and the Middle East . . .
Those who seek to save the earth from destruction . . .
Those who work for the benefit of others . . .
Those who cannot work today . . .
All who proclaim Your saving love. . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we pray?"

There may be silent prayer.

As You cause the sun to rise, o God,
Bring the light of Christ to dawn in our souls
And dispel the shadows of hatred and fear.
Give us grace to reflect Christ's glory;
And let Christ's love show in our deeds,
Christ's peace shine in our words,
And Christ's healing in our touch,
That all may give Christ praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's prayer may be sung or said.

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace
Through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rom. 15:13

Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

Week 3

Opening sentences

All may stand as these or other opening sentences are said:

O Lord, open my lips, *Ps. 51:15*
And my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

We pray to You, O Lord; *Ps. 5:2–3*
You hear us in the morning;
At sunrise we offer our prayer
And wait for Your answer.

Showing up....

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

At the baptismal font or bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O Lord our God, we give You thanks
That through the gift of our baptism
You have poured out Your grace upon us
And claimed us as Your beloved people.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit,
Help us to love and serve You always
And to love and serve one another;
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 82

Luke 10:25-37

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with Your love in the morning, *Ps. 90:14*
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Eternal God,
We rejoice this morning in the gift of life,
Which we have received by Your grace,
And the new life You give in Jesus Christ.

Especially we thank You for
Ministries of compassion, witness, and service . . .

Those who make and grow the things we need . . .
The communities in which we live . . .
Strength and abilities to serve You today . . .
Indications of Your love at work in the world . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

God of grace,
We offer our prayers for the needs of others
And commit ourselves to serve them
Even as you have served us in Jesus Christ.

Especially we pray for
The church in Africa . . .
The conservation of the soil, water, and air . . .
Those closest to us in this community . . .
Friends and relatives who are far away . . .
All who care for others in body, mind, and spirit . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we pray?"

There may be silent prayer.

God of our salvation,
As the light of morning dawns
Heaven and earth sing your praise.
Cause us to live and grow in faith
So that we may bear good fruit
For the glory of Your Holy realm;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's prayer may be sung or said.

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge *2 Pet. 3:18*
Of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

Week 4

Opening sentences

O Lord, open my lips,

Ps. 51:15

And my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

O depth of wealth, wisdom, and knowledge of God! *Rom. 11:33, 36*

How unsearchable are God's judgments,

How untraceable are God's ways!

The source, guide, and goal of all that is,

To God be glory forever!

Showing up...

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

With a bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we give You thanks

That through the gift of our baptism

You have embraced us as Your own

and made us one in Christ's body.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit,

Continue to nourish and strengthen us

In the ways of faith, hope, and love;

Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 52

Luke 10:38-42

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with Your love in the morning,
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

God of all mercies, we praise You

That You have brought us to this new day,

Brightening our lives with the dawn

Of promise and hope in Jesus Christ.

Especially we thank You for

Ministries of discernment and governance . . .

Those who teach and those who learn . . .

The community of faith in your church . . .

Reconciliation in our relationships . . .
All gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

Merciful God, strengthen us in prayer
That we may lift up the brokenness of this world for Your healing,
And share in the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Especially we pray for
the church in Europe . . .
Safe, clean, and renewable energy . . .
Those who are lonely and forgotten . . .
Those from whom we are estranged . . .
All who glorify You in worship and service . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we pray?"

There may be silent prayer.

Eternal God,
You are the source of every gift,
and the fountain of all blessing.
Give us such joy in living
And such peace in serving Christ,
That we may gratefully make use of all Your blessings,
And joyfully seek our risen Lord in everyone we meet.
In Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's prayer may be sung or said.

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

So far as it depends on us,
Let us live peaceably with all. **Amen.**

Rom. 12:18

Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

Week 5

Opening sentences

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

Ps. 51:15

Alleluia!
For the Lord our God the almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult and give god the glory.

Rev. 19:6–7

Showing up...

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

With a bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, we give You thanks
That through the gift of our baptism
You call us to a new way of life
In your realm of grace and peace.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit,
Let your will be done in our lives
And in this world that You love;
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 85

Luke 11:1-13

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with Your love in the morning,
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

Loving god,
As the rising sun chases away the night,
So you have scattered the power of death
In the rising of Jesus Christ,
And you bring us all blessings in Christ.

Especially we thank You for
The Ministry of Word and Sacrament . . .
Those who serve and care for others . . .
The affection of our friends . . .
Your call to love and serve one another . . .

The presence and power of your Spirit . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

Mighty God,
With the dawn of Your love You reveal Your victory
Over all that would destroy or harm,
And You brighten the lives of all who need you.

Especially we pray for
The church in the Pacific region . . .
Endangered species of animals and plants . . .
Those who are isolated by sickness or sorrow . . .
Those who suffer mental anguish . . .
All who seek the way and truth of Christ . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we pray?"

There may be silent prayer.

Holy God, Your love is higher than the heavens
And your grace is wider than the sea.
Awaken our hearts to the joy of Your presence
And open our lips to sing Your praise;
To the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's prayer may be sung or said.

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

Let us serve the Lord with gladness. **Amen.**

Ps. 100:2

Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

Week 6

Opening sentences

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Ps. 51:15

Through Jesus let us continually offer up
A sacrifice of praise to God,
The fruit of lips that acknowledge God's name.

Heb. 13:15

Showing up...

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

With a bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Redeeming God, we give You thanks
That through the gift of our baptism
You have clothed us in Your grace
and made us heirs of Your promise.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit,
Set us free from all that we fear
And let us live according to our faith;
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Luke 12:13-21

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with Your love in the morning,
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

Eternal God,
We praise You for Your mighty love
Given in Christ's sacrifice on the cross,
And the new life we have received by Christ's resurrection.

Especially we thank You for
Ministries of teaching and pastoral care . . .
Those who work to help and heal . . .
Sacrifices others have made for our benefit . . .
Opportunities for our generous giving . . .

The presence of Christ in our weakness and suffering . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

God of grace,
Let our concern for others reflect Christ's self-giving love,
Not only in our prayers, but also in our practice.

Especially we pray for
The church in Latin America . . .
A right relationship between humans and the earth . . .
Those who are wounded or face death . . .
Those who keep watch over the sick and dying . . .
All who speak up and take action for what is right . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "people of God, for what else do we pray?"

There may be silent prayer.

Almighty God, you have made us in Your image
And crowned us with honor and glory.
Shape us by Your Word and fill us with Your Spirit
So that we may live as Your beloved children
And proclaim Your saving love to our life's end;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's prayer may be sung or said.

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

Like good stewards of the grace of God,
Let us serve one another
With whatever gifts we have received. **Amen.**

1 Pet. 4:10

Bless the Lord. **The lord's name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

Week 7

Opening sentences

O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Ps. 51:15

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
To receive glory and honor and power
For You created all things,
And by Your will they existed and were created.

rev. 4:11

Showing up....

What emotion are you bringing with you today?

Thanksgiving for baptism

With bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reconciling God, we give You thanks
That through the gift of our baptism
You have broken down dividing walls
And made us members of Your house.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit,
Build us up to be Your holy temple,
A place of peace and welcome for all;
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Luke 12:32-40

Digging in...

What word or phrase resonated with you from either reading? Why?

Thanksgiving and intercession

Satisfy us with your love in the morning,
And we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

Great and wonderful God,
We praise and thank You
For the gift of renewal in Jesus Christ.

Especially we thank You for
Ministries of music and the arts . . .
Those who enlighten and entertain . . .
The love of family and friends . . .
Time for rest and recreation . . .
Promises kept and hope for tomorrow . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: “people of God, for what else do we give thanks?”

You make all things new, O God,
And we offer our prayers for the renewal of the world
And the healing of its wounds.

Especially we pray for
The church in North America . . .
Rest and renewal for creation . . .
Those who have no leisure . . .
Those who are enslaved by addictions . . .
All who long to live in Your Holy realm . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: “people of God, for what else do we pray?”

There may be silent prayer.

Blessed are You, O God, our Creator.
At the work of Your hands we sing for joy.
Keep us in Your grace and peace this day
And teach us to glorify and enjoy You forever;
Through Christ our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord’s prayer may be sung or said

Going out...

What are you taking away with you today?

Dismissal

To God be honor and glory forever and ever. **Amen.** *1 Tim. 1:17*

Bless the Lord. **The Lord’s name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.