

PRAYERS AND RESPONSES FOR WORSHIP

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PRAYERS AND RESPONSES

ORDER OF SERVICE

Scripture Sentences
Prayer of Approach
Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Kyrie or Gloria
Prayer for Grace or Collect

Scripture Reading
Psalm, Canticle, or Anthem (e.g. Alleluia)
Scripture Reading(s)
Sermon
Confession of Faith
Prayers of Intercession

Invitation
Offertory
Narrative of the Institution
The Thanksgiving
 Sursum Corda
 Prayer
 Sanctus
 Prayer
 Acclamation
 Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
The Peace

The Breaking of Bread
Agnus Dei
The Sharing of Bread and Wine

Prayer
Nunc Dimittis or Concluding Praise
Dismissal and Blessing
Amen

PRAYERS AND RESPONSES

GENERAL NOTES

This Order of Service is the first one printed in the 1989 *Service Book* of the United Reformed Church. It varies at some points from that in *A Book of Services* (1980). The Kyrie precedes the Gloria, so that it may be more readily associated with the Prayer of Confession. The Acclamation appears within the Thanksgiving Prayer rather than after the Sharing of the Bread and Wine. These changes are suggested in order to encourage flexibility, and not to discourage use of the former Order.

Four items are included which were not in the former Order. Alleluias are an example of a short congregational anthem. The Agnus Dei is in the place appropriate for a communion meditation. Two new alternatives are included for use at the close of worship: the Nunc Dimittis, and a form of Concluding Praise based on an Hallel Psalm, which may have been sung by Jesus and his disciples after the Last Supper.

The opening section of this hymn-book contains most of the items in the First and Second Orders, which are for congregational use. Each has a number, following the order in which they appear in the service. Some have one or more musical settings. They are therefore conveniently available for use both in a communion service and on other occasions also.

Since there is so much variation among congregations in the number of hymns sung in worship and the points in the service at which they come, hymns have not been placed in the Outline Order. They may be included, for example, after the Prayer of Approach, after a Scripture Reading, after the Sermon, at the Offertory, and at the Conclusion of Worship. However, many of the items in the Outline Order could occasionally be in the form of a hymn: so, for example, the Prayer of Confession could be a hymn of penitence, a scripture reading might be sung as a paraphrase, the Confession of Faith might be a hymn of faith, and so on.

Psalms, Canticles, and Confessions of Faith may be found in the last three sections of the book. The Lord's Prayer and the Gloria Patri have been placed on the inside back cover for easy reference. The section of hymns on 'The Church's Life and Witness: Worship' includes a number of prayer responses (392-403) which may be used as sung responses to spoken prayers. Many other sections of the book also contain single-verse hymns, which may be used as responses to a scripture reading or the sermon, or to repeat a worship theme through the service, or in other ways. It is hoped that the availability of this material in a hymn-book will stimulate the imagination and creativity of those leading worship and of all our congregations.