

GUIDE FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

Romans 12:5-6 (NRSV) – “So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...”

Parts of the service that the worship leader may do (if uncomfortable about doing certain parts, consult with the pastor):

Invitation to worship

A short meditation preparing the congregation for the worship experience; there are no strict rules as to how this part of the service is done – it can be a reading (from the Bible or other resource), a sharing of personal experience/insight, a simple greeting – it’s entirely up to the comfort level of the worship leader and as led by the Holy Spirit (who after all is the Comforter!)

Call to worship

A responsive reading prepared by the pastor; mention that the worship leader reads the regular print and the congregation responds by reading the bold print...

Announce hymn titles and page numbers

Check with the pastor or look at the bulletin prior to the service for the hymns; make a special mention of hymns that come from the hymnal supplement (for the benefit of those not familiar with the hymn books)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving

A short prayer that usually comes after the 1st hymn; the form of the prayer is up to the worship leader – it can be formal or informal, read or spoken extemporaneously; just remember the theme is always one of praise and thanksgiving!

Announce time of greeting one another

Simply said, to invite the congregation to greet one another and, especially, to make visitors feel welcome

Announce time of sharing joys and concerns

This also is simply said; may need to ask or identify someone to take charge of the microphone

Offertory invitation

A short meditation about giving; the form of this is up to the worship leader – it can be a reading, a sharing of relevant scripture, a personal experience/insight, or a simply said invitation to the congregation to share their tithes, offerings, and gifts; invite ushers to come forward to receive the offering plates

Offertory prayer

A short prayer of thanks to God and dedication of the offerings to His service

Scripture reading

Consult with the pastor ahead of time for the scripture(s) that will be used in the service; it’s always good to practice reading (especially if the passage is one with a lot of Biblical names!); for those in the congregation who like to follow along in the pew Bibles, mention the page number for the scripture and note whether it’s from the Old Testament or the New Testament