

# Sample Worship Service for Evangelism Sunday

## GATHERING

### Prayers for the Day *(Prayed silently as worshipers gather)*

1. Loving God, open new doors. Reopen doors that have been closed. Make our path clear. Help us to see the places you would have us go and heighten our attention so we understand our purpose in each space. Charge us to speak of the examples of Christ and to live them openly. Make us your witnesses in words and in deeds. *(Colossians 4:2-4)*
2. Soften the ground and enhance the seeds given to us. Allow us to see a fraction of the fruits of our labor in our lifetime, knowing that the completed harvest is for your great glory. Encourage us in any way that you will, awesome God, and we will continue to do your blessed will. *(2 Thessalonians 3:1)*
3. Powerful God, fill our minds and hearts again and again with the wonder of your creation and your works. Give us the heart of an evangelist. As you provide us covering and provisions for your work, fill our mouths with words of peace, love and joy. *(Ephesians 6:17-20)*

## Prelude

### Call to Worship *(2 Timothy 2:22)*

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Pursue the righteousness of God.

**People: We will also pursue faith, love, and peace.**

Leader: Do so along with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.

**All: Thanks be unto God.**

## Hymn of Praise

Spirit, Open My Heart

*Glory to God 692*

Here I Am, Lord

*Glory to God 69, Presbyterian Hymnal 525*

The Church of Christ in Every Age

*Glory to God 320, Presbyterian Hymnal 421*

We All Are One in Mission

*Glory to God 733*

## Confession and Pardon

We have been idle far more than we have been active around the things that concern you most. We have allowed ourselves to focus on our own thirsts and greed, while neglecting those who hunger and thirst for you. We are sorry. Forgive us now for the times when you sent us and we did not obey. Give us courage and wisdom to follow you in the days ahead as we confess our transgressions now....

*(Offer a moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)*

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Cry out, all who stand for righteousness, and the Lord will hear.

Know that the Lord will deliver you from trouble.

**People: The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and rescues the crushed in spirit. Amen!**

## Hymn Response *(Select a verse or sing the whole hymn)*

Lord, You Give the Great Commission *Glory to God 298, Presbyterian Hymnal 429*



## Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: In the grace of God, let us offer peace to one another. And as you pass that peace, we invite you to share one way in which you will demonstrate the love of Christ to a neighbor this week.

## WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

Lord of Light, the One to whom we belong, open our ears, our minds and our hearts, so that we may understand how to win others to you. Teach us to become like you. Show us where your people are in need. Teach us humility. Open our eyes that we may see the needs of our siblings and, for the sake of the gospel, do all things that you require and share in its blessings. Amen.

**First Reading**      Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

**Second Reading**    Luke 16:19-31

### Sermon

### Hymn

Listen, God Is Calling	<i>Glory to God</i> 456
Spirit, Open My Heart	<i>Glory to God</i> 692

### Affirmation of Faith *(from The Confession of Belhar)*

*We believe:*

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

## Prayers of the People

*(This time should be an opportunity for people to share their stories, to tell where their lives hunger and thirst for peace, justice, and compassion. If meeting virtually, use the chat feature. If in person, suggest writing prayer concerns or joys to be placed in a basket for the pastor or person designated for prayer. Pastors and worship leaders may even prompt people to name prayers aloud. It is important if people name themselves or others, that these names be written and spoken aloud during the prayer. It is important that worshipers understand that they are important, that their concerns are important to God, and that God knows them and their loved ones by name.)*

## EUCCHARIST

### Offering

*(Offering our gifts, our tithes, and our service to God is a sacred time; a chance to give a portion back to our Lord for all Christ has done. The offering is a chance to witness, give testimony, rejoice, and offer our gratitude in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Invite the congregation to offer incarnational ways they might love and serve the Lord, and invite them into a time of prayerfully offering monetary gifts, or papers that give thanks for all God has done and the ways they are called to give back in service to the Lord; whether physically putting them in an offering plate, making donation via online giving tools, or prayerfully naming those before the Lord.)*

Leader: God who creates and gives, we praise you! You have blessed us with resources and opportunities. We share these gifts that they may be used wherever there is need among our siblings in this church, in this community and throughout the world. Multiply them so they may be used to bring about Your reign-dom in Your time. Amen.

### Doxology

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: We come to the Lord's Table to reaffirm our commitment to Christ. Here, God renews us with grace. We do not come to the Lord's Table because we must, but because we may. No one is more worthy than another and no one may be denied. Here we experience the wonder of God's love and mercy. Come just as you are. It does not matter where you have been or where you are going, it does not matter what you have done or what you have left undone, it does not matter what others see, only what God sees. And God sees that you are beautiful, complete, fearfully and wonderfully made. So, come.

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *(from the 8 Habits of Evangelism)*

Leader: God of grace and grand invitation, we give you thanks for you have set a table before us filled with love, joy and peace.

**People: You invite us to be nourished by your presence, purpose and power.  
Give us the strength to taste and see that you are good.**

Leader: Help us to know that you have declared that we are good and good enough.

**People: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism wherein you have named us and claimed us as your own.**

Leader: Through your sacred waters, we have been sealed and set apart to reflect your goodness and your mercy.

**People: We are yours, children of the covenant, people of faith.  
This day and always, let the waters of peace wash over us again.  
Let the waters of renewal revive us again.**

Leader: Let the waters of justice and courageous compassion fill our cups till they overflow to the lives of all we meet.



**People:** For the daily bread and cup that touch our lips and fill our bellies, nourish and nurture us throughout the day.

**Leader:** For the moments when we see water and feel water, may we remember our baptism and know that we are beautiful, whole, complete and wholly thine.

**All:** For those who cannot find daily bread and cup, for those who cannot feel and find water that renews, may we work, fight and pray until all may have their fill and be at peace.  
In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

## Breaking of the Bread

## Communion of the People

### Anthem

For Everyone Born	<i>Glory to God</i> 769
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound	<i>Glory to God</i> 766

## SENDING

### Hymn

We Will Go Out with Joy	<i>Glory to God</i> 539
The Lord Now Sends Us Forth	<i>Glory to God</i> 747

### Charge and Blessing

Siblings in Christ, you have heard the Word proclaimed. We have shared in grace again at the Lord's Table. We are agents of God for righteousness and justice in the world. God is doing a new thing, do you not perceive it? This new thing is happening through us. As you are going, let God's light emanate from you, be a beacon and refuge wherever you go. May the God of peace, love and liberation be with you now and until the end of time. Amen.

*(Do not be afraid to try new things to ritualize the sending and blessing. In order to join Christ in service, and to learn how to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in sharing the Good News, we must first know our neighborhood, and know who are our neighbors. We encourage churches who are able to offer a Neighborhood Analysis Exercise (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/neighborhood-analysis-2/>) after worship for all who are interested in exploring further who their "neighbor" truly is, and the ways in which we can experience Christ already at work, gathering people, working in peoples' lives in the community. We encourage intergenerational groups to meet together and share in this neighborhood experience.)*

