

Guidelines for Worship Leaders
Moorings Presbyterian Church
Naples, Florida

These guidelines are for anyone who is involved in a leadership role in worship services on Sundays and other special times during the church year: liturgists, staff members, those leading children's music programs or messages, etc.

Thank you for serving in this important role. At Moorings we value our members and staff serving alongside our pastors in worship. Your participation sends the positive message that our time together before God is for all the people, and that all who gather are meant to be active participants in giving praise to God.

- You primary staff contact is the Assistant to the Senior Pastor, who is usually present for every service, and can either answer your questions herself, or direct you to someone who can help you.
- Style of clothing.
 - Men and boys: jacket and tie (white shirt requested).
 - Women and girls: knee-length or lower hemline (or dress pants), and shoulders covered. Consider a belt, pocket or edge to which you will clip your portable microphone.
- If you have never led in worship before be sure to set up an appointment with one of the pastors through the Assistant to the Senior Pastor for orientation. Children/youth, please connect with your staff leader.
- Please plan to meet in the Green Room (room behind the choir loft) fifteen minutes before the service.
- You should receive an advance copy of the service two or three days before the service. If you have not, please contact the Assistant to the Senior Pastor. You can also find upcoming bulletins on the church website under the category, "Everything."
- Make sure your microphone is powered on and the mute switch is not engaged. The sound person will control if you are amplified. Pause briefly each time before you speak to look up to the sound person, so they see you are ready to begin.
- There are two microphones in the chancel if your portable microphone fails: the fixed microphone in the pulpit and a hand-held microphone on a stand. Please identify the location of both before the service in case the need arises.
- If you think in advance about the meaning of what you will say in the service, you will speak more naturally and with emphasis on the right words.
- Speak from the faith that is truly within you. Most of what you communicate comes through your body language and demeanor.
- Come to a place of joy and celebration, as you lead God's people in worship.

Wording for Liturgists

On most Sundays the liturgist is responsible for leading the Call to Worship (printed in the bulletin), Call to Confession, Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Exchange of Peace. If in doubt as when you should stand, look to the pastor for direction.

Please select from the following examples. If you would like to write your own or edit, please send your draft to the Assistant to the Senior Pastor at least five days before the service.

Call to Worship

- Begin by saying, "Please join me in the call to worship."

Call to Confession

- Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hear us now as we confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
- This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their evil deeds, and remember their sin no more. In penitence and faith, let us confess our sins to almighty God.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.
- The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Assurance of Pardon

- The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
- Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance—that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

- Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Exchange of Peace

- Jesus said to his disciples, “Peace I leave with you, my own peace I give to you.” Let us now pass the peace to one another saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.”
- Let us now greet one another with the passing of the peace saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.”
- God’s forgiveness makes peace within and among us possible. Let us pass the peace now saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Conclusion of Service

As the last hymn nears conclusion, walk around the opposite side of the communion table as the preacher, to stand beside the preacher as the benediction is spoken. Then walk down a separate aisle and stand at one of the doors to greet people as they leave the sanctuary.

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