

Worship Working Group Order of service/Liturgy Framework

The Worship Working Group prior to our amalgamation on 14th February 2021 identified a joint vision for worship and recommended the establishment of a Worship Planning Group and its responsibilities. Those were presented to and endorsed by the Joint Strategic Planning Group. Below is the framework for liturgies that was developed and endorsed. I have added a few notes due to lockdowns and covid restrictions.

Our vision for worship:-

'Worship is to be open to the presence of God, inviting an experience of the sacred, in order to refresh our faith and to nurture our life to enable us to demonstrate faith in action in the community'.

Below is a guide to conducting a worship service including a Worship template

Guide to the Preparation of the Liturgy

This framework aims to assist leaders in the preparation of liturgy. It contains the main elements of liturgy as recommended by the Worship Working Group, providing the congregation with a familiar 4- part structure and gives **leaders flexibility, allowing for individual expression. Leaders should feel comfortable** to adjust elements of the liturgy in accordance with how they wish to structure the worship service.

- **Content**, including readings, affirmations, prayers, music, and rituals, **are at the leader's discretion.**
- Services should be planned for around **one hour long.**
- The *Together In Song (TIS)* reference should be included in the liturgy. Where alternative words to TIS music, or a song not in TIS, are to be used, the words should be included in the liturgy. **The leader is free to use other music options.** There are many other music options kept in folders and in Dropbox (soon to be on Onedrive) (Because of Covid 19 we don't use hymnbooks and the fact that we now record the service and conduct it live via Zoom it is advised that all words for the hymns/songs are included in the order of service. (See addendum))
- Services can commence with music (prelude) and/or the use of a gong struck 3 times.
- **It is up to the leader** whether to include the words of prayers in the order of service but for people using zoom this is preferred.
- **The leader can decide** whether to use the liturgy readings for the relevant week, choose another scriptural source, or utilise a non-biblical reading. Reading may or may not be included in the Order of service but - as above - it is preferred by those using Zoom
- The **reflection/message** should be limited to around **10 minutes. The leader can decide whether to ask for comments on the reflection from the congregation at this time, in notices after the service or not at all.**
- **It is up to the leader** whether to incorporate children into the service, whether as a separate conversation or as active participants in a part of the liturgy. As we rarely have children

attending the service **the leader can choose** to have a “**time for all ages**’ included in the liturgy if they wish.

- Communion will be incorporated into the service around once a month. Communion can be incorporated early or later in the service at the leader’s discretion.
- The use of a **candle** during the Prayers of the People can be limited to those occasions where a Service is focussed on an aspect of caring, or when a special situation where care and reflection is needed. As the **service is recorded** it is important to **remember privacy and confidentiality**. Sensitive announcements can be made during notices after the service.
- **The leader can decide** on whether to close with an affirmation, song, notices and postlude, or alternatively an affirmation, postlude and then notices. Having said that because the services are recorded the notices are better left to after the service to maintain confidentiality and appropriateness.

Addendum

Since Covid restrictions and the use of Zoom, the Order of Service is now posted on our Weekly Update prior to the Sunday service so a copy needs to get to Ray by Friday at the latest. The reflection is not included and can be added to the website later. To enable the smooth running of the service for Zoom, the technical people also need a copy earlier in the week with the names of readers, etc alongside their parts in the Order of Service. Till we all get the hang of Zooming John Schmidt organises a zoom meeting with all the people involved to nut out any hiccoughs and the placing of cameras, sound etc. for the coming Service.

Because we now record the service and conduct it live via Zoom it is advised that all words for the hymns/songs, readings and prayers are included in the order of service. This enables the congregation, people at home, at Monash or elsewhere who are attending via Zoom to follow the service more easily.

It has also been suggested, and endorsed by Church Council, that leaders write a very short precis of their reflection preferably with a photo/picture which can be put on the WVUC Facebook page with a link to the recorded service. This is part of the mission/communication strategy to raise awareness of WVUC in the community and wider. David Cran can assist with this.