

OGDEN DUNES COMMUNITY CHURCH



**LITURGIST TRAINING
FEBRUARY 8, 2009**

LITURGIST TRAINING

BY THE END OF THIS CLASS THE WORSHIP LEADER SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1. Articulate the Reformed Order of Worship
2. Understand the importance of a Liturgist as opposed to a Reader
3. Understand the duties and responsibilities of a Liturgist
4. Exhibit confidence in directing the Liturgy
5. Be excited and motivated to participate in Worship as a Liturgist.

I. A Brief Introduction to Reformed Worship from the Book of Order”

THE DYNAMICS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

1. Christian Worship: An Introduction

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God’s claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God’s service in the world.

a. The Spirit of God quickens people to an awareness of God’s grace and claim upon their lives. The Spirit moves them to respond by naming and calling upon God, by remembering and proclaiming God’s acts of self-revelation in word and deed, and by committing their lives to God’s reign in the world.

b. The earliest recollections of the people of God speak of God’s encounter with human beings. God takes the initiative in creation and in covenant, in calling to repentance and in offering forgiveness. God plants and plucks up; God judges and blesses. (Jeremiah 1:10)

c. In Jesus Christ, God entered fully into the human condition in an act of self-revelation, redemption, and forgiveness. Entering the brokenness of the world, God in Jesus Christ atoned for sin and restored human life. By so entering the created world God brought time and space, matter and human life to fulfillment as instruments for knowing and praising their Creator.

a. In the person and work of Jesus, God and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.

b. Jesus of Nazareth offered the perfect human response to God. The Life that redeems reveals the form and purpose of redeemed life. Jesus’ life discloses the character of authentic Christian worship.

c. Jesus Christ is the living God present in common life. The One who is proclaimed in the witness of faith is

(1) the Word of God spoken at creation,

- (2) the Word of God promising and commanding throughout covenant history,
- (3) the Word of God
 - (a) who became flesh and dwelt among us,
 - (b) who was crucified and raised in power,
 - (c) who shall return in triumph to judge and reign.

Scripture—the Word written, preaching—the Word proclaimed, and the Sacraments—the Word enacted and sealed, bear testimony to Jesus Christ, the living Word. Through Scripture, proclamation, and Sacraments, God in Christ is present by the Holy Spirit acting to transform, empower, and sustain human lives. In Christian worship the people of God

- (1) hear the Word proclaimed,
- (2) receive the Word enacted in Sacrament,
- (3) discover the Word in the world, and
- (4) are sent to follow the Word into the world.

a. From the beginning God created women and men for community and called a people into covenant. Jesus called, commissioned, and promised to be present to a people gathered in his name. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, orders, and empowers the new community of the covenant. To each member, that Spirit gives gifts for building up the body of Christ and for equipping it for the work of ministry. A Christian’s personal response to God is in community.

b. The people of God respond with words and deeds of praise and thanksgiving in acts of prayer, proclamation, remembrance, and offering. In the name of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Christian community worships and serves God

- (1) in shared experiences of life,
- (2) in personal discipleship,
- (3) in mutual ministry, and
- (4) in common ministry in the world.

II. **From Reading to Leading**

In the past we have used Readers to participate in worship. As you know a Reader was one who read the Scriptures for the day and said the Prayer of Dedication for the Offering. Studies have shown the healthier growing churches involved lots of people in worship. From soloists, to instrumentalist, to actors, dancers, speakers, readers and even liturgists. A liturgist is a worship leader. The liturgist leads the congregation through the Order of Worship (the Liturgy).

What is Liturgy anyway?

Liturgy is simply the form of worship, or the order of worship. Liturgy is the structure of worship for a particular Sunday which implies that there is a purpose, meaning and structure to how the People of God worship together. The Greek word *leitourgos* is the root word for “liturgy.” Although the early church expanded the meaning of the word for religious worship the word literally means “work of the people.” Spiritually it can mean one who leads a civil or

religious service on behalf of the people. Paul uses it in Romans 15:16 to say that he is a minister of Jesus Christ.

As a Liturgist you function as a servant of both God and the community of believers. You lead the worship service, in conjunction with the Minister, the Music Staff, and others to help draw the community closer to God. It is truly a blessing and privilege to serve in this capacity.

Prayer—One of the most important things you can do to lead a worship service is pray before you step into the lectern. It is only by the power of God working through the Spirit that any of us is able to lead God’s people. So ask God to lead you, to calm you, to speak through you and bless you and you seek to bless others.

Flow—Flow is an important part of the Worship service and experience. Picking appropriate passages, prayers and transitions that help to the flow of the service help people to not get distracted and focus on God. So as you pick prayers, calls, transitions and the like think about weaving and stitching themes and ideas together to help build continuity in the liturgy.

You can build on Hymn or song lyrics, the Prayer of Adoration or Confession, the Call the Worship or the Reading for the Day. All these resources are at your disposal to help you build connection between the movements in the Worship Service.

III. You want me to do what?

1. Lead/Read—Call to Worship (ask congregation to stand)
2. Lead/Read—Prayer of Adoration
3. Say—Call to Confession
4. Lead—Prayer of Confession
5. Say—Sharing of the Peace
6. Say—Call to Giving/Offering
7. Say—Prayer of Dedication
8. Pray—Prayer of Illumination (before scripture reading)
9. Announce—the Scripture reference and bible page numbers.
10. Say—Preface before Reading Scripture (“Hear now the Word of God”)
11. Read—Scriptures for the Day.
12. Lead/Read—the Affirmation of Faith (ask congregation to stand)

The minister will continue to do the announcements and the opening prayer but bear in mind that guest speakers and preachers may not want to do this and so as the liturgist you will need to say an opening greeting, make announcements and start the service off with a prayer.

At the end of this Training Guide you will find resources and examples to help you lead the people in worship.

Practice—Generally the office will call you the Friday before the Sunday you are to lead worship and give you the scripture readings. You can request the office send you the bulletin by email or you can pick up a copy of the bulletin usually after 11am on Fridays.

The worst thing you could do is wait until Sunday morning to get your mind around the worship service. There is a direct correlation between the amount that you practice and rehearse your reading and how relaxed you will feel. So start on Friday night meditating on the scriptures and themes and praying and thinking about how you will lead the service. Start to read out loud. Put marks on your bulletin where you want to pause, or where you want to emphasize a word or phrase.

Show up a half and hour early to worship and practice behind the lectern. Make sure the microphone is in front of you and you are speaking clearly and slowly.

Dress—as a liturgist you are an ambassador and vessel for God. Although this is not a fashion show or a beauty contest what you wear and how you look effects the way people respond to you and your reading. So in general, appropriate dress and grooming are necessary so to not distract the congregation for worship. Gentleman, nice slacks, dress shoes, long sleeve shirts (except for the garden services in the summer) are appropriate. Sport coats, suits, ties and dress shirts are a nice addition. Ladies, skirts, dresses, long pants, dress shoes and so on are all appropriate.

Tips for Speaking

1. **Breath**—taking deep slow breaths will help you to relax. Not breathing regular interval breaths inhibits your ability to speak.
2. **Volume**—speak slightly louder than you usually would in a normal conversation.
3. **Clear**—be sure to announce your words. We all want to hear exactly what you have to say.
4. **Nature**—speak and act natural. For instance, there is no need to bend over and speak into the microphone.
5. **Connect**—make eye contact with people in the congregation. This is a powerful way God will use you. You may notice somebody watching you intently. Don't underestimate that God is speaking through you to reach them. Allow yourself to be a prophet and a voice for God.
6. **Patience**—give your audience time to find the scriptures in their bible before you read. Say the references 2-3 times and encourage people to read the text in their pew bibles.

IV. Resources:

Opening Prayers

(as instructed or if we have a guest preacher)

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ,
that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you,
our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

O God, by your power may we, with all the saints,
comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth
of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that we may be filled with your fullness. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.
Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort.
Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you pour out the spirit of grace and love.
Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts,
that with steady minds and burning zeal
we may worship you in spirit and truth. **Amen.**

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own.
Help us to seek and be able to follow your will.
May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith,
that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Transitions to the Prayer of Adoration

It is best to write your own transition but you can always say something like:

Let us adorn God with our Prayer of Adoration.

Let us continue worshipping God by praying together as one voice our Prayer of Adoration.

Call to Confession

“Come now, let us reason together,”
says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.”
—Isaiah 1:18, NIV

We know that nothing is able to separate us

from the love of God in Jesus Christ.
Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

Seeing that we have a great High Priest
who has entered the inmost heaven, Jesus the Son of God,
let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence,
that we may receive mercy for our failures
and grace to help in the hour of need.
In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

God's Word assures us:
If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
he 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.

We cannot come before God
unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are,
about the mistakes we make,
and about how well or poorly we care for others.
In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

When we come into the holy presence of God,
our own humanity is laid bare.
When we stand in the living presence of truth,
our own falsehood is revealed.
People of God, let us acknowledge who we are
and ask our ever-present God to forgive us.

When we gather to praise God,
we remember that we are people
who have preferred our wills to his.
Accepting his power to become new persons in Christ,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us,
we often act in destructive and hateful ways.
We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law.
Together let us confess our sin.

Call to Give/Offering

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,

the world, and those who live in it.

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being.
In the company of the upright,
let us honor God for the blessings and goodness we have received.

What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
I will give what I have promised
in the presence of all God's people.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust consume
and where thieves break in and steal;
but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust consumes
and where thieves do not break in and steal.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Freely you have received, freely give.

Remember the words the Lord Jesus himself said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ,
we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern,
and follow Christ by loving as he loved you,
giving himself up for us as an offering
and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God.

Let us be faithful stewards
of our time, our talents, and our money.
so that our treasure is in heaven

and our giving pleases God.

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Prayers of Dedication

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God forever. Amen.

Merciful Father, we offer
with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us—
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives
to the care and redemption of all that you have made,
for the sake of him who gave himself for us—
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God, we give our best,
lest in gaining the world we lose life itself.
As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way.
Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do
with the wealth entrusted to our care.
As we contribute to the needs of your people,
we present ourselves as living sacrifices.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power and the glory,
the victory and the majesty.
All that is in the heavens
and in the earth is yours,
and you rule over all.
Therefore, Lord, receive these offerings,
our tangible expressions of love and gratitude.
Transform them into a source of life for many,
so that your kingdom may grow

in the hearts of all.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Ever-giving God,
source of all goodness and charity,
your ear is always open to our needs When we cry to you,
you are faithful and provide for us.
With joy we bring our thanksgiving.
For all your mercies,
we return to you from our abundance.
All that we give, we dedicate to your glory.
All that we keep, we commit to your care,
for we are only stewards of your bounty.
Bless what we give and what we keep,
for all is your creation. Amen.

Generous God, you have given us life,
a place to live in,
and people to live with.
Open our eyes to each other
and to all our brothers and sisters,
especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated.
Make us humble enough to help and comfort them,
so that your love and justice and peace may come to them.
We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts
to you and to the service of others,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and most merciful God,
from you comes every good and perfect gift.
We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies.
Your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us,
your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us,
your love has redeemed us.
Give us a heart to love and serve you,
and enable us to show our thankfulness for all your goodness and mercy
by giving up ourselves to your service
and cheerfully submitting in all things to your blessed will,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

O God,
our offerings proclaim
that work and worship are one,
that life is undivided.
Use these gifts for your church's ministries
of reconciliation, service, and mercy. **Amen.**

Prayers of Illumination/Prefaces for Reading Scripture

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God,
we do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from your mouth.
Make us hungry for this heavenly food,
that it may nourish us today
in the ways of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

God our helper,
by your Holy Spirit, open our minds,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may be led into your truth
and taught your will,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Living God,
help us so to hear your holy Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe,
and, believing,
we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God, source of all light,
by your Word you give light to the soul.
Pour out upon us
the spirit of wisdom and understanding
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,
our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things
that pertain to life and holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that we may embrace and ever hold fast

the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Lord God,
may your Word be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Prepare our hearts, O God,
to hear your Word
and obey your will.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

The reading and hearing of Scripture is one of the most important acts of worship. The introduction to the reading should clearly indicate which text is being read and should invite the congregation's careful attention. If worshipers follow the text in pew Bibles, the page number of the reading may be indicated. In congregations in which worshipers listen without reading along, the introduction to the passage may indicate the book and chapter being read, without a listing of verses. To encourage attentiveness to the reading, some congregations invite worshipers simply to listen and then to refer to the written text during the sermon. The following simple phrases announce the specific text.

1. The Word of the Lord from . . .
2. A reading from the book of . . .
3. The gospel according to . . .

The following phrases may be added to the announcement of the text to be read. These phrases are designed to alert the congregation that the Bible is no ordinary book and that the reading of the biblical text demands our careful attention.

1. Listen to the Word of God.
 2. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
 3. Attend to the wisdom of the Word of God.
 4. Let us hear what God is saying to us today.
-

Practice Order of Worship

Jan. 18, 2009

ORDER OF WORSHIP

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

❖ WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH

❖ PRELUDE

Lord, I Want to Be A Christian—American Folk Melody

Arr. Diane Bish

❖ CHORAL INTROIT (10:45) *Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;*



❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You discern my thoughts from far away.

People: **You know me when I sit down and when I stand up. You search out my path and my lying down.**

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in-- behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

People: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**

Leader: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works.

People: **How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! I try to count them—they are more than the sand. Let us worship God!**



❖ PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

You are the rock of our salvation, O God, the source of our strength. You are the fountainhead from which flow living waters. When our souls thirst after righteousness, your justice sustains us. In need of encouragement, we behold your power and glory. We lift our hands in the sanctuary; with our lips we praise you. We raise our voices in the company of believers and call on your name. Fill us now with your Holy Spirit, and nourish us by your presence. Amen.

❖ HYMN #476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!



❖ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us as we make our confession. We grow lax in our discipline, and we disobey Christ. Our faith is flabby when put to the test; our courage vanishes in the face of temptation. Our joints stiffen when we are called to act. We profess loyalty, while our bodies deny commitment. Have mercy upon us and forgive us our sin. Amen.

❖ **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

❖ **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

❖ **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you; **And also with you (greet one another)**

❖ **ANTHEM (10:45)**

On Eagle's Wings—Michael Joncas, arr. Mark Hayes



❖ **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

Offertory: *A Loving Heart (O How I Love Jesus/Praise Him)*—Arr. Suzanne Brantley

Response: Doxology

❖ **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (10:45)**

❖ **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**



❖ **NEW TESTAMENT READING** First Peter 1:1-10 p.232 in the New Testament

❖ **SERMON** Sermon *Christ Our Hope* I Peter 1:1-10



❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – The Apostles Creed (unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ **HYMN #333** *Seek Ye First*

❖ **BENEDICTION** --And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:10-11)

❖ **POSTLUDE** *Great Is the Lord*—Smith