

# The Four-Fold Order of Worship

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This is a pattern designed to lead us deeper into the transforming presence of God!

The Four parts of worship are as follows:

- 1) The Gathering
- 2) The Word
- 3) Our Response
- 4) Sending out into the World

## 1) The Gathering—We Enter into God’s Presence

- Greeting one another in love
- Announcements
- Prelude--prepares us for worship. When we hear the music begin to play, we should slow down and begin to prepare our hearts and minds for worship of the living God!
- Call to Worship—God’s call and our response
- Hymn of Praise—in God’s presence, we praise!
- Call to Confession—God calls us to confession with promise of mercy (1 John 1:8-9)
- Confession of Sin—we confess our sin and ask for forgiveness
- Assurance of Pardon—we are assured of God’s pardon through Jesus Christ
- Response of Thanksgiving—we respond to the good news of God’s grace (we say “Thanks be to God, Amen!”)
- [Peace]—we greet all as forgiven sinners, recognizing Christ present in one another

## **2) The Word—We Listen to God's Word**

- Prayer for Illumination—We call on God the Holy Spirit to make God's word (the Holy Bible) come alive in our hearts and enable us to respond to what we read/hear.
- Scripture reading: We encounter God through His written word which points us to Jesus Christ, the son of God, the living Word of God! In the Holy Spirit God continues to speak to us
- [Children's sermon]
- [Anthem]—if done here it is to be a singing of the good news that God communicates to us through His written word!
- Sermon—a prayerful response and reflection on the scriptures read and an encouragement to get in on the redemptive activity of God happening now through Christ!

## **3) Our Response to the Word**

- Hymn of Response—we commit ourselves anew to God's Way
- Affirmation of Faith {Creed, Baptism, Reception of New Members}
- Prayers of the People
- [Minute for Mission, Announcements]
- Offering with Offertory or Choral Anthem (We respond to God through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure as we feel led by God to do so [2 Corinthians 9:6-7])
- Celebrating Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper)—this is another way we respond the hearing and proclamation of God's word!
- Closing Hymn

#### **4) Sending Out into World**

- We are sent out into the world to Continue Worship in Christian Living as Witnesses for Christ (we live out our faith in our day to day lives; sharing the good news of God's love in Christ in word and deed).
- Charge—we are given our marching orders as we're sent out into the world
- Benediction—we go in the blessing of God
- Postlude—we go back into the world through the threshold of music