



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Evening Prayer
Ordinary Time

www.citychurchphilly.com

Understanding Our Liturgy

Our worship at City Church is “liturgical.” But what does that mean? Literally, the word *liturgy* means “a public work,” the work of the people. And that’s what liturgy is – the action of God’s gathered people, but only in response to his prior action of sending Jesus Christ for our salvation. Liturgical worship begins with God’s call upon us, his meeting us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. Like salvation, God’s prior action in liturgy comes to us from outside of us. Through words, tangible symbols, and our fellow believers, God ministers to us. With them, we respond again and again to God’s initiative.

Liturgy is the church at prayer, serving as a priestly people, interceding on behalf of the whole church and world, and being sent out together on God’s mission. In liturgy, we *practice* what it means to be a follower of Jesus and anticipate the shape of his kingdom. Embodying the priorities we want to cultivate, liturgy presses those values and habits into our lives. We take upon our lips the language of Christian prayer, adoration, response, confession, and blessing – words crafted from Scripture and historic traditions of worship. Having learned this grammar, we more readily find the words we need to intercede, to bless, to cry out in need, to confess our faults, and to give praise to our Savior.

When we make the words and actions of worship central to our lives, we guard against worldliness and break the hold of secular ceremonies – rituals of consumption, power, fear, suspicion, doubt, and self-absorption that hide themselves in our lives. Also, by deliberately connecting us to the worship of the church in all times and places, liturgy conveys an ethos of receptivity and gratitude toward the wider church, recognizing and accepting the gifts of the Spirit wherever they may be found.

Church Calendar: Ordinary Time

At City Church, we observe the church calendar, allowing the story of Jesus Christ to shape not only our daily and weekly rhythms, but also our seasonal and annual ones. “Ordinary Time” refers to the “non-seasonal” seasons of the year, in which the church focuses not on a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ but on the full breadth of the gospel and the life of discipleship. Ordinary Time occurs twice each year - between Epiphany (Jan 6) and Ash Wednesday (late winter), and between Pentecost (late spring) and Advent of the next church year (late fall).

The following liturgy for Evening Prayer in Ordinary Time is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (1979), Evening Prayer II.

An Order for Evening Prayer

Opening Song

Greeting & Invocation

Leader Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Leader Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night;
All **you established the moon and the sun.**
You fixed the boundaries of the earth;
you made both summer and winter.

Psalms 74:15, 16

Confession of Sin

Leader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

Leader Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.

***All* Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

The congregation stands.

Leader O God, make speed to save us.

***All* O Lord, make haste to help us.**

***All* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The appointed psalm is read responsively. At the end of the psalm is said:

***All* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Songs of Praise & Thanksgiving

The Lessons

The congregation sits.

The appointed Scripture lesson is read, concluding with:

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The minister may offer a brief homily or reflection.

The Apostles' Creed

The congregation stands and says together:

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.

Members of the congregation offer the following prayers:

All That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

All That you would lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

All That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and
offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

All That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole
world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

All That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be
condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

All That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the
communion of City Church and all your saints, entrusting one
another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The congregation sits and offers prayers, concluding each petition with:

All For this, O Lord, we pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us.

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Leader Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

All **Amen.**

Song of Blessing & Sending

Dismissal

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

All **Amen.**

