

**LAMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Instructions for Worship Leaders**

THANK YOU for agreeing to serve as a Worship Leader! You will be responsible for several elements in the first part of the worship service.

The usual opening of the worship service, along with the people responsible for each of these elements, is as follows:

**RINGING THE BELL** — Usher

**PRELUDE** — Organist/Pianist

**WELCOME** — Pastor

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** — Pastor

**INTROIT** — Organist/Pianist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** — *Worship Leader*

**\*GATHERING HYMN** (*No need to announce it*) — Organist/Pianist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** — *Worship Leader*

**\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION** — *Worship Leader*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** — *Worship Leader*

**\*KYRIE** (*No need to announce it*) — Organist/Pianist

**\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON** — *Worship Leader*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (*No need to announce it*) — Organist/Pianist

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** — *Worship Leader*

**FIRST READING** — *Worship Leader*

Now, here's a breakdown of what you need to do for each one:

**CALL TO WORSHIP** — No need to ask the people to join you; just start reading the text (unison or responsive) that's printed in the bulletin.

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION** — Please choose a text from the attached sheet of suggestions.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** — No need to ask the people to join you; just start reading the text (unison or responsive) that's printed in the bulletin.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON** — Please choose a text from the attached sheet of suggestions.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** — Please choose a text from the attached sheet of suggestions.

**FIRST READING** — First begin with the scriptural citation (Example: "The first reading this morning is from the First Book of Samuel, Chapter 3, verses 1 to 20.") You may also add a brief introduction, such as "This is the story of the call of the prophet Samuel," or "This is a psalm of lament." After you've finished reading the passage, say "This is the word of the Lord," to which the people will respond "Thanks be to God." You may then step down and be seated in the congregation.

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**1**

Let us ask God to forgive us. Let us pray.

**2**

Let us confess our sin before Almighty God.

**3**

God does not want anyone to perish,  
but rather for all to come to repentance.

Therefore, let us confess our sin,  
for God's salvation is at hand.

**4**

Let us confess our sin  
to the one whose mercy endures  
from generation to generation. Let us pray.

**5**

We confess our sin with boldness,  
knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ  
has given his life that we may be forgiven. Let us pray.

**6**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another,  
that we may receive release from our sin. Let us pray.

**7**

The gift of God's grace is lavished upon us  
through the life and death of the risen Lord.  
Trusting in the love and goodness of God,  
let us confess our sin.

**8**

Trusting in the promise of grace,  
let us pour out our hearts before God. Let us pray.

**9**

The one who pardons, heals and strengthenss all who repent  
calls us to name our failings and our hopes.  
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

**10**

We fool ourselves if we think  
our ways are hidden from God.  
Therefore let us confess our sin,  
trusting in the mercy of God our maker.

**11**

Jesus declares that those who are well  
have no need of a physician, but only those who are sick.  
Christ calls not the righteous, but sinners.  
Disciples of the risen one, let us confess our sin before God.

**12**

God alone is righteous;  
God alone is perfect;  
God alone is judge.  
Yet this holy, righteous God  
comes to us in Christ to love us and to save us.  
Rejoicing in the promise of God's grace,  
let us confess our sin.

**13**

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.  
Trusting in God's mercy,  
let us confess our sin.

**14**

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 in confidence.  
Let us confess our sin.

**15**

God has been dreaming a story for us  
since God knitted us together in our mother's womb.  
God invites us to live into that whole story,  
the good chapters and the difficult ones.  
Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's promised mercy.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

**1**

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. Amen

**2**

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 be alive to all that is good.

I declare to you In the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. (1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)

**3**

Hear the good news!  
Who is in the 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. (Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17)

**4**

Hear the good news!  
In baptism you were buried with Christ.  
In baptism also you were raised to life with him,  
through faith in the power of God  
who raised Christ from the dead.

Anyone who is in Christ  
is a new creation.

The old life has gone;  
a new life has begun.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. (Col. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:17)

**5**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. (Psalm 32:1-2)

**6**

Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. (Isaiah 1:18)

**7**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.  
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. (John 3:16-17)

**8**

This is the message we have heard from God  
and proclaim to you,  
that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.  
If we walk in the light, as God is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven. (1 John 1:5, 7)

**9**

Hear the good news:

This 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.

(based on Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24)

**10**

Here are words you may trust,  
words that merit full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life,  
he says, "Your sins are forgiven."  
He also says, "Follow me."  
Now to the one who rules all worlds,  
immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever. (based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17)

**11**

Take comfort in the assurance  
that even those things that are hidden from memory,  
or are too deep for our words,  
are not beyond God's forgiving love.  
God, who knows us completely,  
bestows pardon and peace.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**12**

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,  
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible  
that God cannot forgive,  
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.  
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.  
Receive the forgiving love of God.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**13**

The God who challenges us  
is also the God who encourages us.  
The God who confronts us  
is also the God who accepts us.  
Be assured that God is with us even now,  
accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**14**

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,  
to all who turn to God in hope,  
this is God's Word of grace:  
We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.  
This gift we have from God.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**15**

We have been made holy  
through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.  
This is God's gospel promise:  
to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone  
because of Christ's one sacrifice finished on the cross.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

## PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION

**1**

Let us pray:

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

Amen.

**2**

Let us pray:

Prepare our hearts, O God,  
to accept your Word.  
Silence in us any voice but your own,  
that, hearing, we may also obey your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**3**

Let us pray:

O God,  
by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear,  
and show us what we ought to do,  
to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**4**

Let us pray:

O Lord our God,  
your Word is a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path.

Give us the grace to receive your truth in  
faith and love,  
that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ  
our Savior. Amen. (Hebrews 10:10, NIV; Heidelberg Catechism, Q& A66)

**5**

Let us pray:

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.

**6**

Let us pray:

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.

**7**

Let us pray:

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.

**8**

Let us pray:

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**9**

Let us pray:

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.

**10**

Let us pray:

God of mercy,

you promised never to break your covenant with us.

Amid all the changing words of our generation,

speak your eternal Word that does not change.

Then may we respond to your gracious promises  
with faithful and obedient lives;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**11**

Let us pray:

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.

**12**

Let us pray:

Lord God,

help us to know your ways; teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us,

for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**13**

Let us pray:  
Lord God,  
help us turn our hearts to you  
and hear what you will speak,  
for you speak peace to your people  
through Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Based on Psalm 85:8)

**14**

Let us pray:  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life!  
Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**15**

Let us pray:  
Lord God, we wish to see Jesus.  
By your Spirit's power, give us eyes to see his glory.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

**16**

Let us pray:  
Holy Spirit,  
pour out upon us  
wisdom and understanding,  
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,  
our hearts and minds may be opened to receive  
all that leads to life and holiness.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**17**

Let us pray:  
Our Lord and our God,  
now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit.  
Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence.  
Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.  
Shape our wills that we may desire your ways.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**18**

Let us pray:  
Eternal God,  
in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard;  
in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;  
and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.