

ADMISSION, COMMISSIONING AND WELCOME SERVICES

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Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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ADMISSION, COMMISSIONING AND WELCOME SERVICES

THE ADMISSION OF LOCAL PREACHERS

INTRODUCTION

John Wesley recognized that some lay people were called to preach the Gospel and he appointed them to this work. Methodist Local Preachers are called by God and trained to lead God's people in worship. After their initial training and approval by the Circuit Meeting, they are admitted during an act of worship to the office and work of a Local Preacher. The office of a Local Preacher is a permanent one, to which a person is admitted only once.

NOTES

- 1 ***The Admission of Local Preachers*** is a circuit service at which the Superintendent Minister should normally preside. It should normally take place during a celebration of ***Holy Communion*** and whenever possible it should take place on a Sunday.
- 2 Local Preachers should be invited to take part in appropriate sections of the service, such as readings, sermon, intercessions, and the distribution of Holy Communion.
- 3 The readings for the day should be read on the First Sunday of Advent, Easter Day, Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and All Saints' Day.

THE PREPARATION

1 The Superintendent says:

The Lord gave the word,
and great was the company of the preachers.

In this act of worship, we are to admit N and N (N) to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher.

2 Hymn

3 Glory to you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
in company with all the saints
we proclaim your greatness and your majesty.

Glory to you, now and for ever. Amen.

4 The Superintendent says:

In silence let us call to mind our sins.

Silence

**Holy God,
we confess that we have failed to be your faithful people.
We have not listened to your word,
responded to your call,
or loved our neighbours.
Forgive us, we pray,
and free us for joyful obedience;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Merciful God,
grant to your people pardon and peace;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 5 This collect, which may be preceded or followed by the collect of the day:

Lord our God,
as we rejoice in the ministry of preaching,
let the Gospel of your Son come to us,
not in words alone, but in power and love;
that through our life and witness
the world may believe;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 6 One of the following or the Old Testament reading for the day:

Exodus 3:1-7, 10-12
Isaiah 52:7-12
Isaiah 55:6-11

- 7 Hymn or Psalm

- 8 One of the following or the Epistle for the day:

2 Corinthians 5:14-20
Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16
James 1:16-25

- 9 Hymn

- 10 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Hear the Gospel of Christ.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

One of the following or the Gospel for the day is read:

Matthew 25:14-29
Luke 4:14-24
John 12:20-26

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

- 11 Sermon
- 12 Hymn

THE ADMISSION

THE PRESENTATION

- 13 *Those to be admitted as Local Preachers move to the front of the church. The Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting presents those to be admitted to the Superintendent, saying:*

Madam/Mr Superintendent, I present to you N and N (N). The Church has examined their knowledge, competence and conviction. On the recommendation of the Local Preachers' Meeting, they have been approved by the Circuit Meeting for admission to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher.

THE PREFACE

- 14 **The Superintendent says:**

The Church of Christ exists to glorify God the Father, who has revealed the way of salvation in the life, ministry and victory of Christ, and has given the Holy Spirit to inspire Christian proclamation and preaching.

From the early days of Methodism, God has called lay people to lead worship and prayer, and to preach the Gospel. In every generation since, women and men have responded to this call and have been admitted as Local Preachers.

Local Preachers are called to be worthy in character, to lead God's people in prayer and praise, and to share in the Church's mission in the whole world.

N and N (N), yours is a responsibility rooted in the word of God. You will bring the message of salvation to all, in season and out of season. As you lead worship, and offer good news to others, your own life will be shaped and transformed.

THE QUESTIONS

15 The Superintendent says to those to be admitted:

N and N (N), do you believe that you are called by God to the office and ministry of a Local Preacher?

Answer: I do so believe.

Will you be faithful in prayer and in the reading and study of the Scriptures, and will you preach nothing contrary to the doctrines of the Methodist Church?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

Will you accept our discipline and work together with your sisters and brothers in the Church?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

Will you make yourself available to lead worship, attend the Local Preachers' Meeting and develop your skills and studies?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

Will you seek to fashion your life according to the way of Christ and in all things seek to promote, not your own glory, but the glory of the Lord?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

May the God of all grace uphold you in the service to which you are called. **Amen.**

THE ADMISSION

16 The Superintendent addresses the Local Preachers present and says:

The admission of *N and N (N)* as *Local Preachers* in the Methodist Church will bring *them* into membership of the Local Preachers' Meeting to which you belong. I invite you, as Local Preachers, to stand as *they are* admitted, and thereby to re-affirm your own ministry.

The Local Preachers stand.

17 The Superintendent says to the people:

I invite you all to stand.

The people stand.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
our creator and our redeemer.

In Christ, you offer redemption and fullness of life.

In every generation you call men and women
to speak your word and proclaim your glory.

We thank you that *these* your *servants*
have responded to your call
to be *Local Preachers* in your Church.

Give your Holy Spirit to *N and N (N)*,
whom we now admit to the office and ministry of a Local
Preacher,

that *they* may fulfil *their* calling.

Grant *them* the assurance of faith,
that *they* may abound in hope

and be rooted and grounded in love,

to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom with you and your Holy Spirit,

belong glory and honour, now and for ever. **Amen.**

18 The Superintendent or a Local Preacher presents a Bible to each new Local Preacher. The Superintendent says:

Receive this Bible as a sign of your authority to preach the
Gospel and lead God's people in worship and praise.

19 The Superintendent says to the people:

N and N (N) have been admitted to the office and ministry of
a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church.

Will you support *them* with your prayers,
faithfully share in the worship *they lead*
and receive through *them* the word of God?

We will.

- 20 The people sit. The Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting or another Local Preacher reads the President's letter and gives a copy to each new Local Preacher.
- 21 The hand of fellowship is then given to each new Local Preacher by the Superintendent and the Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting.
- 22 The newly-admitted Local *Preachers* may be invited to speak about *their* calling.
- 22 If the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated, the service continues from the prayers of intercession in an appropriate seasonal or Ordinary Seasons service of ***Holy Communion***. Otherwise, the service continues with prayers of thanksgiving and intercession from ***Morning, Afternoon, or Evening Services***, or some other prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

THE COMMISSIONING OF LAY WORKERS

INTRODUCTION

Lay Workers are appointed to a variety of ministries, remunerated or unremunerated, full-time or part-time, in Circuit or District appointments.

This Commissioning Service is intended to be sufficiently adaptable for use in these varying circumstances.

NOTES

- 1 ***The Commissioning of Lay Workers*** should normally take place during a celebration of ***Holy Communion***.
 - 2 This service is intended for the Commissioning of a Lay Worker in a Circuit or District appointment. In the case of a District appointment, it will be necessary to adapt nos. 10, 12, 13 and 14.
-

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- 1 Hymn
- 2 This collect, which may be preceded or followed by the collect of the day:

Eternal God, in your love
you pour out upon us gifts of your Spirit
for the service of the Gospel:
look now on your *servant, N*,
whom we are to commission in your Name,
that *she/he* and all your people
may make your grace and glory known to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 3 The Old Testament reading for the day or one of the following:

Isaiah 55:6-13
Jeremiah 1:4-10

- 4 A Psalm or portion of a Psalm may be said or sung.

- 5 The Epistle for the day or one of the following:

Ephesians 4:7-16
Colossians 4:2-6

- 6 Hymn

- 7 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Hear the Gospel of Christ.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel for the day is read, or one of the following:

Luke 6:20-26
Luke 10:1-2
Luke 10:38-42

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

- 8 Sermon

- 9 Hymn

THE COMMISSIONING

- 10 All stand.

The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, who is to serve as a Lay Worker in this *Circuit*.

The work to which *N* is appointed is particularly concerned with . . .

Here the presiding minister will indicate in a phrase the duties to be carried out by the Lay Worker.

N, we rejoice that you are now to exercise *this ministry* within the life and mission of the Church. In your work you will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Do you believe that you are called by God to serve as a Lay Worker in this *Circuit*?

Answer: I do.

Will you accept the discipline of the Church, and work with us in its mission and ministry?

Answer: With God's help I will.

Will you be faithful in worship, in prayer and in reading the Holy Scriptures?

Answer: With God's help I will.

11 The presiding minister says:

Let us pray.
Faithful God, we thank you
that *N* has offered *herself/himself*
as a Lay Worker in your Church.
Uphold *her/him* by your love
and enable *her/him* by your Spirit,
that through *her/his* ministry
your Church may be strengthened
and your name may be glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

12 *A Circuit Steward says to the people:*

Sisters and brothers, will you welcome *N*,
and will you offer *her/him*
your friendship, support and prayers
as we join together in the work
to which God has called us?

With God's help, we will.

13 *A representative of the local church with which the Lay Worker will be mainly involved may say:*

I welcome you in the name of . . . *Church*.

14 *Welcomes may then be given by circuit and ecumenical representatives, civic leaders and other appropriate persons.*

15 *Each newly-appointed Lay Worker may reply briefly in her/his own words and/or as follows:*

I thank you for your welcome.
I will work with you and pray for you.

16 *These or some other prayers of intercession:*

Let us pray.

In faith we pray to God,
who is more ready to hear than we are to ask.

Let us pray for the whole Church of God,
that, rejoicing in our richness and variety,
we may seek peace and unity
and be constantly renewed for mission and service.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

ADMISSION, COMMISSIONING AND WELCOME

Let us pray for the churches of our Circuit and District,
that, rejoicing in our common heritage,
we may strengthen each other and be built up in love.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray for the life of the world,
that, rejoicing in our common humanity,
we may reject the ways of war and conflict
and work together for justice and peace.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us rejoice in the communion of saints,
that, strengthened by their faithful example,
we may follow the way of Christ
and live to God's praise and glory.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Give us wisdom, Lord, to know your will,
and courage to do it.
May our words declare your love
and may our compassion give substance to our words;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

17 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily
bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**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
trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

18 The Peace

All stand.

We are the Body of Christ.

**In the one Spirit
we were all baptized into one body.
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

- 19 The service continues from the Preparation of the Gifts.
Any appropriate order may be used, but that for ***The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the Life of the Church*** (page 174) is especially suitable.
-

If the Lord's Supper is not celebrated, the service concludes as follows:

- 20 Hymn
- 21 Offering and prayer of dedication
- 22 This or some other prayer of thanksgiving:

Let us pray.

Generous God,
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,
we thank you for your mercies:
for your goodness that has created us,
your grace that has sustained us,
your patience that has borne with us,
and your love that has redeemed us.
We thank you for Jesus Christ your Son:
for his humble birth and his holy life,
his ministry of love and care,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection, and his eternal reign.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit:
for the gifts of the Spirit poured out on the Church,
for our life together of worship and service,
and our calling to make disciples
and to serve Christ in our neighbours.

**In the power of the Spirit,
we offer ourselves again to you
as a living sacrifice to your praise and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

23 Hymn

24 The presiding minister says:

May the God of love
stir up in us the gifts of his grace
and sustain each of us
in our discipleship and service;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with *you/us* for ever. **Amen.**

THE ANNUAL COMMISSIONING OF PASTORAL VISITORS AND CLASS LEADERS

INTRODUCTION

John Wesley appointed Class Leaders to meet regularly with groups (classes) of members, to encourage them in their spiritual development. Class meetings still take place in some churches, though many churches now appoint Pastoral Visitors who exercise pastoral responsibility for a group of people without meeting them formally in class. It is appropriate that this Service of Commissioning should take place annually.

NOTE

The Annual Commissioning of Pastoral Visitors and Class Leaders should normally take place after the sermon during a celebration of *Holy Communion*.

1 This or some other prayer:

Merciful God,
you renew the strength
of all who wait upon you.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that, in serving others,
we may always be true to Christ,
our Lord and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PREFACE

2 The minister says:

Today we commission *those who offer themselves* for service as *Pastoral Visitors and Class Leaders* in the Methodist Church.

We are the Body of Christ:

each of us is a member of it.

There is one ministry of Christ:

in this ministry we all share.

There are different ways of serving God:

it is the same Lord whom we serve.

It is the tradition of the Methodist Church that within our community we offer pastoral care to one another. In order that this ministry may be fulfilled, the Church appoints Pastoral Visitors and Class Leaders.

It is their privilege and responsibility, in the name of Christ and on behalf of the whole Church:

to pray regularly for those in their care;

to share in their joys;

and to give comfort and support in time of sorrow and need.

In all these things, they will seek for themselves and for those in their care a deepening experience of God's grace in Christ.

Without God's help no one can exercise this ministry; but the Holy Spirit has been given to us, and is our Helper and Counsellor.

THE COMMISSIONING

- 3 *Those to be commissioned move to the front of the church as their names are read. The minister then says:*

Sisters and brothers, do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to the work of pastoral care?

Answer: I do so believe.

Relying on God's grace, will you endeavour to fulfil this ministry?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

The minister says:

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God,
that you have sent Jesus Christ your Son
to be our Shepherd and Saviour.

Give to *these* your *servants*
the power of the Holy Spirit
for this work and ministry;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 4 *The people stand. The minister says to them:*

Members of the Body of Christ, will you encourage *these Pastoral Visitors and Class Leaders* in their ministry and support *them* with your prayers?

With God's help, we will.

- 5 *The minister gives the hand of fellowship to each Pastoral Visitor and Class Leader.*
- 6 *The minister may give to the Pastoral Visitors and Class Leaders the tickets of membership for those in their care.*
- 7 *The service continues.*

THE ANNUAL COMMISSIONING OF WORKERS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

Work with children and young people has long been valued and emphasized in the Methodist Church. Some people are trained and commissioned to devote particular attention to this work. This service may be used when new Workers with Children and Young People are commissioned, but it is primarily intended as an Annual Commissioning Service for all such Workers within a local church.

NOTES

- 1 *The Annual Commissioning of Workers with Children and Young People* should normally take place after the sermon during a celebration of *Holy Communion*.
- 2 It is desirable that the children and young people of the church should be present.

1 This or some other prayer:

From our earliest days, O God,
you call us by name.
Make our ears attentive to your voice
and our spirits eager to respond,
that, having heard your word in Jesus,
we may draw others to be his disciples.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PREFACE

2 The minister says:

Today we commission *those* who *offer themselves* for service as *Workers* with Children and Young People in the Methodist Church.

We are the Body of Christ:

each of us is a member of it.

There is one ministry of Christ:

in this ministry we all share.

There are different ways of serving God:

it is the same Lord whom we serve.

When children are baptized, we promise so to maintain the Church's life of worship and service that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Christian nurture of children and young people is thus the responsibility of the whole Church. In order that this ministry may be fulfilled, the Methodist Church appoints Workers with Children and Young People.

It is their privilege and responsibility, in the name of Christ:

to pray regularly for those in their care;

to offer, by word and deed, a Christian example;

and to guide them in their journey of faith.

In all these things, they will seek for themselves and for those in their care a deepening experience of God's grace in Christ.

Without God's help no one can exercise this ministry; but the Holy Spirit has been given to us, and is our Helper and Counsellor.

THE COMMISSIONING

- 3 *Those to be commissioned move to the front of the church as their names are read. They may be led from their places by a child or young person. The minister then says:*

Sisters and brothers, do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to work with children and young people?

Answer: I do so believe.

Will you be diligent in preparation and continue to equip yourself for this ministry?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

- 4 *A child or young person, or the minister, says:*

Let us pray.

Loving God, we thank you for *those* who *have* responded to your call. We pray that your Holy Spirit may inspire *them* as *they undertake* this ministry in your name.

By *their* encouragement and example, may *they* enable others to discover new life in Christ. Amen.

- 5 *The people stand. The minister says to them:*

Members of the Body of Christ, will you encourage in *their* ministry *these* Workers with Children and Young People, and support *them* with your prayers?

With God's help, we will.

- 6 *The minister gives the hand of fellowship to each Worker with Children and Young People.*

- 7 *The service continues.*

THE COMMISSIONING OF WORSHIP LEADERS

INTRODUCTION

Worship Leaders are persons appointed, according to the provisions of Standing Orders, to take a leading and significant role in the conduct of worship in a local church. The service which follows is primarily intended as a commissioning service for newly-accredited Worship Leaders, though it may be adapted for use as an annual commissioning service for all Worship Leaders within a local church.

NOTE

The Commissioning of Worship Leaders should normally take place after the sermon during a celebration of *Holy Communion*.

1 This or some other prayer:

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PREFACE

2 The minister says:

Today we commission *those who offer themselves* for service as *Worship Leaders* in the Methodist Church.

We are the Body of Christ:

each of us is a member of it.

There is one ministry of Christ:

in this ministry we all share.

There are different ways of serving God:

it is the same Lord whom we serve.

Those who offer themselves for service as Worship Leaders within the Methodist Church are trained and tested before they are commissioned. *N and N (N)* have completed a course of training and the Church Council, having consulted the Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting, has appointed *them* as *Worship Leaders*. We are now to commission *them* for this task.

THE COMMISSIONING

- 3 *Those to be commissioned move to the front of the church as their names are read. The minister then says:*

N and N (N), do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to serve as *Worship Leaders*?

Answer: I do so believe.

Will you be diligent in preparation and continue to equip yourself for this ministry?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

In your daily life and in your leadership of worship, will you seek to promote, not your own glory, but the glory of the Lord?

Answer: With God's help, I will.

The minister says:

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God,
for those whom you have called
to lead your people in worship.
Guide and inspire them by your Holy Spirit
that they may fulfil this ministry
to the honour and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 The people stand. The minister says to them:

Members of the Body of Christ, will you encourage *these*
Worship Leaders in *their* ministry and support them with
your prayers?

With God's help, we will.

5 The minister gives the hand of fellowship to each Worship Leader.

6 The service continues.

THE RECEPTION OF CHRISTIANS OF OTHER COMMUNIONS INTO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES

- 1 This service is for the reception into the membership of the Methodist Church of baptized persons who have been confirmed and/or been members of other Christian communions.
- 2 The reception should take place during a celebration of **Holy Communion**.
- 3 If the reception takes place during a celebration of Holy Communion other than one which includes Baptism and/or Confirmation and Reception into Membership, it should immediately precede the prayers of intercession.
- 4 If the reception takes place during a service of **Baptism** and/or **Confirmation and Reception into Membership**, it should immediately follow the Promise of the People.

-
- 1 *Those who are to be received into the membership of the Methodist Church stand. The minister says to them:*

N and N (N), you have been members of other communions within the Church of Christ. Do you now wish to be members of the Methodist Church?

Answer: I do.

- 2 *The minister says to them:*

N and N (N), we receive and welcome you as members of the Methodist Church and of the church in this place.

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May the Lord bless you with his grace
and fill you with his peace. **Amen.**

3 The minister and a representative of the local church extend the hand of fellowship to those who have been welcomed.

4 The following questions may be asked:

N and N (N), I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace by making these promises.

Do you commit yourself with us to the Christian life of worship and service, and to be open to the renewing power of God?

Answer: I do.

Will you continue to seek the strength of God's Spirit as you follow Jesus Christ in your daily life?

Answer: With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the Good News of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

Answer: With God's help I will.

5 The people stand. The minister says to them:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice to welcome these our sisters and brothers.

Will you maintain the Church's life of worship and service and build each other up in love as we follow Christ our Lord?

With God's help we will.

6 The service continues.

THE WELCOME OF MINISTERS, DEACONS AND PROBATIONERS

INTRODUCTION

Methodist ministers (presbyters), deacons and probationers are stationed by the Conference to circuits and other appointments. For this reason, this service is regarded as a service of welcome, rather than one of induction.

NOTES

- 1 The presiding minister may invite other people, including representatives of ecumenical partners, to read readings, preach the sermon and lead the prayers of intercession.
- 2 The first form of the Presentation, Promises and Welcome should be used for presbyters and probationers for presbyteral ministry; the second form should be used for deacons and probationers for diaconal ministry.
- 3 If a minister already stationed in the circuit has now been appointed by the Conference as the Superintendent, the form of Welcome set out in the Appendix on pages 365-366 may be used at the beginning of the Presentation, Promises and Welcome.
- 4 If a Lay Worker is to be commissioned during a Welcome Service, nos. 10 and 11 of *The Commissioning of Lay Workers* are inserted immediately before no. 18 of the Welcome Service.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- 1 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
- 2 Hymn

- 3 Let us pray.
- God of truth,
you are worthy of higher praise than we can offer,
and of purer worship than we can imagine.
By your Holy Spirit,
assist us in our prayers
and draw us to yourself,
so that what is lacking
in our thoughts and actions
and in our words and music,
may be supplied by your overflowing love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence

- 4 Gracious God,
when we do not listen for your word in the words of others,
forgive and renew us.
- When we do not use the gifts you have bestowed on us,
forgive and renew us.
- When we do not love one another as sisters and brothers in
Christ,
forgive and renew us.
- When we do not serve our neighbours in their need,
forgive and renew us.
- When we do not share the Good News with those around us,
forgive and renew us.

Silence

God calls us to serve,
forgives us in Christ,
and renews us by the Spirit.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

- 5 God of all grace,
you call your Church to be a holy people
to the praise of your name.
In the power of your Spirit,
fill our hearts with your love
and our lives with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 6 Hymn

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 7 The Old Testament reading for the day, or Isaiah 61:1-3, or one of the following:

Isaiah 42:1-9
Isaiah 52:7-10
- 8 A Psalm or portion of a Psalm may be said or sung.
- 9 The Epistle for the day, or Ephesians 4:1-16, or one of the following:

Acts 2:42-47
Romans 12:1-13
2 Corinthians 4:1-6
Philippians 2:1-11
- 10 Hymn
- 11 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .
Hear the Gospel of Christ.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel for the day is read, or John 13:12-20, or one of the following:

Matthew 10:24-42
Luke 4:16-21
John 21:15-19

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

12 Sermon

THE PRESENTATION, PROMISES AND WELCOME

Nos. 13 and 14 (and, when appropriate, no. 15) are used for presbyters.

Nos. 13 and 14 are used for probationers for presbyteral ministry.

Nos. 16 and 17 are used for deacons or probationers for diaconal ministry.

FOR PRESBYTERS AND PROBATIONERS FOR PRESBYTERAL MINISTRY

13 All stand.

The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, whom the Conference has appointed to serve in this Circuit.

14 The presiding minister says to the newly-appointed presbyter or probationer for presbyteral ministry:

N,
will you hold before us
the story of God's love and mercy,
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you be among us
as one who preaches the word of God,
administers Baptism,
*presides at the Lord's Supper,
teaches the faith,
and cares for the flock?

Answer: I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.

Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

(* This line is omitted for a probationer unless the Conference has granted an Authorisation to preside at the Lord's Supper. When necessary, this question is put separately to such a probationer.)

Will you hold before us
God's call to holy living
and be among us
as one who awakens the careless
and strengthens the faithful?

Answer: I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

**May we reveal Christ's way
through our words and example.**

Will you hold before us
God's commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods
and all who live within them,
and to the world that God has made?

Answer: I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

- 15 **If a newly-appointed presbyter is the new Superintendent, the
presiding minister says to her/him:**

N, to you is committed the responsibility
for the life and work of this Circuit.
Will you, with your colleagues, lay and ordained,
care for its people,
inspire its witness
and watch over its life in the name of Christ?

The new Superintendent replies:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

FOR DEACONS AND PROBATIONERS FOR DIACONAL MINISTRY

16 All stand.

The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, whom the Conference has appointed to serve in this Circuit.

17 The presiding minister says to the newly-appointed *deacon* or *probationer* for diaconal ministry:

N,
will you hold before us
the story of God's love and mercy,
above all, the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you be among us
as one who makes known the Good News,
by deeds of loving service?

Answer: I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the Gospel of life and hope.

Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

Will you hold before us
God's call to serve the needs of others
and be among us
as one who ministers Christ's love and compassion?

Answer: I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

May we reveal Christ's way through our words and example.

Will you hold before us
God's commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods
and all who live within them,
and to the world that God has made?

Answer: I will.
I ask God to help me,
and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing God's all-embracing love.

May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

18 A Circuit Steward says to the people:

Sisters and brothers,
will you welcome *N*
and will you offer *her/him*
your friendship, support and prayers
as we join together in the work
to which God has called us?

With God's help, we will.

19 Welcomes may then be given by circuit and ecumenical representatives, civic leaders, and other appropriate persons.

Each newly-appointed presbyter, deacon or probationer may reply briefly in her/his own words and/or as follows:

I thank you for your welcome.
I will work with you and pray for you.

20 Hymn

21 These or some other prayers of intercession:

Let us pray.

In faith we pray to God,
who is more ready to hear than we are to ask.

ADMISSION, COMMISSIONING AND WELCOME

Let us pray for the whole Church of God,
that, rejoicing in our richness and variety,
we may seek peace and unity
and be constantly renewed for mission and service.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray for the churches of our Circuit and District
and for other churches in this area,
that, rejoicing in our common heritage,
we may strengthen each other and be built up in love.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray for the life of the world,
that, rejoicing in our common humanity,
we may reject the ways of war and conflict
and work together for justice and peace.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Let us rejoice in the communion of saints,
that, strengthened by their faithful example,
we may follow the way of Christ
and live to God's praise and glory.

Silence

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Give us wisdom, Lord, to know your will,
and courage to do it.

May our words declare your love
and may our compassion give substance to our words;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

22 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily
bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**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
trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

23 The Peace

All stand.

We are the Body of Christ.

In the one Spirit

we were all baptized into one body.

**Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

- 24 When the Lord's Supper follows, the service continues from the Preparation of the Gifts. Any appropriate order may be used, but that for ***The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the Life of the Church*** (page 174) is especially suitable.

If the Lord's Supper is not celebrated, the service concludes as follows:

- 25 Offering and prayer of dedication

- 26 This or some other prayer of thanksgiving:

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
we thank you that in every generation
you reveal your love for the world,
and set before your people
your word of life and hope.

We thank you for Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom you have made known
your way of perfect love,
and in whose dying and rising
we see your final purpose.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit,
who leads your people into all truth;
for the service and witness of your Church;
and for the preaching of the word
and the celebration of the sacraments,
through which you renew and strengthen us.

**All honour and glory be yours,
in the Church and in the world,
in time and in eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

27 Hymn

28 The presiding minister says:

May the God of love
stir up in us the gifts of his grace
and sustain each of us
in our discipleship and service;
and the blessing of God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with *you/us* for ever. **Amen.**

APPENDIX

The Welcome of a Minister already stationed in a Circuit and now appointed as the Superintendent

1 The presiding minister says to the people:

Sisters and brothers, I present to you *N*, who serves as a minister in this Circuit. The Circuit Meeting has shown its confidence in *her/his* ministry by inviting *her/him* to serve as Superintendent, and the Conference has so appointed *her/him*.

2 The presiding minister says to the new Superintendent:

N, to you is committed the responsibility
for the life and work of this Circuit.
Will you, with your colleagues, lay and ordained,
care for its people,
inspire its witness
and watch over its life in the name of Christ?

The new Superintendent replies:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

The people say to the new Superintendent:

**We receive you as our Superintendent.
We pray that God's blessing will rest upon you. Amen.**