

Sample service based on the Guild aim

Omit or include the rededication section as required
All-age talk suggestion included

Welcome and Intimations

Call to Worship

The Psalmist wrote,

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care”. (Psalm 95: 6-7)

Hymn suggestions

- Come, now is the time to worship CH4 196, MP 1040
- Here to the house of God we come CH4 195
- Jesus calls us here to meet him (Omit v4) CH4 510

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer,
as we stand in awe of your creativity, love and faithfulness,
we sing your praise and offer you our worship.

Lord Jesus Christ, God with us,
who lived and died for us,
and rose again in glory,
we sing your praise and offer you our worship.

Holy Spirit, who enables and encourages
and prompts us every day,
we sing your praise and offer you our worship.

Creator, Son and Spirit,
you have called us together, your people meeting in this place.
Forgive the times when we have fallen short of the mark;
not loving others as we should,
not making time to care as much we could,
not using the gifts that you have given us.
Forgive us, we pray... (silence for 30 seconds)

If we say 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. (1 John 1: 8f)

Almighty God,
We commit ourselves to you and to the work of the Guild.
May we be dependable, loyal followers,
faithful to you in every part of our lives.
We pray in Jesus' name and for his sake.

And we say the Lord's Prayer together...

All-age talk: Key ingredients

Intention:

To encourage us to think about what key things we need to do as followers of Jesus

Equipment:

- Ingredients to make a fruit cake, leek and potato soup and flapjacks
- A Bible, cross, bread and wine, loose change, pair of knitting needles, small tool box

Preparation:

- EITHER put the two sets of equipment in two separate bags
- OR place on separate tables and cover each over with a cloth

The Talk:

1. Empty the bag of food/remove cloth and show what you have
2. Explain that you want to make three different meals
 - a. Fruit cake
 - b. Leek and potato soup
 - c. Flapjacks
3. Ask for help to organise the **key ingredients** into 'sets' for each recipe... can do it 'straight' or have a bit of fun, especially if there are children present!
4. Take other bag and empty it/remove cloth from table and show what you have this time
5. Explain that here you have some of the **key ingredients** we need as followers of Jesus

And explain further what each item represents:

- Bible = our manual for living
- The empty cross = the symbol of Christ's resurrection
- Bread and wine = Sacrament of Communion, but also the times we share food together in fellowship, times of hospitality etc.
- Loose change, knitting needles, toolbox = symbolize the gifts that God gives us which are to be shared with others

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you and praise you that we can grow together in faith and share your love with others. Help us to remember the key ingredients that we need to include in our lives each day, so that we can truly say we are your disciples. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Bible Reading

(The NIVUK translation has been used, but this can be changed)

Acts 2: 42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hymn suggestions

- Take my life, Lord, let it be
- Brother, sister, let me serve you

CH4 502, MP 624
CH4 694

Reflection

Key ingredients

How many recipe books do you have at home? Some people have hundreds and read them pretty much like novels. Others have just a few, but they are all well-used and the favourite recipes are covered in greasy marks. Some people like to invent their own recipes, making things up as they go, waiting to see what the end result tastes like.

In some families, recipes are passed down through the generations and are committed to memory, but there are always **key ingredients** that have to be included if you want the best results!

(PAUSE)

Key ingredients: These are what Luke is talking about at the end of Acts, chapter 2.

The disciples were literally full of the Holy Spirit after their Pentecost experience... and there were new people joining them all the time.

Can **you** imagine being so full to overflowing with the Spirit, so full of energy and enthusiasm?

How wonderful to feel like that – but how do you keep it up?

Remember how the light faded from Moses when he came back down the mountain after his experience of being in the presence of God?

Luke explains what is needed to manage just that, some **key ingredients** if you like:

- The people spent time together, devoting their time to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship
- They shared everything they had, sold their possessions, and gave from their own resources to the poor
- They broke bread together and, as they did, they praised God

And the result?

“Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved”

(PAUSE)

Listen to some other texts:

John 4, verse 24 - God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

1 Thessalonians 5, verses 16 and 17 - Rejoice always, pray without ceasing...

1 John 3, verse 18 - Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

- Worship
- Prayer
- Action

These texts keep us focussed on the things that really matter. They are **our** key ingredients. They are what we aim for.

We meet in different places and at different times. We worship in different ways. We pray for ourselves, our communities, our projects and the needs of the world. And then we are moved to action, all kinds of activities to reach out, to support and encourage others.

May we be faithful to the task. Amen

.....
OMIT OR INCLUDE THIS SECTION AS REQUIRED

Guild Prayer of Dedication

(Invite members of the Guild to please stand as they are able and say the words of dedication together. These will need to be included in a printed order of service, on a screen or on a sheet of paper given to each member before the start of the service)

In faith,
we now dedicate ourselves,
through our worship, prayer and action,
to serve you faithfully,
to love you with all our heart,
all our soul and all our mind,
and to love one another
as your Son, Jesus Christ, has shown his love for us.

Renew us, refresh us,
as members of The Guild,
as we continue on our journey through life.
Guide our thinking and bless all that we do in your name,
whose we are and whom we serve,
and in whose name we pray. Amen

.....
Hymn suggestions

- I, the Lord of sea and sky CH4 251, MP857
- Make me a channel of your peace CH4 528, MP 456

Prayers of Thanksgiving, prayers for others

Triune God,
we thank you for making us in your image
and for our place in the world that you created.

We thank you for Jesus,
whose life and death and resurrection
demonstrates such love.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit
that filled the house that first Pentecost
and continues to fill our hearts today.

Living Lord,

we lay before you now our concerns for others.

We pray for all who are oppressed,
powerless or exploited today;
for those who are hungry or homeless;
for those who are discriminated against.

We pray for all who struggle today;
for those who cannot make ends meet financially;
for those who are ill;
for those who are lonely or afraid;
for those who whose lives have fallen apart.

In a moment of quiet, we offer our own prayers.... *(time for silent prayer)*

We pray for those in leadership
in this country and around the world,
that they would stand up for what is right and just.
Where there is corruption and greed,
may your love touch hearts and change lives.

And at this time, we remember especially the Guild and affiliated groups,
the projects they support at home and abroad.
Guide and inspire all who plan for the future,
and encourage those who deal with the day-to-day tasks
which make it all possible.

Faithful God,
we pray as part of our calling
to a common life of worship, prayer and action,
and we offer all in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Offering with prayer

(You may include this at a different point in the service, according to your custom)

Loving God, who freely gives to all who ask, accept these gifts of money and bless them,
that they might be used to further your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Hymn suggestions

- When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey) MP 760
- For my sake and the gospel's, go CH4 248

Benediction

We go now, to live and work to God's praise and glory.
We have been set free to love and serve one another –
let us do so with joy, knowing that we do God's will.

Either:

And we share the Grace, one with another:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all now and for ever. Amen

Or: Sing the Guild Blessing