

UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH BULLETIN

Each Sunday you are given a church bulletin. The bulletin is called the Order of Worship and tells you what is going to happen in the service of Worship. In the order of Worship we practice the skills of being a Christian. Each part of the Order is designed to teach you one of these skills. The following questions and answers will test your knowledge of what each section of the Order of Worship is about.

1. What is the Order of Worship?

Ans: A guide to practicing the skills of being a Christian.

2. How did we get the Order of Worship?

Ans: It was created by the early Christians using as a model the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-15). The Lord's Prayer was given to us by Jesus.

3. What is the opening statement in the Order of Worship?

Ans: The Solemn Declaration - This is a serious speech about God declaring that everything we do in worship is done in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit i.e. the three names for God.

4. What is the Prelude?

Ans: Music which helps prepare us for worship.

5. What are the hymns?

Ans: Songs of praise to almighty God.

6. What is the first part of the Order of Worship?

Ans: Praise to God. Remember that the Lord's Prayer opens with praise saying "Our Father who are in heaven, hallowed or holy be your name". In our Order, in using Psalm 122:1 we tell our worshipers that they come to worship of their own choice. In addition we declare that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them and has commissioned us with the message of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:19)

7. What comes next in the Order of Worship?

Ans: Confession. Using Jesus teaching from Matthew 22:34-40 we talk directly to God and ask his forgiveness for violations of the two greatest commandments; not loving him as we ought or our neighbors as ourselves.

8. How do we know our sins are forgiven?

Ans: The Assurance of Pardon reminds us each week that no one is in a position to condemn us except Jesus and that Jesus entered the world to rescue us from sin. The Good News of the Gospel is that "in Jesus Christ we are forgiven." Jesus does not count our sins against us.

9. What is the source of power for all Christians?

Ans: The Holy Spirit, God's presence. We connect with God's presence through the power of prayer. Each Sunday we have a General Prayer in which we pray for the Church, our Country, World Peace, Healing of the Sick, etc.

10. Why do we have Moments of Concern?

Ans: So people can be reminded of their obligations to the church and have information to carry out their ministry.

11. What is the offering?

Ans: A time of bringing our gifts to Almighty God in praise of him and for the support of the work of his people - the church.

12. What is the Doxology?

Ans: A song of praise and thanksgiving which recognizes that all our gifts come from God and so as his children we give back to him a portion in appreciation for his love. The doxology is found on page #551 in our hymnals. Please recite the doxology.

13. Why do we read the Bible each Sunday?

Ans: The Bible is our rule of faith and practice and is our authority for everything we teach. Christians from the earliest times have always read the scripture in their worship. Our Jewish forbears read the Old Testament. We read both the Old and New Testament. Jesus' first sermon was from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Luke 4:18-19). In our church we stand for the reading of the Gospel. We sing "Glory Be to Thee of God" called in Latin the "Gloria Tibi" and following the reading "Praise be to Thee of Christ" called in Latin the "Laus Tibi". Note everything we do in worship is taught in the Bible.

14. Why do we have a sermons?

Ans: From the earliest times, Christians had preachers to explain or teach from the Bible - God's Word. Each Sunday we hear the scripture and have a sermon so we can more clearly understand its meaning. Peter gave one of the first sermons in the Book of Acts 2:14-21)

15. What is the Creed?

Ans: A summary of our faith. Each Sunday we stand and say what we believe. The first creed of the Church was "Jesus is Lord".

16. What is the Pastoral Prayer?

Ans: A closing prayer for the Order of Worship. It is given by the Pastor and helps us to remember those who have died and made the transition to eternal life.

17. What is the Lord's Prayer?

Ans: The prayer our Lord Jesus taught us. The model for all prayer. It is the closing prayer in our church and reminds us

that everything we have done is modeled after the Lord's Prayer - and so we fulfill the teachings of Jesus.

18. What is the Benediction?

Ans: The final prayer in the order of worship. The benediction comes from Latin meaning "to wish us well".

19. What does the word AMEN mean?

Ans: May it be so.

20: What is the Recessional Hymn?

Ans: Music of praise to send us home singing.

21: What is the Postlude?

Ans: Music to prepare us for our return home after the service of worship.

22: When do you stand up in the service?

Ans: Whenever you see an * in the order of worship or instructions to the congregation to stand or to be seated.