

BLACKWOOD UNITING A Guide for Leaders of Worship

The Role of the Worship Leader

Thank you for being available and willing to give your time for this task. Leading worship is a significant ministry function; it should be more than filling a gap on a roster.

You are invited to fulfill this role at the level you are able to [given time available and your level of comfort in the task].

That might be:

- a) shaping the worship yourself,
- b) choosing prayers from the resources provided or your own 'finding', or
- c) in the role of reader of what others (eg the preacher) have prepared.

**** Please make contact early with Phil (or whoever is preacher for the day) to establish expectations and who will get together which aspects of the worship.**

Steps to Preparing the Order of Service

1. Begin with the readings of the day: ['the Lectionary']
(This will normally be our beginning point, unless the worship is a special occasion and/or has its own theme).
2. Establish a direction/focus for the worship: Phil Hoffmann is developing themes for services several weeks in advance and aims to keep them published on the Blackwood website - see "Looking Ahead" under "Worship Leading Resources" under 'Downloads' link.
3. Chose worship resources/prayers [according to the Outline below]

The Resources available include:

- *"Spill the Beans"*, the work of a group of Scottish Presbyterians.
 - *"Seasons of the Spirit"* material which includes prayers, suggestions for children's time, [Blackwood Uniting subscribes to each of there and receives it electronically by the church seasons. We can therefore provide these resources for the Sunday you are rostered].
 - However, you are not obliged to use these resources. Please feel free to source (or write) your own.
 - You can find additional resources on the Internet at www.textweek.com which has links to several worship resources. Particularly helpful are the links,
 - "Resources based on the Common Lectionary" by Bruce Prewer"
 - And other Uniting Church sites [check www.sa.org.au]
4. Think about any 'features' or specific activities that the worship will involve, for example, time with children, moments for quiet reflection, responsive activities. Be encouraged to use the community as our major resource – involve others. For example, Readings can be interactive or use more than one voice and songs can be used as prayer.

- Often it IS good to link with the Word in some kind of Response ... be it a prayer that does come after the 'Word' and draw upon its message, or an act of coming forward, lighting a candle, or simply a time to reflect individually.

[NOTE: As Worship Leader you are not expected to choose music. Leaders of the bands will do this. However, you may liaise with the musician/music group of the day, either Pat Collette [NIV] or Ros Miller [Joyful Noise] if you have suggestions for particular songs. Also the web-site "Together to Celebrate" make suggestions to accord with the Readings.'

Order of Worship

In the sample order of service below, the asterisk indicates those parts of worship that Worship Leaders could take responsibility for. It will change from service to service and it's often a good thing to vary the order; for example, a prayer of confession might fit to follow the Word (the address).

Not every worship will need to include all of the following, nor in this order. This is offered only as a guide.

Feel welcomed to experiment with this beginning.

Prelude [Band plays]

- * **Lighting the Candle** [doesn't need explanation every week]
- * **Call to worship**
- * **Opening Prayer / Prayer of Adoration / Praise**
- Song**
- * **Time for Children** [Normally if included Phil/Cogs or preacher will lead, but if you have an 'inspiration', feel welcomed to offer]
- * **Psalm or Paraphrase of a psalm or Affirmation of faith or Contemporary reading**
- * **Readings from Scripture**
- Song**
- Address**
- * **Response/ Reflection**
- Song**
- Offering and Offertory prayer**
- * **Prayers for others**
- [First Sunday] Holy Communion**
- The Lord's Prayer** [should generally be said]
- * **Community Time**
- Song**
- Benediction/Blessing**
- (sometimes) * **Pass the peace**

Timelines

In order to prepare...

- Two weeks ahead:
 - Read the readings set down for the week of your leading and begin to gather resources

- Speak to Phil/ other preacher about themes/ direction, 'gaps'
(i.e. parts of the service you would like me to take) and any particular ideas you have to include in the worship

During the week leading up to the Sunday you are leading:

- By Monday: Provide (draft) Order of service
- By Thursday: Provide final Order to those preparing the data on screen
[bucworship@gmail.com]

- Sometime: Liaise with the preacher to workout who will lead which aspects of the worship.