



Nassau Presbyterian Church



Home Communion Liturgy and Visitation Guide



Table of Contents

Extended Communion of the Church	2
Preliminaries	3
Prayer Before Entering the Home	3
Arrival: Welcome & Hospitality	4
Communion: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	5
A Service for Wholeness & Healing	12
Selected Scripture	18
Selected Prayers	25
Notes: More about serving through the Extended Communion of the Church	34

Liturgy adapted from The Book of Common Worship. Prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

Extended Communion of the Church

The order of worship suggested here is provided for the use of elders and deacons who take Communion to the homebound immediately after the community's worship. Modeled on the Service for the Lord's Day, the order is brief but maintains the vital link between the Word and the Sacrament. Because the Lord's Supper is a celebration for the whole church, this order allows those who are unable to attend worship to be included in the worship of the whole church. This service may be used with individuals and with groups.

Particular attention must be given to the physical condition of each communicant as well as to age and level of comprehension. Team members should be alert for signs of fatigue, discomfort, or inability to swallow and should adapt the service accordingly.

Deacons and Elders will serve in pairs and those who memorize the benediction blessing will be able to deliver these significant words with authenticity and confidence.

Preliminaries

- Confirm your visit with visitee
- Check that your home communion kit includes grape juice, cups, bread/wafers, booklets

If you include a Service of Wholeness & Healing, oil can be added to the vial within the communion kit

Divide the liturgy into parts and decide who will lead which sections

Prayer Before Entering the Home

Loving God, as you sent the angel to minister to Elijah with the bread of heaven. Send us out in this ministry of love and grace. Strengthen and nourish all who celebrate this sacrament that through our communion in the body and blood of Christ, we all may know the comfort of your eternal presence. Amen.

Arrival

Welcome

- Offer a warm welcome
- Assess the home or facility room. Survey the space. Who is present?
- Assess the person. How is their energy, vision, hearing?
- Spend some time visiting.

Hospitality

- Extend an invitation to the table to anyone within earshot: healthcare workers, roommates, nurses, family, friends, etc.
- Share parts of the service with others. A Scripture reading, for example, would be a wonderful thing to share with either the visitee or another participant.

Communion: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

When all are ready for Communion, the communion kits are opened, and the elements are prepared. Juice is poured into the cups and the wafer bread is set out. This can be done on a hospital tray, a bedside table, a coffee table. Elders and Deacons may invite others present to join in this service.

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

When our congregation last gathered for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, we heard again the story of God's powerful acts of love, embodied in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading

Read a passage from scripture from your own bible or from the back of this booklet pages 18-24. You can ask for the visitee's favorite passage.

Interpreting the Word

[Optional] Conversationally, your team may offer reflections about the scripture just read. As a way to highlight a part of the message, say what's significant to you and spend a few moments talking the scriptures' meaning. Anyone is welcome to offer their thoughts.

Prayer: Thanksgiving & Intercession

You are welcome to use this prayer, your own prayer, or any of the shorter prayers in the back of the booklet pages 25-33. When including prayers of thanksgiving and intersession, you can prompt others to share concerns midway through

prayer or you can ask for prayers requests prior to praying. Then weave them into the prayer This may work well for visitees with memory or cognition issues as it gives the concerns a little more time to collect their thoughts.

God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn—bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you for:

the mission and ministry of the church . . .
every service that proclaims your love . . .
the people and relationships that sustain us . . .
our calling to daily discipleship
signs of new life and hope . . .

Individual prayers of <u>thanksgiving</u> may be invited or added.

God of love, renew this weary world, heal our hurts, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray for:

the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . . the stewardship and healing of creation . . . friends and family members .

neighbors in special need . . . the wisdom of your Spirit for this day . . .

Individual prayers of <u>intercession</u> may be invited or added. There may also be silent prayer.

God of eternity, you are our beginning and our end, you are our haven. You accompany us on each day's journey.

We pray with the confidence of God's children. Let us pray the prayer our Savior taught us; praying in the language closest to our hearts, praying,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion: The Invitation

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread, and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

For this is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

[Break bread/wafer]

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

[Lift cup]

We are also given assurance of the Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We bring you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that we may all be strengthened through communion in the body of Christ.

PASS THE BREAD and say: "The body of Christ, given for you. **or** "The bread of heaven".

PASS THE CUP and say: "The blood of Christ shed for you". **or** The cup of salvation".

Closing Prayer

Amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives and set a holy table among us, filling our plates with the bread of life and our cups with salvation.

Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness to touch an ordinary everyday world with the extravagant promise of your holiness. Amen.

Blessing

Now receive this blessing:

Optional: hold hands with the person you are visiting or place your hand on their shoulder.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

A Service for Wholeness & Healing

This service is for use in a hospital, home, or care facility with individuals who are unable to participate in a corporate service of wholeness and is ideal for someone who wants a service of blessing when you are unable to offer communion.

The order of worship is brief and simply textured, consisting of scripture and prayer. Depending on

circumstances, it may also include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This order may be adapted for times of grief or hardship; prayers for various occasions are found on at the back of this booklet.

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Prayer

Let us pray: God of compassion, you have given us Jesus Christ, the great physician. He made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore us to the wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

An appropriate passage from scripture may be read and briefly interpreted or discussed. See pages 18-24 for a list of selected scripture readings. You could also ask the person you are visiting for their favorite passage.

Laying on of Hands

[and Anointing with Oil]

Gently place your hand on the person's shoulder, back, or hands and offer these words:

Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ you heal the sick and mend the broken. By your Spirit, come to NAME on whom we lay hands, that they may know your healing touch and be made whole, to the glory of Jesus Christ our redeemer...

• *General*: NAME, may God preserve you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Healing: NAME, may the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you and be for you the Lord of compassion and care. Amen.
- Forgiveness/Suffering: NAME, may the God of all mercy release you from suffering, offer you tenderness, and restore you to wholeness. Amen.

If anointing is included, the pastor, elder or deacon dips a thumb in the oil vial and makes the sign of the cross on the person's forehead, adding these words:

> I anoint you with oil, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

or

As you are anointed with this oil, so may God grant you the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

Select one of the prayers below, pray your own prayer, or choose from the options from the back of this booklet pages 25-33.

General: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O
Lord our God, ruler of all creation.
We praise you for the abundance of your
blessings.

To those who ask, you give love; to those who seek, you give faith; to those who knock, you open the way of hope.

Help us to serve you in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

 Healing/Suffering: Let us pray. Merciful God, you rise with healing in your wings, to scatter all that keeps us from your Spirit of peace.

As we wait in hope for the coming of that day when crying and pain shall be no more, help us by your Holy Spirit, to receive your power into our lives and to trust in your eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**If the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated, the service proceeds with the Invitation to the Lord's Table found on page 9.

Blessing

Now receive this benediction:

Optional: gently hold hands with the person you are visiting or place your hand on their shoulder.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Selected Scripture

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—

they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 139, part 1

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139, part 2

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Isaiah 40: 31

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 41: 10

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Matthew 11: 28

Come to me, all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Mark 10: 14

Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

John 6: 35

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 11: 25-26

I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will never die.

John 14: 1, 27

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.

Romans 8: 18

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 1: 4-5

God consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

1 Peter 1: 13

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Revelation 3: 20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

Selected Prayers

Themes: peace, reconciliation, striving Author: St. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Themes: invocation of the Holy Spirit
Author: St. Augustine
O Holy Spirit, love of God,
infuse your grace and descent plentifully into my
heart; enlighten the dark corners of this

Amen.

neglected dwelling, and scatter there your cheerful beams;

dwell in that soul that longs to be your temple, water that barren soil, over-run with weeds and briars, and lost for want of cultivating, and make it fruitful with your dew from heaven.

Oh come, Refreshment of them that languish and faint.

Come, Star and Guide of them that sail in the tempestuous seas of the world – You, only haven of the tossed and shipwrecked.

Come, Glory and Crown of the living, the only safeguard of the dying.

Come, Holy Spirit, in much mercy, and make me fit to receive you. Amen.

Themes: vocation, calling Author: Ignatius of Loyola

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me. Amen.

Themes: grief, death, loss Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Lord God, look kindly upon us in our sorrow as this life is taken from us, and gather our pain into your peace. Be with us in our grieving and overcome all our doubts. Awaken our gratitude for your gifts of love and tenderness, and grand us your wisdom. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lead, Kindly Light, our only hope in darkness. Heal the wounds of sorrow and renew our trust in your goodness. Enable us to be grateful for the ties the bind us to [NAME OF DECEASED]. Renew our strength each day to seek your will and lean upon your mercy. Keep us ever in the communion of saints and in the promise of life eternal, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Themes: death of a child, grief Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Loving God, you are nearest to us when we need you the most. In this hour of sorrow we turn to you, trusting in your loving mercy. We bless you for the gift of this child, for his/her/their baptism into the church, for the joy he/she/they gave all

who knew him/her/them, for the precious memories that will abide with us, and for the assurance that he/she/they lives forever in the joy and peace of your presence. Amen.

Theme: unexpected death, grief Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

God of compassion, comfort us with the great power of your love as we mourn the sudden death of NAME. In our grief and confusion, help us find peace in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children, and give us light to guide us into the assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Theme: suicide, grief Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Gracious God, when there is nothing we can say, we give you thanks that your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Loving God, when there is nothing we can do, we give you thanks that you are working for good in this world of struggle and pain.

Holy God, when there is nothing else we know, still we give thanks that nothing in life or death,

nothing in heaven or on earth, nothing in this world or the world to come will ever separate us from your great love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Themes: healing, sickness Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed (especially NAME). Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Theme: chronic illness Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Oh God, your compassion is unbounded, and your mercy is endless. You know what we need before we ask; you understand our anxieties and fears. Reassure NAME of your love that never ends.

When he/she/they feels troubles, calm his/her/their mind and renew hope within him/her/them. Help him/her/them rely upon your strength, trusting you to restore confidence in your never-failing grace. Grant wisdom and compassion to aides and physicians, nurses and technicians that attend him/her/them. Give his/her/their family and friends assurance of your presence and power through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Theme: health restored Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Almighty God, we rejoice that, by the power of your Spirit, you have given the gift of health and wholeness to your servant NAME. In thanksgiving we renew our commitment to you, so that health regained may provide opportunities for service in the helping and healing work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Themes: emotional distress, anxiety, depression Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Merciful God, you give us the grace that helps in time of need. Surround NAME with your steadfast love and lighten his/her/their burden. By the power of your spirit, free NAME from distress and give him/her/them a new mind and heart made whole in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

Themes: emotional distress, loneliness, anxiety, depression

Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

God of life, deliver your servant NAME from distress and loneliness. By your Spirit give him/her/them peace and life him/her/ them from despair to claim the life you offer in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Themes: anxiety

Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ we have your promise of peace. Receive NAME who seeks your help. Assure him/her/them that you are near. Fill him/her/them with your Spirit, cast our his/her/their anxiety and fear, and help him/her/them to rely on the strength you provide, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Themes: aging, gratitude Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

God of grace and hope, we thank you for life, love, and good memories, for the gift of age, and for the wisdom that comes from experience. We bless you for your constant presence, for with you there is fullness of joy. Give us the courage and faith to accept life as it comes, confident that the future is yours and that we belong to you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Themes: memory loss, dementia Author: Book of Common Worship 2018 PC(USA)

God of compassion, you have borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Preserve your covenant of peace with your servant NAME in his/her/their distress. Although the pain of NAME's forgetfulness is great, we rejoice that you remember him/her/them always in your grace. Supply his/her/their every need according to the riches of your glory in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Theme: for caregivers
Author: Book of Common Worship 2018
PC(USA)

God, our refuge and strength, our present help in time of trouble, care for those who tend the needs of [NAME OF PATIENT]. Strengthen them in body and spirit. Refresh them when weary; console them when anxious; comfort them in grief; and hearten them in discouragement. Lord of peace, be with us all, and give us peace at all times and in every way. Amen.

Theme: the everyday, at the end of a normal visit

Author: Lottie MacAulay Friedman

Loving God, from the first created people, you made us to be in community with one another. Thank you for this time spent in fellowship together. I ask that your blessing be upon NAME as he/she/they go about the rest of their day. Surround NAME with your loving embrace—that he/she/they might know how truly beloved he/she/they is/are. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

Notes: More about serving through the Extended Communion of the Church

The 211th General Assembly (1999) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) confirmed the addition to the Book of Order of a section providing for the Extended Serving of the Church's Communion to members isolated from congregational worship. The new section reads:

The serving of the elements may be extended, by two or more ordained officers of the church, to those isolated from the community's worship, provided

- (1) The elements are served following worship on the same calendar day, or as soon as practically feasible, as a direct extension of the serving of the gathered congregation, to church members who have responded to the church's invitation to receive the Sacrament;
- (2) Care is taken in the serving to ensure that the unity of Word and Sacrament is maintained, by the reading of Scripture and the offering of prayers; and
- (3) Those serving have been instructed by the Session or authorizing governing body in the theological and pastoral foundations of this ministry and in the liturgical resources for it. (W-3.3616e)

The intent of this provision is twofold. It strengthens the pastoral care of the church to its elderly, disabled, and

homebound members by making it more feasible for them to participate regularly and frequently in the Lord's Supper. This provision also makes our celebration of the Lord's Supper a strong sign of the unity of the church by regularly including in the church's communion those who are unable to gather with the worshiping congregation.

In adopting W-3.3616e, the church has embraced opportunities for pastoral ministry to persons in a variety of isolating circumstances. This new provision has also opened an important arena for theological dialogue concerning the centrality and meaning of the Lord's Supper.

The Extended Serving provision both adds to and complements the existing practice of observing the Lord's Supper on "Special Occasions," specifically "in connection with the visitation of the sick and those isolated from public worship." The familiar practice or "a Special Observance of the Lord's Supper" (W-2.4010) allows a minister, along with at least one other church member to celebrate communion, apart from worship, with persons unable to come to church. The new provision for Extended Serving of the Communion of the Church (W-3.3616e) allows officers serving together to take the bread and cup directly from the worship service to church members who cannot be present in the sanctuary.

The following chart helps to clarify the distinctions between these two occasions.

Extended Serving:

- 1. Home communion extends the celebration of the gathered congregation.
- 2. The home visit directly follows the Service for the Lord's Day.
- 3. The Session sends elders and deacons *with or without* the pastor to members beyond the sanctuary.
- 4. The home communion visit consists of the reading of Scripture and offering the bread and cup with prayer.

Special Observances:

- 1. Home communion is a *separate celebration* of the Lord's Supper.
- 2. The home visit may be scheduled *at any convenient time*.
- 3. A Minister of the Word and Sacrament is *required* to preside.
- 4. The home communion visit consists of an abbreviated but complete celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Dear Deacons and Elders,
May this book serve to enrich and enliven your
ministry at Nassau Presbyterian Church.
Serving God's people through worship, scripture,
sacrament, and prayer is a gift and a grace. Know
that service matters deeply to the people you serve
and, most importantly, to God.

Peace be with you, Lottie MacAulay Friedman Lauren McFeaters Sarah Finbow



61 Nassau Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08542 609-924-0103 nassauchurch.org

