

DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY LAY MINISTERS' FORUM 2019

WORKSHOP

LEADING INTERCESSIONS/ PRAYERS IN PUBLIC WORSHIP



THREE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.

What am I doing?

2.

What is the congregation doing?

3.

What is God doing?

1. WHAT AM I DOING?

○ **Leading the congregation in THEIR prayers**

- Underlying principle - Prayers of the Church is never the prayer of an individual, but of the Church bringing the whole world before God

○ **Instructions**

- Give instructions before you start - page numbers & clear directions
- Versicles & Responses - announce it and use it

○ **Silence**

- Do not be afraid of silence in the prayers
- Time yourself if necessary - gives people space to pray their prayers

○ **Writing own prayers or reading set prayers**

- both are valid forms of prayer and can be equally effective
- The essential thing is to be praying

2. WHAT IS THE CONGREGATION DOING?

❖ Praying

- Intercessor is vital in ensuring congregational participation
- Smaller congregation - possible to invite people to pray
- Large church - problem of audibility

❖ Congregational Participation

- Invite people to pray
- Versicles & Responses
- Taize chants



directed & prepared

❖ Singing during intercession

- Can be very effective, but it needs preparation - musicians & choir
- Clear directions to the congregation

3. WHAT IS GOD DOING?

God the Father is listening

God the Son is interceding on our behalf

God the Holy Spirit is praying through us

THE INTERCESSIONS

☐ Instructions:

- Clear - books/ form/ songs/ versicles & responses
- disruptive to search for books or page numbers during the prayers

☐ Silence:

- spaces for congregation to be praying
- Comfortable with silence
- Starting out - time length of silences

☐ Some technical terms:

- Biddings - short sentences that indicate intentions/ petitions
- Prayers - intercessions directed to God
- Collect - short prayer - set structure: address - statement- petition - doxology

☐ Preparation:

- readings of the day - season - contact with preacher - newspaper/ tv etc.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

(Second Sunday after Pentecost)

Address - Statement - Petition - Doxology

God of all the nations
when race, class or gender divide us
convict us with your presence
and draw us all into the unity of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE SHAPE OF THE INTERCESSIONS

❖ Form A: Outline with space for interpolation

- Should use Introduction & the End (#29 & 37)
- Can omit any of the other sections
- Can interpolate with your own words

❖ Form B: Biddings followed by set prayer

- Biddings - short and to the point
- Then gathered up in set prayer - without interpolation - without other insertions

❖ Form C: Biddings followed by Litany

- Biddings - short and to the point
- Can omit any of the paragraphs
- Can invite members of the congregation to pray paragraphs - pray them all

❖ Form D: Free form of prayer

- Infinite number of possibilities - takes practice & experience
- Free flowing prayer - Invitation - Silence - Collect: can inhibit participation

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR:

Part 1.

- **Intercessions are a response to the Proclamation**

- Start with some reference to the Sermon
- Provide the link between specific theme and the wider prayers

- **The World**

- Bear the nations to God and God to the nations
- Have a focus rather than vague for everyone, everywhere

- **The Church**

- Wider than your parish, diocese or denomination
- Bishops: Diocesan & Metropolitan, also Anglican Communion
- Pastoral Team: Parish clergy, pastoral assistants, lay ministers

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

Part 2.

○ **The Local Community**

- Pray for local situations, schools and hospitals in our parish
- for the emergency services, police etc.
- For specific issues affecting our daily lives

○ **Those with particular needs**

- Lists on Pew leaflet are not there to be read week after week
- Silences give proper space for people
 - To pray their own prayers;
 - To bring before God their loved ones;
 - To remember those in their circle who mourn

○ **There must be an ending**

- This must be very clear
- needs at least a short sentence before the Amen.

A FEW THOUGHTS!

- ❖ Intercessor - deep prayer life - takes prayer seriously in own life
- ❖ Importance of the Rubrics
- ❖ Not your opportunity to preach another sermon
- ❖ Do not use intercessions to make political or theological points
- ❖ Do not use them to sum up every weekend news item
- ❖ You do not have to pray for every country where there is an ongoing crisis every Sunday
- ❖ Prayers are not for teaching or preaching but for bringing our needs before God
- ❖ Do not make them too long
- ❖ APB allows for considerable variety
- ❖ From time to time use all the forms and not just form A or Form B
- ❖ On occasion invite congregation to mention aloud names or issues that they would like prayed for
- ❖ Be open to receiving customary feedback

RESOURCES:

- An Anglican Prayer Book 1989
- Monthly Diocesan Prayer Diary
- York Prayers
- Praying at Home
- Bishop Geoff Quinlan: A Manual for Worship Leaders
- Bishop Geoff Quinlan: My Personal Prayer Book
- John Pritchard: The Intercessions Handbook
- David Adam: Prayers for the Church Year A, B & C
- Susan Sayers: Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship
- Nick Fawcett: 2000 Prayers for Public Worship
- The Worship Sourcebook
- Websites: Textweek etc.