

Concert of Prayer

Opening Prayer

In the darkness of the evening the eyes of my heart are awake to you.

In the quiet of the night I long to hear again intimations of your love.

In the sufferings of the world and the struggles of my life I seek your graces of healing.

At the heart of the brokenness around me and in the hidden depths of my own soul I seek your touch of healing, O God, for there you reside. In the hidden depths of life, O God, There you reside.

Opening and Closing Prayer from *Celtic Benediction:*

Morning and Night Prayer by J. Philip Newell (Eerdmans, 2000)

Introduction

In a concert of prayer, the Holy Spirit is the .conductor. of the music; scripture is the .music. we listen to; and prayer is the .instrument. we play in response to hearing the Word. Just as a musical composition has a variety of movements, so a prayer concert moves through a variety of modes of prayer as worshipers respond to the Word in silence, spoken prayer and song.

The overall flow of the concert is as follows:

1. After opening songs, a portion of scripture is read and a question is asked.
2. Instead of sharing a response to the question or to the text, worshipers wait in silence for a few moments and then begin praying their responses. These prayers may be offered audibly as short .popcorn prayers. so that as many or few who desire to pray can participate; silence is also appropriate.
3. After a period of prayer, the song leader leads a song that concludes the section and conducts the group to the next theme of prayer.
4. At the end, a space of silence is given for reflection and commitment. In two's or three's, participants speak to one another out of the silence.
5. The concert of prayer closes with a song.

This .Concert of Prayer. is adapted from a service led by Noel Santiago, OCL Minister of Witness and Peace, for an Office of Congregational Life staff meeting, September 19, 2002. Hymns are from *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Concert of Prayer

Call to Worship

Opening Hymns *Here in this place, Open my eyes that I may see*

Praying Together

Movement One: Psalm 122:1-2 (praise)

I was glad when they said to me, .Let us go to the house of the Lord!

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Question: What gladness fills our hearts? What brings joy?

Brief silence / Prayers of praise

Song *Praise, I will praise you, Lord*

Movement Two: Psalm 122:3-4 (thanksgiving and hope)

Jerusalem is built to be a city where the people are united.

All of the Lord's tribes go to that city because it is a law in Israel to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Question: For what do we give thanks in the church?

What hope for unity do we hold, especially for the church?

Brief silence / Prayers of thanksgiving and hope

Song *I love thy kingdom, Lord*

Movement Three: Psalm 122:5-7 (prayer for peace)

The court of justice sits [in Jerusalem]. It consists of those who are David's descendants.

May those who love you prosper. May there be peace inside your walls and prosperity within your palaces.

Question: What prayer for peace is moving in our hearts?

Brief silence / Prayers of peace

Song *O Healing River*

Movement Four: Psalm 122:8-9 (petition and intercession)

For the sake of my relatives and friends, let me say, may it go well for you!

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek what is good for you.

Question: What is our prayer on behalf of family, friends, sisters and brothers in the church?

Brief silence / Prayers of petition and intercession

Song *Lord, Listen to Your Children*

Movement Five: Silent Listening and Commitment

Question: What has God said to us? To what is God calling us?

Silent reflection

Speaking out of the silence in two's or three's

Closing song *Guide my feet*

Closing Prayer

May the grace of the night.s stillness be mine

May the grace of the moon.s guidance be mine

May the grace of heaven.s vastness be mine to renew my soul in sleep to enlighten my dreams in the night to open my spirit to eternity until the angels of light awaken me until the morning angels awaken me.

Concert of Prayer

3 min. **Welcome** (*Pastor or his designate*)

- Introduction of concert conductor (*appropriate church leader*)

5 min. **Cleaning the instruments** (*Conductor*)

- Explanation of Concert format and heart preparation for the time of prayer to follow. (Ps. 66:18)

10 min. **Celebration** (*Worship leader*)

- Songs of praise

5 min. **Formation of huddles** (*Conductor prompts congregation to form into groups of 3 or 4*)

- Prayers of thanksgiving
- Song: "Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul" (*or similar chorus*)

20 min. **Fullness in the Church**

- Introduction (*Pastor or church leader*)
- Huddles -pray for the church in our city
- pray for the church in our nation
- pray for our local church to have impact in this community
- Song (*appropriate chorus or hymn*)
- Individual prayers (*from congregation*)
- Pastoral prayer (*church leader*)

20 min. **Prayer for Nation**

- Introduction (church leader)
- Scripture reading: 1 Tim. 2:1-4 (*lay leader*)
- Huddles -pray for our government leaders
- pray for wisdom as they govern
- pray for the raising up of vital churches across our nation
- pray against the forces of destruction that work such devastation (i.e., drug addiction, prostitution, gambling, cults, paganism, false religions, etc.)
- pray for revival to sweep across our nation
- Song (*appropriate choice*)
- Individual prayers (*from congregation*)
- Pastoral prayer (*church leader*)
- Hymn or solo (*as appropriate*)
- Scripture: Matthew 6:10

Specifics: -pray for the binding of the evil one

- pray for workers for the harvest (Matt. 9:38)
- pray for open doors for the gospel (Col. 4: 2-3)
- pray for the financing of the harvest

20 min. **Prayer for our church**

- Prayer -for fruitfulness, for a harvest in the community through our ministry
- **specific requests**
- Song: (*appropriate chorus or hymn*)

3 min. **Dismissal** (pastor)

- Pastoral prayer
- Musical postlude

Concert of Prayer

Tonight we will pray through seven stages of prayer. In each case, we will maintain a particular prayer focus and will use the accompanying Scripture and song promptings to enhance our prayer times.

Stage one: REVERENCE

A season of worship, adoration, and praise.

Scripture Promptings:

I Chronicles 29:10-13; Psalm 34:1-3; Psalm 95:1-7; Psalm 100; John 4:24; Hebrews 13:5; Revelation 4:9-11; Revelation 5:8-14.

Song Promptings:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Be Exalted, O God
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Holy Ground
O Worship the King Bless the Lord

Stage two: REFLECTION

A season of soul searching and waiting on God in quiet communion with Him through His Word.

Scripture Promptings:

Psalm 46:10; Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8; Psalm 131; Psalm 130:5-6; Hebrews 4:12-13

Song Promptings:

Be Thou My Vision We Worship and Adore You
Take Time to Be Holy I Love You, Lord
Open Our Eyes, Lord We Will Glorify

Stage three: REPENTANCE

A season of acknowledgment and confession of sin.

Scripture Promptings:

Nehemiah 1:4-7; Psalm 19:12-14; Psalm 51:1-5; Psalm 66:18; Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 6:5; Isaiah 55:7; II Corinthians 7:11, I John 1:7-10

Song Promptings:

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind Holy Holy (chorus)
Jesus, I Come Just as I Am Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty
Cleanse Me He is Lord

Stage four: RESTORATION

A season of gratefully acknowledging the restoration of divine fellowship and pursuing the restoration of interpersonal fellowship.

Scripture Promptings:

2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 30:5; Psalm 32; Psalm 51:7-19; Mark 11:25; Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 4:26-27, 29-32; Colossians 3:13

Song Promptings:

More Love to Thee Behold What Manner of Love
My Jesus, I Love Thee Onward Christian Soldiers
The Bond of Love

Stage five: REQUESTS

A season of personal petition as well as intercession on behalf of other individuals and the church.

Scripture Promptings:

Matthew 7:7; Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 4:6-7

Song Promptings:

Sweet Hour of Prayer Glorify Thy Name
I Am Praying for You as the Deer
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Stage six: RENEWAL

A season of renewing personal commitments to spiritual growth, renewing the mind through the memorization of the Word, and renewing one's strength for the spiritual battle.

Scripture Promptings:

Psalm 51:10; Isaiah 40:31; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Ephesians 4:22-24; Ephesians 6: 10-18; Colossians 3:10

Song Promptings:

Take My Life and Let it Be In My Life (Be Glorified)
God of Grace and God of Glory Let Your Heart Be Broken
Break Thou the Bread of Life Shine Jesus Shine

Stage seven: REJOICING

A season of expressing our gratitude to God for His bountiful blessings and undeserved goodness.

Scripture Promptings:

1 Chronicles 16:7-36; Psalm 107:22; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Colossians 1:12; Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Song Promptings:

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart How Great Thou Art
Great Is Thy Faithfulness And Can it Be
To God Be the Glory All Hail King Jesus
All Hail the Power

Concert of Prayer

WORSHIP

"Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name."

Thanksgiving

Include specific items for thanksgiving

Adoration

Give thanks -choose appropriate songs

INTERCESSION

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

Outreach and ministry

Include specific requests.

Needs of the family

Include specific requests

MISSIONS UPDATE

Include specific requests

SUPPLICATION

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Fresh grace for each day!

CONFESSION

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

The price of peace is usually surrender; our weapons, our pride, our grievances, ourselves.

PROTECTION

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

VICTORY

"For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever."

Concert of Prayer

Each section should flow as follows:

- introduce the theme
- read the scripture passages
- share prayer requests
- sing
- divide into groups of 3-5 and pray for 5-7 minutes
(To signal the end of the prayer time, an instrument could play softly.)
- close the section

Preamble

There are three objects found in the scriptures that will be our points of focus this evening. Each designates a different dimension of prayer.

1. The Footstool

First, we have the footstool in this is the place of worship.

Scripture:

Ps. 99:5 *Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool.*

Ps. 132:7 *Let us go into His dwelling place, let us worship at His footstool.*

Prayer Requests:

During this time we will reverence God, and enter into a period of worship, adoration and praise. It is helpful if each person identifies something deep and personal from which he/she ascribes to God, praise and worship. We might also select qualities of His character to extol: His holiness, His loving kindness, His provision, His providence, etc.

Suggested songs:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

Be Exalted O God Among the Nations

This is Holy Ground/We are Standing on Holy Ground

2. The Throne

The throne symbolizes the place of petition and seeking God for our needs.

Scripture:

Heb. 4:14-16 Since then we have a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer Requests:

Realizing that we are invited to cast our cares upon Him, for He cares for us (I Peter 5:7), we bring to the Lord our concerns. A period of personal petition as well as intercession on behalf of individuals in the church will be our focus.

Suggested songs:

There is a Redeemer

I Cast All My Care Upon You (*in One Hundred Choruses #144*)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Our Great Saviour

3. The Altar

A period in which we will seek to personally commit ourselves to the pursuit of spiritual growth in surrendering our lives, and availing ourselves of the Holy Spirit's work within us and our churches, to strengthen the saved, reach the lost, and exalt and extol God.

Scripture:

Rom. 12:1-2 *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Prayer Requests:

Every sacrifice needs an altar, and we come at this point to surrender our lives to Him afresh.

Suggested songs:

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Purify My Heart

My Jesus I Love Thee

Closing

Eph. 3:20-21 *Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

As we have entered with worship, we want to leave with praise.

Suggested song:

And Can It Be

Closing Prayer