

A Dementia Friendly Communion Order of Service

This order of service has two options, one for churches where set liturgical patterns and worship texts are commonplace and one for more informal church services. This is a guide structure for a Dementia Friendly church service and can be used as a framework, mix or match or as a whole. Remember to try and stick to a single theme throughout the service and try to keep the service length to a maximum of 20 minutes long. Try to use the same basic framework for each service that you hold as this will bring continuity and familiarity to those attending.

Greeting

Service Leader welcomes everyone, says who they are and the reason for meeting today. Introduce the theme of communion

Service Leader:

May God our Father, Jesus His Son and
the Holy Spirit be with you

Or

An Informal greeting of blessing

All:

and also, with you

Service Leader: Let us sing together

Familiar Hymn (see our list of suggested hymns if you need inspiration). If there are familiar verses and a chorus just sing those. Remember some of those attending may not still be able to read and if you repeat a familiar first verse and chorus they will still be able to fully participate in the singing.

Confession and Absolution

Service Leader:

We come to a point in our service where we look to our loving God and Father and ask him to forgive us for all the things that we have done wrong. We admit these to our ever-loving God and Saviour knowing He will hear us and forgive us.

All:

Father God,
we have let you down and done
wrong before you.
We are sorry and turn from our sin.
Because of Your love displayed on the cross
please have mercy on us.
Take away all our sin and cleanse us.
Make us new in Your sight
and restore our joy in You,
through Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Or

An open spoken form of confession /
absolution

Service Leader:

Merciful Father take away and forgive us of
our sins. Restore us before You so
that we may praise Your Holy name
in close communion with You
Through Jesus our Lord

All Amen

Communion

Service Leader:

Jesus death and resurrection are central to our faith as He died for our sins. God yet fully man without fault going through the pain that we deserve for all that we have done wrong. In Jesus death and resurrection, we can come before Him daily knowing God our Father through the Holy Spirit. We remember this event today as we celebrate this communion service. The apostle Paul writes in

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it

At this point you can take the bread and break it

and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying,

At this point you can take the cup and hold it up

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Share the elements at this point – using appropriate words (e.g. the body of Christ/the blood of Christ)

Service Leader: or together

Thank you, Lord, for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus. Let us know the blessing of Your forgiveness and love of Your presence daily.

Amen

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Service Leader:

Lord Jesus remember us before Your Father and fill us with Your Holy Spirit.

All: Hear our prayer (optional)

Service Leader:

Shall we sing again

Familiar Hymn (see our list of suggested hymns if you need inspiration)

Service Leader:

We say together

All: We remember God the Father because He always remembers us, We remember Jesus because He cares for us, We remember the Holy Spirit because He is always there for us.

Amen

Final Blessing

Service Leader:

We close the service by saying together the words found at the end of 2 Corinthians

All: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen.

Service Leader:

Go in peace knowing the love of God