

THE WESLEY GUILD

An Order of Service for Guild Occasions

(Prepared by the Wesley Guild Executive)



This order of service is prepared as a flexible guide and gives various alternatives. Feel free to use material pertinent to your local situation.

As you plan your act of worship we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your preparations.

A call to Worship

Option (a)

Leader:- Let us worship God, as we join together in fellowship in His presence.

Option (b)

Leader:- Today is a day of celebration of the fellowship we share in the presence of our loving God. We celebrate the great goodness of God as we sing praises, offer prayers, listen to the Word and seek guidance. May our hearts and minds be open to give and to receive.

Hymn of Praise

One from this list:-

1. 753(HP) All praise to our redeeming Lord
2. 484(HP) Angel voices ever singing
3. 492(HP) Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
4. 132(SF) God is good, we sing and shout it

Prayer of adoration and confession

Extempore or as below:- If possible read by a Guild Member

Lord God, heavenly Father; Receive us and bless us as we come together in this Guild Service. You are amongst us, for this is what you have promised through our Lord Jesus Christ, and you have given us grace to believe. We come, glad of the fellowship which we find with each other through you. We come, rejoicing in the privilege of worship. Help us now to come with minds open to receive a blessing from you and a willingness to take on the responsibilities you require of each of us in the times ahead. Help us to continue to grow stronger as Christians and enable us to serve you in the world in which you have set us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, AMEN

A prayer of confession

Lord we have never perfectly served and obeyed you. So very often we have come short of what you would require us to be. We disappoint ourselves and must disappoint you even more so we want to say sorry for these shortcomings. We find it difficult to accept fully the love you have offered to us and to accept your guidance in all that we say and do. We come therefore to seek your forgiveness and ask you to restore us. Grant us Lord the power to overcome these faults which we confess; through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN

The Lord's Prayer *(modern form)*

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. AMEN.

Old Testament reading *(some to choose from)*

- Jeremiah 32;36-41 (“one heart and one way”)
- Isaiah 55; 1-9
- Psalm 65; 5-13
- Psalm 46 all

A Guild Hymn

God in Jesus Christ who calls us
or One heart, one way, as Guilders now we sing
or hymn of preacher's choice

God in Jesus Christ who calls us *by Revd Dr Kenneth Carveley*

Sung to the Iona Tune Jesus calls us, found on page 92/3 of Love from Below by John L. Bell and Graham Maule, Volume 3 of Wild Goose Songs. Wild Goose Publications 1989
ISBN 0 947988 34 3 Alternative tune is Bethany (HP 653)

God in Jesus Christ who calls us
Now and each succeeding day
To new life, that by the Spirit,
We may find the grace to pray:
Ever lead and ever guide us
With one heart to walk one way;
You the Lord, before, behind us,
God with us, our strength today.

Through the years of change and progress,
Shifts in thought and attitude,
We have found among God's people

Faith and hope and love renewed;
In the call to costly service
In the church and in the world,
We may know God's holy presence,
Truth and mercy undeserved.

God in Christ, who brings the future
To fulfilment, as the past;
Yours the word, the truth eternal
That will through all ages last;
Age and youth You bind together
As the Lord of all our days,
That in thought, deed, and intention
We may all proclaim Your praise.

God in Christ, whose love and goodness
With thanksgiving we recall;
Yours the glory, with the Spirit,
Source and guide and end of all;
Ever lead and ever guide us
With one heart to walk one way;
You the Lord, before, behind us,
God with us, our strength today.

One heart, one way, as Guilders now we sing *by Hilda Webb*

Sung to the tune Morecambe (HP 778)

1. One heart, one way, as Guilders now we sing,
To Christ's own feet our loyal tribute bring;
There, only there in all we do to find
True fellowship of heart and soul and mind.
2. One heart because He lifts us by His love
And binds our hearts with His in Heaven above;
So, though our earthly love may seem but dim,
We live as one, bound by our love for Him.
3. One way, His way, shall keep us still as one,
Though varied are the duties to be done;
But as His servants, we His words obey
Who said, "I am the Life, the Truth, the Way."
4. One heart, one way, take up the joyful song,
Tell it to those who still for friendship long;
Tell them we join in worship, work and play
Because we find in Christ one heart, one way.

New Testament reading (Some to choose from)

- Romans 12; 1-18
- 1 Peter 1; 3-9
- 1 Peter 3; 8-17
- James 1; 19-25
- John's Gospel 6; 25-35

Guild Contribution in the form of a choir item; solo; drama; or appropriate recitation or a hymn chosen by a Guild member

Guild Affirmation (optional) 3 versions are offered for consideration In each option the minister or preacher should explain what is to be expected of the Guild members as a response, or preferably should be given a copy of the chosen affirmation for them to read before the service begins.

Version 1

Leader:- Let us recall what belonging to the Guild means:

- 1 CONSECRATION of ourselves in every way to the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 CHRISTIAN SERVICE; offering ourselves in every way in the service of our fellow men and women
- 3 CULTURE; so that we grow in mind and spirit to know what is good and beautiful and true.
- 4 COMRADESHIP with all people, especially with our fellow believers in Christ.

All:- *God helping me, I will accept and endeavour to put into practice the ideals which are the basis of the Guild and its membership.*

Version 2

Leader:- Please Stand

Let us recollect the aims of the Guild:

- 1 To offer training in Christian living
- 2 To provide a meeting place for honest encounter
- 3 To plan and initiate active service
- 4 To explore new ways of worship and personal devotion
- 5 To express the social and caring life of the Church

And let us dedicate ourselves anew to fulfilment of these aims

The Guild stands for the consecration of all that we have and are to the Lord Jesus Christ, whose name we proudly bear.

All:- *Therefore, God helping me as a Guilder, I dedicate my life to Jesus Christ, my Lord*

Leader:- The Guild stands for Christian Service- in doing God's will, and helping to bring in his kingdom.

All:- Therefore, God helping me as a Guilder, I offer him the service of my life, counting it a privilege so to do,

Leader:- The Guild stands for Culture- for the development of our God given talents so that we continually grow in the knowledge of goodness, beauty and truth.

All:- Therefore God helping me as a Guilder, I seek wider understanding of the wonders of God's universe.

Leader:- The Guild stands for Comradeship with all people, especially those who acknowledge their place in the Family of God's Church.

All:- Therefore, God helping me as a Guilder I will meet my responsibilities to the Church and the Community.

Version 3

Leader:- Will Guild members please stand

Leader continues:- The Wesley Guild seeks opportunities to enrich and stimulate our Christian faith through fellowship, talks and discussions, worship and Bible Study.

The Wesley Guild emphasises the necessity of being a good neighbour to those in need, at home and abroad.

The Wesley Guild encourages people to join the Guild to enable them to access the Good News that Jesus loves them and to warmly receive any person into the fellowship of the Guild.

As a member of the Wesley Guild will you endeavour to put into practice these aims?

All Guild Members:- *With God's help I will.*

Leader:- Let us pray

Grant O Lord these Guild members the strength and willpower to sustain them as they continue to serve you through the channel of this Wesley Guild. AMEN

Please be seated,

Offering

For the Nigeria Health Care Project or another charity that the Guild has chosen to support or for the works of God in this Church and circuit.

Hymn from the following list

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 465(HP) | We have a gospel to proclaim |
| 455(HP) | Christ is the world's light |
| 474(HP) | Help us O lord to learn |
| 451(SF) | O Thou who camest from above |
| 544(SF) | There is a redeemer |

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Option a

A prayer adapted by Margaret Webb from “The Word in the World” by Simon Oxley, a Baptist Minister

Leader:- God eternal, all-knowing and total love, you see the whole of human life. You feel its joy and pain. There is nothing we can tell you about facts or feelings. We do not come to you with information about which you are ignorant, nor with a list of what we want you to do. We come to talk about things which trouble us: in your world, in your creation, in your church and in ourselves.

We don't like what is happening in our own society or in the rest of the world....(*give current examples*)....

Response:- Help us to see how our concerns can be channelled into positive action.

Leader:- We are anxious about the church and its organisations. We find it hard to live with its disobedience and are ashamed that we contribute to it....(*Give current examples*).....We suspect that our priorities are wrong and that we misunderstand what is true success or failure. We have no power within ourselves to change.

Response:- Help us to create a life together (in the Guild) which will demonstrate your love. We are concerned about our friends in our Guild. In the silence we think about them and their particular needs.

Silence

Response:- Help us to show your love through our love (in the Guild) for them, and thus ourselves become the answer to our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
AMEN

Option b

Loving all-knowing God, we come before you with our prayers. There is nothing that we can say of which you are unaware, yet we come to unburden our hearts to you; knowing that you will listen, will comfort and in your own way and time will answer.

Lord in your mercy

Response:- Hear our Prayer

We bring before you situations in the world that particularly trouble us.....(*give examples*).....

We pray that wars may cease and that hunger, illness and poverty may be eradicated,
Lord in your mercy

Response:- Hear our prayer

We think of troubles in our own part of the world and in our own community.....
(give examples).....

We pray that wise counsel will prevail and that more people will learn your way of living in harmony.

Lord in your mercy

Response:- Hear our prayer

We bring before you those who are ill, bereaved, housebound, without work, or without hope.....(give examples from a prayer book if appropriate).....

We ask that they may know your blessing and that we may, by our actions, show them your love.

Lord in your mercy

Response:- Hear our prayer

We ask your blessing on the work of the Guild nationally and in this church. May all members of the Wesley Guild demonstrate the aims of this organisation showing God's love in the way they live and act.

Lord in your mercy

Response:- Hear our prayer

AMEN

Hymn

From this list or choice of Preacher

- 770(HP) Go forth and tell
- 1076(SF) We are marching in the light of God
- 583(SF) We'll walk the land
- 559(SF) To God be the Glory

A Blessing or Share the Grace

N.B. HP = Hymns & Psalms SF = Songs of Fellowship

Further copies of this order of service may be obtained from:

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Information about The Wesley Guild can be also be obtained from the above or at www.wesleyguild.org.uk