



Crossway
Multinational
Church

Leading in Prayer at Crossway Multinational Church

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve CMC by leading us in prayer in our worship service! This is a very significant ministry as you will be guiding us in our conversation with God.

Here is a resource that I have found to be helpful in thinking through the service of leading people in prayer.

<http://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-1994/when-you-pray-some-questions-consider-leading-gods-people-prayer>

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Our current practice as a church is to have two times of prayer in our service. The first is a **prayer of confession and assurance**. Our first goal is to guide people in speaking with God, agreeing with Him that we have not lived up to His glory. You can do that using a written prayer (here are [some examples](#)), or a passage from the Bible that declares our sin (e.g., Romans 3:9-18), or that describes what we ought to have been like (e.g., 1 Corinthians 13). Giving people some silent time for personal confession is generally helpful.

This is not meant to be a teaching time, although some explanation can be helpful. **It is important to keep it simple and concise so as to help people focus on their need to confess and experience God's forgiveness.**

Our second goal is to guide people in recognizing the forgiveness of God, declaring the assurance that as we confess our sins in Jesus' name, we are forgiven. Often it makes sense to anticipate the next song in your prayer, perhaps using a passage from the Bible. There is no need to pray again. This should take less than a minute. Some passages to consider include: 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5; Romans 8:1-2; Romans 3:23-24; Romans 6:23.

To help guide your planning for the prayer of confession, here is the basic structure of our worship services. Knowing the pattern as well as the specific songs that come before and after the prayer of confession can be helpful for people's time with God. We currently follow this pattern:

- Scripture reading
- songs declaring who God is and what He has done for us
- a song for us to respond to God, expressing our praise and worship
- prayer of confession and words of assurance
- a song in response to God's promise of forgiveness

When you receive the invitation or reminder emails about your role, you can then use that to view the specific songs and lyrics planned for that day. [Here's a short video showing you how](#)

Prayer of Intercession

The second time of prayer in our worship services is our **prayer of intercession** in which we speak to God on behalf of people, whether the people of our church, our city and country, or our world.

The prayer of intercession is challenging because we want to represent all of the people of CMC, knowing that there are many perspectives among our people. Accordingly, our pattern is to pray for God's will to be done, a will that includes both justice and mercy, that is always true and loving, and that puts the interests of others ahead of our own interests. So rather than speaking from a politically conservative or liberal perspective, and rather than speaking from a western or eastern perspective, we endeavor to lead a diverse group of people who together are seeking the will and work of God, a will that exceeds our own wisdom and understanding.

So we endeavor to pray concretely and yet without presuming the specific actions God ought to perform and without passing judgment on others. And we endeavor to pray for concerns that we as a church share and that the people of God ought to share.

We shouldn't assume that people know what we're talking about (such as referring to a significant event in the world in the previous week), yet the focus is on praying and not explaining. So giving a very brief explanation (less than a minute) may be helpful.

There are times when greater explanation is appropriate, such as when giving a financial update. These longer explanations will be coordinated with the pastor.

Praying with the worship team

Whichever time of prayer you lead, it would be great to have you be at church or online by 9:40. As people who are directly involved in the leading of the worship service, we gather to pray and to confirm the logistics so that we can be undistracting, giving attention to God.

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