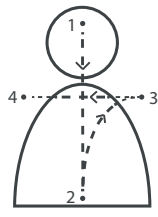


FIELD GUIDE TO THE LITURGY



Welcome to Immanuel Anglican Church! We are so glad you are here, and we hope you find Immanuel to be a place where you can encounter and worship the living God with us.

For those who are new to our form of liturgical worship, we've created this guide to help you know what's happening in each part of the service. And please feel free to ask anyone on staff if you have any questions – we would be more than happy to help!

GATHERING

Coming together as the people of God

PROCESSION

During the opening song, a cross is carried into the sanctuary and down a main aisle to the platform. The cross leads the procession because Jesus is the only one who can lead us into God's presence, and it is only through Him that we can rightly praise and worship God.

ACCLAMATION

“Blessed be God...” Now that we have gathered together, we offer up a blessing of praise to God, declaring the primary purpose of our gathering – to worship God and celebrate the coming of his Kingdom.

PRAYER OF PURITY

“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open...” Based on Psalm 51, this prayer helps us openly acknowledge that we cannot rightly love and worship God without the redeeming work of the Holy Spirit.

SONGS

The songs at the beginning of the service are intended to proclaim the glory and majesty of God, that our minds and hearts might be filled with joy and wonder before him. We sing the Gloria every Sunday, except during Lent and Advent.

You may notice that some people bow toward the cross during the line “Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God” – this is a way of showing honor to Jesus Christ, the Lord of our hearts and Ruler of all things.

THE COLLECT

Each Sunday, thousands of churches around the world pray this same prayer that “collects” our hearts and reminds us of God’s character and redemptive work in the world.

HEARING

Meeting Jesus in the Word of God

THE READINGS

We believe that God continues to speak to us through the written Word of Scripture. We have two to four Readings each week, and the readings follow the daily office lectionary from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer.

Each service will have one or more of the following readings: One passage from the Old Testament, one Psalm (which the congregation reads together aloud), and one reading from a New Testament epistle. (When time allows, we will have all four, but this is not always possible!)

The last reading always comes from one of the four Gospels, which focus on the life, teachings and works of Jesus. As the Gospel book is carried, we sing “Alleluia” to Jesus Christ, who is Himself the “Good News” made known in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Gospel is traditionally read in the center of the room to represent that Christ has come among us through the Incarnation. As the Gospel reading is introduced we pray silently that God’s Word would always be on our minds, upon our lips and deep within our hearts. (As we say these words, we also make the symbol of the cross over our foreheads, lips and hearts to physically express what we are praying.)

SERMON/HOMILY

The sermon (or homily) is an explanation and application of God's Word for God's people. Through inspired proclamation of Scriptural truth, God encourages, comforts, corrects and transforms our lives to make us more like Jesus.

THE CREED

We together affirm the foundational truths of the Christian faith after the sermon, either through the Nicene Creed or the Apostles Creed. Though churches differ in how they practice and express their faith, the Creeds reflects our union with all Christ followers around the world and throughout the history of the Church.

CONFESSION OF SIN

"Most merciful God..." The corporate confession of sin gives us a time to reflect upon our need for God's mercy and grace to help our lives more fully reflect his goodness. At the end of the confession, the priest or deacon makes a proclamation of forgiveness, which is rooted in Scripture's assurance that God is faithful to forgive and purify us when we confess our sins.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Congregation members are invited to stand as we pray for the global Church, the nation, the world, the suffering, and the specific needs and concerns of our local community. Sometimes the leader will pray for these needs, and sometimes they will invite the prayers of the congregation. Throughout, the leader collects each prayer with the words "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds in unity with the words "hear our prayer."

THE PEACE

It's not over yet! Before we can come to the Table and appropriately celebrate the Eucharist together, we need to reaffirm that we are at peace with one another. Through the Passing of the Peace, as we greet those around us, we affirm that we are not just a collection of individuals, but a united body - and that even our temporary conflicts cannot undermine the reality that God has knit us together as a community in Christ.

FEASTING

Partaking of Jesus in the Thanksgiving Feast

OFFERING

More than just collecting money so that we can keep the lights on, the offering is an act of worship by which we acknowledge our dependence upon and gratitude towards God for the many blessings in our lives.

DOXOLOGY

In singing the doxology, we proclaim that all good gifts – whether the cash we have just placed in the offering basket or the bread and wine we are about to receive – are ultimately from God, and therefore we give glory and thanks to Him.

EUCCHARIST/COMMUNION

The Eucharistic meal is a celebration of the past, the present and the future of God's grace towards us. Our Eucharistic Liturgy changes with the liturgical seasons and is taken from the 1979 and 2019 Books of Common Prayer.

We invite all people to come forward to the Table. Those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and who are seeking to follow Jesus are invited partake of the bread and wine (or juice). Any who have not yet been baptized or who are not currently following Jesus may still come forward, but instead of partaking of the communion meal, they may cross their arms to receive a prayer of blessing from the priest or deacon.

SENDING

Going out to love and serve the Lord

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

This prayer provides a seamless transition from being fed by Jesus to being sent by Jesus. In this prayer of thanksgiving, all believers join their voices to thank God for making us his own and binding us together in the body and blood of Jesus. Then we ask that this meal would serve as nourishment and sustenance for us, as we are sent out and return into the world with “strength and courage” to love and serve God in our homes, schools, workplaces and neighborhoods.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

This blessing from the pastor is an affirmation that the Lord will go out with us, that he is the one who will continually guard and fortify our hearts in the knowledge, love and peace of God. Therefore we “go forth into the world in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.”

