

## Basic English Liturgy

Below is a proposed order of worship for a Basic English worship service at Church of the Servant. At first blush it may look overly wordy for those who are still learning English, but including a number of repeated written sections will increase their grasp of the language and help them follow what's happening liturgically. You'll notice that this service looks very similar to a COS service. This is intentional. If the Basic English Service is to serve as a bridge into the COS community it's important that it familiarizes English learners with basic liturgical structure and gives them some elements (Lord's Prayer, etc) that will feel like old friends when they encounter them in the main service. Of course, this basic structure includes communion. I know some people will balk at making the Table part of this service, but it's a perfect fit on a number of levels. COS's worship is characterized by weekly communion, and there is no reason to change that practice for those with beginning English skills. The use of a repeated ritual (communion) will provide spiritual and communicational inroads in a way that even the simplest sermons, songs and prayers can't. Given the people who are likely to take part in this service, the table may need to be "fenced" more proactively than in a typical service, but it should part of the ongoing worship life of Basic English community.

<i>text and notes:</i>	
<b>Gathering</b>	
Songs & Welcome	
Confession and Assurance	This could be led by the pastor, but it may be easier to follow if it were written out and spoken by the people
Song	Preferably a "thank you for saving me from my sins" type of song
<b>Word</b>	
Prayer for Illumination	This could be led by the pastor, but it may be easier to follow if it were written out and spoken by the people
Old Testament Reading	Encourage them to read along in their own language or follow the English as well as they can
New Testament Reading	Encourage them to read along in their own language or follow the English as well as they can
Hymn of preparation	(optional)
Sermon	
Hymn of response	
Apostle's Creed	
Prayer	(led by participants or held in small groups)
<b>Table</b>	
Offering	
Offering Hymn	Song of thanksgiving
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving...	Minister: The Lord be with you. ¶People: And also with you. ¶Minister: Lift up your hearts. ¶People: We lift them up to the Lord. ¶Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ¶People: It is fitting for us to give thanks. It is right and fitting, our joy and our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty, everlasting God, through Christ our Lord.
...to God the Father	pastor thanks God for his work in creation
	Holy, Holy song
...to Jesus Christ	(people seated) Minister: We give thanks to God that our Savior Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until his coming again. On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and broke it, saying, "This is my body, given for you; do this to remember me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and offered it to them, saying, "This is the blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me." And so we proclaim the mystery of faith: People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
...to the Holy Spirit	Minister: We pray that in your goodness and mercy, your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these signs, showing them to be holy gifts for your people: the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, to the praise of your name. And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray: People: The Lord's Prayer
Preparation of the Elements	Minister: The bread which we break, is it not our sharing in the body of Christ? ¶People: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf. ¶Minister: The cup for which we give thanks, is it not our sharing in the blood of Christ? ¶People: The cup which we all share is our fellowship in the blood of Christ.
Peace	(Pastor invites the people to share the peace)
Invitation to the Table:	(Pastor invites believers to the table)
Communion	
The Thanksgiving	Leader: Almighty and everliving God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. (or something simpler and spontaneous) ¶People: Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.
Hymn of Thanksgiving	(maybe a benediction song that is repeated each week)
<b>Sending</b>	
Benediction	Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. ¶People: Amen.