

Planning a Guild dedication service

(2022 Update)

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Overview

We hope that the ideas included in this document will be a practical aid as you plan for the annual service of dedication, whenever and wherever that may be held. It can be used over a number of years, in part or as a whole, depending on your circumstances. The lists of readings and hymns are simply there as suggestions, to be used or not. The prayers can be used as they are, adapted or replaced to suit your own needs. The Guild members' Act of Dedication is intended to be used as it is.

By holding an annual dedication service, each member (and the wider congregation, if present) are reminded of the purpose of the Guild and the commitment that membership entails.

The service is a precious opportunity to acknowledge our dependence on each other and on Jesus Christ, whose Spirit enables us.

Aim

“The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.”

Motto

“Whose we are and Whom we serve.”

When?

Guild Week seems the obvious choice, but other times of the year might be more convenient.

By choosing to tie the service in with Guild Week, it gives you a natural way in which to introduce the Guild Projects that are going to be supported in the year ahead.

Where?

- In Sunday worship, morning or evening, with the whole congregation
- Mid-week in your usual meeting place

What else should we consider?

- Simple and effective is better than overly complex and confusing!
- Do you have someone willing to write/deliver prayers or a reflection?
- Do you have a musician or access to prepared music?
- Theme
 - Is it going to be purely a dedication service?
 - Is it a chance to briefly talk about the project/s for the year ahead?

Suggested formats

The Order of Service

This will depend on where and when the service is going to be held:

Longer service

Welcome
Call to worship
Hymn
Opening prayer and The Lord's Prayer
Bible reading
Hymn
Sermon or reflection
Guild Act of Dedication (please stand as you are able)
Hymn
Prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for others
Offering with prayer
Hymn
Benediction

Shorter service

Welcome
Call to worship
Hymn
Opening prayer and The Lord's Prayer
Bible reading
Time for reflection (words or music)
Guild Act of Dedication (please stand as you are able)
Prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for others
Offering and prayer
Hymn
Benediction

Elements within the service

It is good to have a clear link between each element of worship and the best place to start is with the Bible reading. Everything else can flow from that. At the back of CH4, there is an index of Bible passages and hymns that relate to each text.

Once the service has started, always allow plenty of time between each element—time for people to stand/sit/ settle down for or to finish their prayer time etc.

Don't be afraid of moments of silence.

Welcome

- Welcome everyone to the service and explain briefly what will happen within the service
- If you have planned refreshments after the service, give the invitation
- If the offering is to be given for, e.g. one of the Guild projects, intimate this at this point
- Thank in advance those who have made the service possible.

Call to worship

The Psalms are a good place to start:

- Psalm 95: 6-7
Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
- Psalm 96: 1-2
Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
- Psalm 117: 1-2
Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord.
- Psalm 146: 1-2
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
- Psalm 147: 1
Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting praise him!
- Psalm 148: 1-2
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
- Psalm 150: 1, 2 and 6
Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Bible readings and hymn suggestions by theme

Take time to read through different Bible translations to see which is best for your service. Have a look at the Dramatized Bible if you have a number of good readers, as some readings can be split for two voices (e.g. Jesus speaking versus the rest of the passage).

Dedication

Joshua 1: 1-9	God's commission to Joshua
1 Samuel 3: 1-10	God calls Samuel
Mark 12: 28-34	The first commandment
John 8: 31-36	Children of Abraham
Acts 13: 1-3	Barnabas and Saul commissioned
Philippians 1: 3-12	Paul's prayer for the Philippians
1 Peter 1: 13-25	A call to holy living
I, the Lord of sea and sky	CH4 251, MP 857, CG 50
Take this moment, sign and space	CH4 501
Take my life and let it be	CH4 502, MP 624, CH3 462
May the mind of Christ my Saviour	CH4 536, MP 463, CH3 432
Just as I am, without one plea	CH4 553, MP 396, CH3 79
O Jesus, I have promised	CH4 644, MP 501, CH3 424
I want to walk with Jesus Christ	MP 302

Discipleship

1 Kings 3: 5-15	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
1 Kings 19: 11-13	Elijah meets God at Horeb
Matthew 6: 5-13	Jesus' teaching on prayer
Mark 2: 13-17	Jesus calls Levi
Luke 5: 1-11	Jesus calls the first disciples
Acts 2: 42-47	Life among the believers
Says Jesus, come and gather round	CH4 242
When Jesus saw the fishermen	CH4 340
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	CH4 485, MP 111
Will you come and follow me	CH4 533
Holy wisdom, lamp of learning	CH4 604
When we walk with the Lord	MP 760

Mission and Service

Exodus 3: 1-8	Moses at the burning bush
Isaiah 6: 1-8	Here I am, send me
Matthew 6: 24-34	Serving two masters
Matthew 20: 1-16	The labourers in the vineyard
2 Corinthians 4: 1-14	Treasure in clay jars
Lord, in love and perfect wisdom	CH4 702
Thuma mina (Send me, Lord)	CH4 800
Jesus Christ is waiting	CH4 360
From heaven you came	CH4 374, MP 162
Longing for light, we wait in darkness	CH4 543, CG 21
We sing a love that sets all people free	CH4 622
Brother, sister, let me serve you	CH4 694, CG 16

Sharing and Caring

Isaiah 40: 25-31
Luke 6: 27-36
Luke 6: 43-45
John 13: 31-35
2 Corinthians 8: 1-15
Philippians 2: 1-11

God's people are comforted
Love for enemies
A tree and its fruit
A new commandment
Encouragement to be generous
Imitating Christ's humility

Where are the voices of the earth?
Beauty for brokenness
Lord, make us servants of your peace
Make me a channel of your peace
Brother, sister, let me serve you
Christ's is the world in which we move

CH4 244
CH4 259, MP 806
CH4 527
CH4 528, MP 456
CH4 694, CG 16
CH4 724, SGP 21, CG1

Witness

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Matthew 5: 13-16
Matthew 18: 1-4
Acts 4: 1-10
Acts 22: 6-16

Jeremiah's call and commission
Salt and light
True greatness
Peter and John before the Council
Paul tells of his conversion

Sent by the Lord am I
Inspired by love and anger
We have a gospel to proclaim
Your hand, O God, has guided
There's a spirit in the air
Send out the gospel!
We'll walk the land

CH4 250
CH4 253
CH4 363, MP 728
CH4 511, MP 705, CH3 424
CH4 616
CH4 681
MP 743

Other hymn suggestions

Opening:

O, come, and let us to the Lord	CH4 59, CH3 19
Sing all creation	CH4 64
Let all the world in every corner sing	CH4 122, MP 404, CH3 361
Be still for the presence of the Lord	CH4 189, MP 50, CG 12
Rejoice, the Lord is King	CH4 449, MP 575, CH3 296
Great God, your love has called us here	CH4 484
Lord of creation, to you be all praise!	CH4 500, CH3 428
Jesus calls us here to meet him (omit v4)	CH4 510, SGP 54, CG 66
Come to us, creative Spirit	CH4 612
Come all you people	CH4 757
We are here to praise you	CH4 802, MP 717
He is here, he is here	MP218

Closing:

Great is thy faithfulness	CH4 153, MP 200, SGP 37, CG 43
Look forward in faith	CH4 237, SGP 69, CG73
For my sake and the gospel's, go	CH4 248, CH3 476
Your hand, O god, has guided	CH4 511, MP 705, CH3 424
Forth in thy Name	CH4 529, MP 159, CH3 462
Forth in the peace of Christ we go	CH4 646, CH3 589
You are called to tell the story	CH4 680 (omit v3)
Go in grace and make disciples	CH4 682
We will walk with God, my brothers	CH4 803

Blessings:

Shalom, shalom, peace to his people	CH4 208, MP 926
May the God of peace go with us	CH4 786
The Lord bless you and keep you	CH4 796
The peace of the earth be with you	CH4 798
May God's blessing surround you each day	MP 460

Prayer examples

(These are merely suggestions, to be added to or amended to suit your service.)

Opening Prayer (Approach, adoration, confession and absolution)

Almighty God,
Creator, Son and Holy Spirit,
as we meet together in worship,
we acknowledge our smallness
and your greatness.
You are beyond anything we can ever imagine
and yet you love each one of us
as a parent who loves their child.
We humbly come before you,
recognising our need of forgiveness and grace,
for we constantly fall short
of the standard you set for our living with you.
Forgive our wrongdoing and waywardness, we pray... (@ 30 seconds of silence)
God hears us.
He is merciful and forgiving,
accepting us as we are,
wayward, humble servants
whose deepest desire is to follow him.

Gracious and eternal God,
as we worship now,
may we know your blessing on us.
As we reflect on your Word,
sing your praise
and dedicate ourselves
to the work of the Guild,
may we truly feel your presence within us,
prompting, guarding and guiding our lives.
We pray in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (according to your custom):

- either here
- after the prayer of thanks and intercession
- or after the offertory prayer

Prayer of thanks and intercession

We lift our hearts to you, our God,
and we thank you
for the fullness of life that you give us
in Christ Jesus.
We thank you for the example of his life,
the truth of his words
and the new life he offers
through the power of his resurrection.

Living Lord,

we lay before you now our concerns for others.

We pray for your Church here in Scotland, and throughout the world,
and we ask that you will sustain and bless all,
who by their words and actions,
seek to spread the Good News to all people.

We pray for harmony amongst all who follow the way of Jesus Christ,
for barriers between denominations to be swept away,
and for all to be united in their aim to serve you, and do your will.
We ask your blessing on organisations within the Church:
(insert your own congregation's organisations here)

And at this time, we remember especially the Guild and affiliated groups,
the projects they support at home and abroad.
Guide and inspire all who plan for the future,
and encourage those who deal with the day to day tasks which make it all possible.

We pray for the leaders of nations, communities, industry and the caring services
and we ask that each will use their influence wisely and with compassion
so that all they do is acceptable to you.
We pray for peace within families, within communities and between nations.

In a moment of quiet,
we pray for those we know who are ill,
and for those who are bereaved... (silence)

Heavenly Father,
there are many who have secret sorrows and anxieties.
May all who are weary and burdened with a load of care
find comfort in the knowledge that you are always with them.

All this we pray
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Loving God,
who freely gives to all who ask,
accept these gifts of money and bless them,
that they might be used to further your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Words of sending/ Benedictions

Suggestions:

God is waiting for us in the world.
May we go now, to live in the way of truth and love,
guided by God's voice within us.

Eternal God, behind us, before us, within us,
go with us on our journey.

We go now, to live and work to God's praise and glory.
We have been set free to love and serve one another –
let us do so with joy, knowing that we do God's will.

Guild Members' Act of Dedication

(Said together, standing if appropriate)

In faith,
we now dedicate ourselves,
through our worship, prayer and action,
to serve you faithfully,
to love you with all our heart,
all our soul and all our mind,
and to love one another
as your Son, Jesus Christ, has shown his love for us.

Renew us, refresh us,
as members of the Guild,
as we continue on our journey through life.
Guide our thinking and bless all that we do in your name,
whom we are and whom we serve,
and in whose name we pray. Amen

Sermon/reflection (Optional)

- It may be that you have a guest speaker or a worship leader to lead this part of the service
- It might be appropriate to play some reflective music, allowing each person to reflect quietly as they listen
- You might prefer to read a reflection from a published book
- If you have access to audio-visual equipment, you might find a clip that fits with the theme

A Guild Blessing

Iain Whyte

NOTE: The first set of words is for use on occasions when someone is taking up an office, the second for Guild dedication services, etc.

$\text{♩} = 72$ G Em Am C

May the love of God the Fa-ther en-fold you, May the
May the love of God the Fa-ther en-fold us, May the

4 Am G Em

light that is his Son light your way. May the Grace of his Spir-it em-
light that is his Son light our way. May the Grace of his Spir-it em-

7 Am C Am G D7 G

pow'r you, Whose you are and whom you serve.
pow'r us. Whose we are and whom we serve.

10 Am G D7 Cm G

Whose you are and whom you serve.
Whose we are and whom we serve.