

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The deacon of the week is responsible for the Prayer of Dedication. This prayer is situated near the end of worship after the Offertory, immediately following the Doxology/Hymn of Dedication. The overarching purpose of the Prayer of Dedication is to *offer praise and thanksgiving to God for the blessings of life, and for our redemption*. As well, it is a prayer by which *we offer ourselves, our lives, and the fruit of our labors in Christ*. Together with these specific themes, you should aim for *brevity and clarity*, keeping in mind that the Prayer of Dedication is situated not long after the Prayers of the People, a longer and more comprehensive, intercessory prayer.

As you prepare, you're encouraged to draw inspiration from the Psalms, specifically Psalms of Thanksgiving (ex: Ps 8, 9, 29, 30, 40, 66, 100, 103-05, 113, 117, 126, 133, 135, 138-39, and 145-50}, as well as other prayers and expressions of praise and thanksgiving in Scripture, the lectionary readings for the given day, and the liturgical seasons of the church year, (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc.).

Doxology: We invite you to use the *updated language* you will find printed in the bulletin. (*God* instead of him)

When to walk forward: Please walk up the stairs to the pulpit during the doxology on the word “creatures.” In the event we sing a different “doxology,” consider how long it will take you to move from your place to the pulpit. The goal is for you to be *in place by the time the doxology ends* so that we minimize an awkward transition. Do not be concerned about crossing in front of Emily while we are signing the doxology.

Suggestions for prompting the congregation to join you in prayer:

“Let us pray.”

“We pray to God together.”

“Join in prayer.”

“We pray together to give thanks to God.”