

*Liturgy for Use at
Annual Vestry*

*Prepared by the Diocese of Ontario
Worship Committee*

January 2022

Prayer as we prepare for Vestry

Holy God, the navigator of our souls,
hear us as we hold up before you
our annual Vestry.
Be with us in our yearning
to chart a course together,
inspired by the presence of your Spirit.
Give courage to our clergy,
all of our leaders, and each of us,
as we move forward with your blessing.
For all we do, we do to your glory,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Suggested Order of Service

Before the Meeting

Invitation Sentence

Your word is a lantern to my feet, and a light upon
my path. *(Psalm 119:105)*

Opening Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Collect for the Day

Lord God Almighty,
come and dispel the darkness from our hearts
that in the radiance of your brightness
we may know you, the only unfading light,
glorious in all eternity.

Help us to become a light for our family,
our friends, our neighbours,
and even those we do not know.

Give us grace to learn your ways
and to follow the example of Jesus Christ
in all walks of life. Amen.

Psalm 119:105, 129 – 135

Your word is a lantern to my feet, and a light upon
my path.

**Your word is a lantern to my feet, and a light
upon my path.**

Your decrees are wonderful; * therefore I obey
them with all my heart.

When your word goes forth it gives light;* it gives
understanding to the simple.

Your word is a lantern to my feet.

I open my mouth and pant; * I long for your
commandments.

Turn to me in mercy; * as you always do to those
who love your name.

Your word is a lantern to my feet.

Steady my footsteps in your word; * let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me; * and I will keep your commandments.

Your word is a lantern to my feet.

Let your countenance shine upon your servant * and teach me your statutes.

Your word is a lantern to my feet, and a light upon my path.

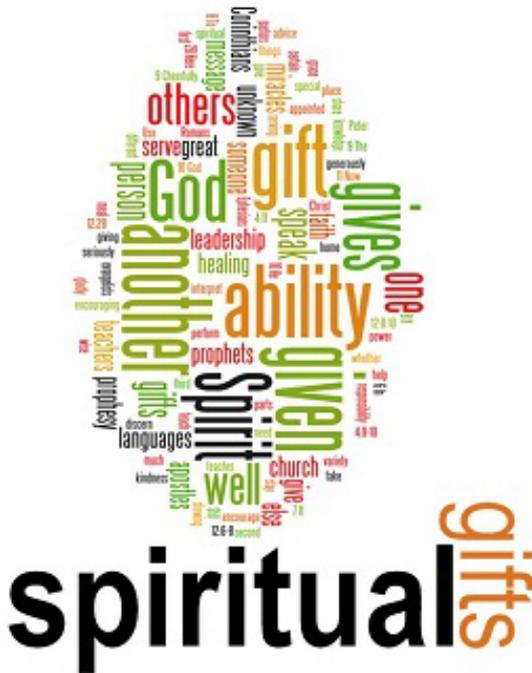
A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these

are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. **14** Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts. *(I Corinthians 12: 4 – 11, 14:1a)*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.



Prayer for the Vestry Meeting

God of generosity and presence,
you reveal yourself to us
in the gift of your son.
Inspire us to offer the gift
of our faith, worship and lives to you.
Gather together those gifts in the midst
of our congregation, parish and diocese,
and help us to use them to be your heart,
hands and voices in the world
sharing the joy of your presence
with the community around us and beyond.
Bless us in this time of annual vestry meeting
and enable us to make good and wise decisions
as we seek to lead and serve your people; in
Christ's name we pray. Amen.

After the Meeting

Commissioning for Lay Ministries in the Church

(Adapted from the Book of Occasional Services)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one body,
and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the
common good.
Today we especially recognize and affirm the
ministries for which persons in our congregation
and parish have offered themselves,

giving thanks for those who have served in the past year,
for those who will continue to serve,
and for those who will begin to serve in the multiple offices that are critical to the function of our parish.

We have elected and appointed people to a number of ministries.

Do you affirm that it is your will that these persons fulfil these ministries?

It is.

(To the elected / appointed present:)

You have been called to these ministries. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this service, perform it with care, to the honour of God and the benefit of the Church? **I will.**

(To the entire congregation:)

Will you uphold these persons in these ministries and serve as you are called yourself? **We will.**
In the name of God and of this parish,
I commission all those entrusted with leadership and special tasks in the various ministries of our parish.

Blessed are you, gracious God, our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer.

In every age you call people to minister in your name and for your mission.
Look with favour upon those whom you have called,

that the work of these your servants
may build up your Church,
and that we may all more faithfully serve you
and show your love in all the world.
Blessed are you, O God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

(John Bell *"Reimagining the Future"* June 20, 2020
www.ionabooks.com)

Leader Let us pray.

Help us gracious God.
Pandemic is not a word which fits easily into
prayers; we are used to less menacing terms.

As a nation we are not usually so uncertain
of the future.
So help us not to fear it,
but to identify every sign of hope
and encourage every angel of mercy who appears
in human form.
God in your kindness,
Hear our prayer.

If we feel savaged by the untimely death of those
we love
or face the possibility of redundancy and restricted
income
save us from the despair and the desire for
revenge.

Reveal to us our better selves, our resourcefulness
and doors we have yet to open.

God in your kindness,

Hear our prayer.

Prevent our leaders from the presumption of high
office,

liberate them to listen to the dreamers more than
the schemers,

the dispossessed more than the over possessive

so that decisions are shot through with integrity
and seasoned with wisdom as well as knowledge

God in your kindness,

Hear our prayer.

And open the eyes of all of us

to the goodness and giftedness in our neighbours
which we may never have seen.

We pray in the name of Jesus

Who has seen the goodness and giftedness in us.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Doxology

Glory to God,

Whose power working in us,

does infinitely more than we could
ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation,

in the Church and in Christ Jesus,

forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

(Celtic Daily Prayer, Book 1; Northumbria Community)

When you no longer know how to be,
may God the Creator take you on
your deeper journey.

When you no longer know what to do,
may the Spirit reveal to you your fitting task.

When all feels lost or foreign,
may you know your home in Christ.

On the path that is before you,
may you have companions for the journey,
may you find Christ in the stranger,
and may you know the love and blessing of God.

And may the peace of God.....

Some Hymn Suggestions

418 Draw the Circle Wide

434 The Love of Jesus Calls Us

534 Here O Lord Your Servants Gather

435 Take My Life and Let It Be

450 You Call Us, Lord, to Be

643 Holy Spirit Come with Power

385 Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

584 The Church of Christ in Every Age

647 Spirit of the Living God

“Thy Word”

Amy Grant/Michael Smith

Chorus

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near,
Please be near me to the end.

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

I will not forget your love for me
And yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide, hold me to Your side,
And I will love you to the end.

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near,
Please be near me to the end.

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*

And a light unto my path,
You're the light unto my path.

