

THE DIOCESE OF ISLANDS AND INLETS



- COURSE TITLE:** **LAY LEADERSHIP IN WORSHIP COURSE**
Leading the Liturgy of the Word.
- FACILITATORS:** Session One: Bishop Anna, Ian Alexander and Ingrid Andersen
Session Two: Ansley Tucker
Session Three: Brendan Nielsen
Session Four: Ian Alexander
Session Five: Jenny Replogle
Session Six: Dawna Wall
Session Seven: Ingrid Andersen
Session Eight: Ingrid Andersen
- COURSE SCHEDULE:** **Spring 2026**
Thursdays 7:00 – 9 pm
March 5, 12, 19, 26 • April 9, 16, 23 • May 28.
- COURSE LENGTH:** Eight Sessions, 2 hours each
- COURSE LOCATION:** **Zoom link for all sessions: [here](#)**
- REQUIRED READING:** “THE LITURGICAL YEAR: the spiraling adventure of the spiritual life” by Joan Chittister
- COURSE PARTICIPATION:** Participants will be required to: (1) Attend ALL 8 sessions, (2) Complete the required reading and reflect on the weekly question(s) prior to each session, (3) Lead Morning or Evening Prayer during the class as assigned, (4) Lead 3 services of Morning/Evening Prayer OR Liturgy of the Word in their parish under the guidance and observation of an experienced mentor.
- COURSE OVERVIEW:** Equipping lay leaders to:
- Understand the purpose of worship and worship leaders
 - Follow the lectionary and examine its purpose in liturgical formation
 - Understand Anglican, global, local, social and historical context
 - Become familiar with the broad principals and structure of the BCP, BAS AND Pray without Ceasing Morning and Evening Prayer
 - Explore ways of bringing liturgies to life.
 - Introduce Worship Leaders to available resources
 - Put their learnings into practice.

SESSIONS

Session One:	The Purpose of Worship
Session Two:	The Lectionary
Session Three:	The Context of Anglican Worship
Session Four:	Evening Prayer
Session Five:	Morning Prayer
Session Six:	Bringing Liturgy to Life
Session Seven:	Introduction to Worship Leadership Resources
Session Eight	Report back on Mentoring experience

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome!

This course is a journey we are taking together, to which you bring your faith, along with your life and ministry experience, and to which each facilitator brings their expertise.

In each 2-hour session, you will begin by:

- 1) Having the opportunity to discuss your thoughts on the day's assigned reading from Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year' in your small group, and to learn from the thoughts of others. You will have submitted your thoughts online two days earlier.
- 2) The main part of each session will offer learning about an aspect of leading worship.
- 3) Each session (sessions 2-6) will end by offering you a chance to lead a section of Morning or Evening Prayer in a small group.

All of the information you will need can be found on the Diocesan course website here:
<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship>

Course requirements are that you submit your reflection timeously each week, attend each session in person, and lead three services under the guidance of a mentor. (One session may be missed with permission, if the session video is viewed before the next week.) If you do not meet these requirements, you will not pass the course.

Please Note: Your Mentor is not permitted to assist you with your reflections for Sessions 1-7. The role of the Mentor is to teach and guide you in leading worship during your practicum only.

Important: Please always save your reflection in a document on your computer, before copying and pasting it in the online response form. In cases of an unreliable internet connection, your reflection submission may not be uploaded and will be lost. I will not be able to download it and send it to you. Please read your syllabus, as all the information you need is in the syllabus.

Note: Joan Chittister's beautiful book, *The Liturgical Year*, will take you swiftly through an entire liturgical year, beginning in Advent. Take a moment to re-orient yourself liturgically. A variety of worship styles and practices are reflected in this course, to reflect the diversity of the parishes

- plan worship according to thematic resonance (e.g. identifying liturgical seasons, choosing liturgical colours, collect, intercessions, and music according to the readings within the context of the liturgical season)

Preparation

Important: Please print the handouts for this lesson and have them available for easy reference. The link for the downloads is: <https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-two>

To prepare for this session, please read chapters 5-8 of Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year' and answer the question below online. (250-500 words only). Be prepared to discuss your answer in a small group in class.

Joan Chittister says, "Liturgical time raises our sights above the dailiness of life to the essence of life. Therefore, what is the difference between human time and liturgical time? How is liturgical time reflected in our worship?"

Deadline to submit this reflection Tuesday March 10th by 23:59 – click >> [here](#) to paste.

Resources online at

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-two>

SESSION THREE

Thursday March 19th

7 – 9 PM

THE CONTEXT OF ANGLICAN WORSHIP

This session focuses on: (1) the global, world-wide Anglican Communion, and (2) local, geographic, historical and social contexts, identifying those nations on whose land we worship.

Practical Skills and Outcomes

This session prepares participants to:

- understand the Worldwide Anglican Communion and its cultural diversity
- understand the impact of European settlers in British Columbia
- gain an awareness of those whose land we now occupy
- understand how this history impacts on the Anglican Church here
- understand the purpose and importance of acknowledging the land

Preparation

To prepare for this session, please read chapters 9-14 of Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year', and answer the question below online. (250-500 words only). Be prepared to discuss your answer in a small group in class.

Joan Chittister speaks (p. 68) of the "preparing an Advent heart." In preparation for Session Three, which looks at the historical and cultural context in which we worship, reflect on the fact that Jesus was born into land occupied by Roman colonists and lived in a complex society of many cultures, a society filled with injustice. In our time of Advent waiting in the ancestral land of First Nations people, to what do you feel called?

Deadline to submit this reflection Tuesday March 17th by 23:59 – click >> [here](#) to paste.

Resources online at

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-three>

SESSION FOUR

Thursday March 26th

7 – 9 PM

BROAD PRINCIPALS AND STRUCTURE OF EVENING PRAYER

This session focuses on the broad principals and structure of Evening Prayer along with options in planning an Evening Prayer liturgy.

Practical Skills and Outcomes

This session prepares participants to identify a roadmap to inform and simplify:

- An understanding and working knowledge of the shape and contents of Evening Prayer.
- The choices to be made when planning Evening Prayer (e.g. sentences, seasonal and general intercessions, canticles, etc).

Preparation

To prepare for this session, please read chapters 15-19 of Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year' and answer the questions below online. (250-500 words only). Be prepared to discuss your answers in a small group in class.

Lent is a call to review and renew our commitment to Christ. How will you use this season to re-energize your devotion to Christ? In what ways could you support this focus through Evening Prayer?

Deadline to submit this reflection before Tuesday March 24th by 23:59 – click >> [here](#) to paste.

Resources online at

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-four>

SESSION FIVE

Thursday April 9th

7 – 9 PM

BROAD PRINCIPALS AND STRUCTURE OF MORNING PRAYER

This session focuses on the broad principals and structure of Morning Prayer along with options in planning a Morning Prayer liturgy

Practical Skills and Outcomes

This session prepares participants to identify a roadmap to inform and simplify:

- An understanding and working knowledge of the shape and contents of Morning Prayer
- The choices to be made when planning Morning Prayer (e.g. sentences, seasonal and general intercessions, canticles, etc.)

Preparation

To prepare for this session, please read chapters 20-24 of Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year', and answer the question below online. (250-500 words only). Be prepared to discuss your answer in a small group in class.

Holy Thursday is about mixed emotions – celebration giving way to fear and sadness. What times in your own life reflect such emotional conflict? What in the service of Morning Prayer gives you comfort in difficult times?

Deadline to submit this reflection Tuesday April 7th by 23:59– click >> [here](#) to paste.

Resources online at

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-five>

SESSION SIX

Thursday April 16th

7 – 9 PM

BRINGING LITURGY TO LIFE

This session focuses on (1) planning worship to which we bring our selves, our souls, and bodies, and (2) the role of worship leaders in preparing meaningful, dynamic, and creative worship through the use of various artistic expressions.

Practical Skills and Outcomes

This session equips participants to creatively plan worship through exploring:

- The selves they bring to worship leadership, and
- The use of various artistic forms that feed the senses and bring liturgy to life.

Preparation

To prepare for this session, please read chapters 25-29 of Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year', and answer the questions below online. (250-500 words only). Be prepared to discuss your answers in a small group in class.

The feast of Resurrection is the rebirth of hope, a light casting away all darkness, and a reminder that we are more than mortal. In what ways are we called to discover and proclaim hope and light in the midst of the sadness and challenges of this life? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering us to do this work? How can we make space for the Holy Spirit to work as we lead worship?

Deadline to submit this reflection Tuesday April 14th by 23:59 – click >> [here](#) to paste.

Resources online at

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-six>

SESSION SEVEN

Thursday April 23rd 7 – 9 PM

COURSE REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION TO RESOURCES

This session focuses on the guiding broad principles for Anglican worship and identifying resources available as participants embrace the task of leading the Ministry of the Word.

Practical Skills and Outcomes

Familiarity with online (and other) resources available for the participants' ongoing learning and worship planning.

Preparation

To prepare for this session, please read chapters 30-33 of Joan Chittister's 'The Liturgical Year', and answer the question below online. (250-500 words only). Be prepared to discuss your answer in a small group in class.

Following the liturgical year lets us follow Christ's footsteps, uniting us with his life. In what ways will this change you and the way you reveal your faith, your commitment to the world? Are there ways in which this could be made visible in the way you lead worship?

Deadline to submit this reflection Tuesday April 21st by 23:59 – click >> [here](#) to paste.

Resources online at

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/lay-leadership-in-worship/pages/session-seven>

MENTORED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF LEADING WORSHIP

Requirements:

- Participants are required to lead three separate services of liturgies of the word, such as Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer. (Noonday prayer is too short)
- Those services may be in person or via Zoom, but they should include: the celebrant (you), a small congregation and your mentor.
- The role of the mentor is to assist you to plan the liturgy, and the bulletin, if a bulletin is being used. The mentor should also attend the service, in order to be able to give you helpful feedback. If it is not possible for the mentor to attend in person, a good recording showing both the celebrant and some of the congregation can be made for the mentor to view.
- The liturgies used may be from the BAS or the BCP or from Pray without Ceasing, but any official liturgy approved for use by a Province in the Anglican Communion may be used. Some of these are listed on the Diocesan Worship Resources: [Authorised Liturgies webpage](#). Pray without Ceasing and the other worship resources used in this course (including a link to Sermons that Work) can be found on the [Lay Leadership in Worship Resource](#) page, also under Worship Resources.
- Start planning for your services well in advance. Work with your mentor as well as other members of your worship team, such as your musical director. Work together – we will be looking for this.
- Work with your mentor to choose a pre-prepared sermon that is appropriate for your particular congregation. Ensure that you meet with your mentor well in advance of your services, so that there are no last-minute surprises.
- The participant/celebrant should reflect in a 500-word assignment (no longer) on what went well, and what could be improved in the following areas:
 - Preparation and selection of liturgy, scripture and other aspects of worship.
 - Leadership: pacing, clarity of expression, guidance for those attending, a good welcome and ending.
 - Creating a sense of the sacred in worship: this is not just reading from a book, but as significant as a Eucharist service on Sunday. How was this achieved?

SESSION EIGHTThursday May 28th

7 – 9 PM

DISCUSSION OF LEARNINGS FROM MENTORED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

This session focuses on the group learnings from the opportunity to lead three services of either Morning OR Evening Prayer, OR a liturgy of the Word, under the guidance of an experienced clergy or lay mentor.

Practical Skills and Outcomes

Increased confidence in leading worship, and a comfort with learning from things that enhanced worship and things that don't go well. Learning from the experiences of the group.

Preparation

To prepare for this session, please write a brief reflection on your experience of leading worship (250-500 words only- the form takes no more than 1000 words). Be prepared to discuss the key points of your reflection with the class.

In your practical experience, what learnings stood out for you? What surprised you? Is there anything that you would like to do again? Is there anything you will not do again?

Deadline to submit this reflection Tuesday May 26th by 23:59 – click >> [here](#) to paste.
