

Early in the triennium, the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision communicated with every diocesan bishop, encouraging each bishop to create a diocesan liturgical commission and share with the Task Force the name of the chair or a contact person in the diocese. As the Task Force learned of diocesan liturgical commissions it posted that information on its website www.episcopalcommonprayer.org. In February 2020, the Task Force published guidelines for diocesan liturgical commissions.

Through the diocesan liturgical commissions and social media, the Task Force invited worshipping communities and individuals to submit new liturgical materials. Over the course of three meetings (in-person and online), Working Group I reviewed twenty-four (24) submissions of alternative liturgical texts or sets of texts. Using the *Principles to Guide the Development of Liturgical Texts* and the *Guidelines for Expansive and Inclusive Language* as developed by the Task Force, each submission or collection was evaluated to determine if it satisfactorily met all criteria of the *Principles* and *Guidelines*. Every submission was read by each member of Working Group I for review of language and theology. Most submissions were read aloud within Working Group I to hear their cadence and literation.

Of the twenty-four submissions, six were found to meet the full requirements of the *Principles* and the *Guidelines*. These six are commended to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for its continued review. The following is one of the six examples:

“Paperless” Eucharistic Prayer

The Gathered draw close to the altar, as they are able, creating a circle or convening in front of the altar, facing the Presider. When it is time for the Gathered to respond, the Presider signals this by gesturing toward them with outstretched hands.

Presider You are invited to gather around the table in the presence of God in Christ, repeating after me:

God is here.

Gathered God is here.¹

Presider We lay down our cares.

Gathered We lay down our cares.²

Celebrant We lift up our hearts.

Gathered We lift up our hearts.

Presider We give thanks to our God of love.

Gathered We give thanks to our God of love.

Presider It is right to give thanks and praise each and every day to you God, the Creator of all things that have ever been and all things that are yet to come.

God, you create, love, and redeem. You gather us together in the Body of Jesus Christ. You renew us through the Holy Spirit and call us to a life of love.

And so, we praise you by joining together across time and space with choirs of angels, archangels, and generations of human beings, saying the words of this ancient hymn:

Presider Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Gathered Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Presider God of power and might,

Gathered God of power and might,

Presider heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Gathered heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Presider Hosanna in the highest.

Gathered Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.³

Gathered Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

¹ Inspired by the Church of Ireland’s “Prayer 3” as printed in: Colin Buchanan, ed., *Anglican Eucharistic Liturgies 1985-2010: The Authorized Rites of the Anglican Communion*, 1 edition (London: Canterbury Press Norwich, 2011), 83.

² Inspired by Cyril of Jerusalem, as cited in: Leonel L. Mitchell and Ruth A. Meyers, *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer, Revised Edition*, (New York: Seabury Books, 2016), 168.

³ Inspired by *Enriching Our Worship 1*, I’ve used the language found in the NRSV translations of Psalm 118, Mat. 21:9, Mark 11:9 and John 12:13 (“blessed is the one”).

Presider Hosanna in the highest.
Gathered Hosanna in the highest.

Presider God, your Spirit swept over the face of the waters at the creation of the world. You made all things – mountains, seas, plants and animals. You made human beings in your image, and you have always been with us. Yet we strayed far from you, sinning against you. You called us back to your loving presence again and again, sending prophets and sages to reveal the Truth.⁴ In Jesus Christ you came, dwelled among us and made the one true sacrifice on the cross, redeeming us from sin and death. You continue to walk alongside us as we continue to stray, showing us a way of hope over despair, creation over destruction and love over fear.

At the words concerning the bread, the presider holds the bread up in such a way that it is visible to as many members of the gathered community as possible. At the words concerning the wine, the presider holds the cup containing wine to be consecrated in such a way that it is visible to as many members of the gathered community as possible, also placing a hand on other vessels containing wine to be consecrated.

Presider On that night, Jesus had been betrayed and his whereabouts revealed to the authorities. He knew suffering and death awaited him in the morning. And so, he invited his friends to gather around the table. He gave thanks for the bread, broke it, shared it, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

He gave thanks for the wine, shared it, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we share the mystery of faith, repeating after me:

Gathered Christ was born and walked among us.

Presider Christ was born and walked among us.

Gathered Christ died on the cross.

Presider Christ died on the cross.

Gathered Christ rose from the dead.

Presider Christ rose from the dead.

Gathered Christ is coming again.

Presider Christ is coming again.

Presider We remember and celebrate our redemption through Christ, giving thanks and praise, and offering these gifts of bread and wine.

⁴ Inspired by Eucharist Prayer C: BCP, 370.

God, we pray that you accept and sanctify these gifts by your Holy Spirit, so that they serve as a Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, the holy food of the new life in Christ we receive in the waters of our Baptism. We pray that you sanctify us as well, so that we may go out from this place, having shared in Christ's presence in this meal, noticing and naming your work in the world, renewed and strengthened for this life of loving and serving you.

We ask all this of you, Father and Mother, through Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All

AMEN.