

Mission Community celebration/commissioning

INTERCESSIONS

1. **Contemporary/informal**
2. **Formal**
3. **Traditional**
4. **Active/Interactive**
5. **Music to intersperse prayers**

1. Contemporary/informal

Gracious God,
May this mission community be filled with your vision and be bold in mission.
May your streams of living water flow through your church to a thirsty generation.

Gracious God,
we are your church.
May we be all these things and more
to your glory.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

(source unknown)

Lord, we believe that we can make a positive difference in the world
by our attitudes and our interventions.
Help us to become more aware of the wonder, beauty and vulnerability of your creation
and to make every effort to cherish and protect it.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

("Just One Year" no. 293)

Thank you Lord for all those who help our community to run smoothly
because of their jobs, voluntary work or neighbourliness.
Help us to be supportive and encouraging and to step in to situations where we can serve.
Bless our neighbours and strengthen those who are working in your name
in order to bring healing and comfort to those in need.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

(source unknown)

Contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name

Father God, you're great!

Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven

I want You to be in charge here

Give us today our daily bread

Please give us what we need

And forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us

I'm Sorry, forgive me and help
me to forgive others too

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil

Keep me safe and don't let me
give in to doing wrong things

For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever

Amen

You're wonderful
and You always will be

Yessssss!

(supplied by Katherine Lyddon)

2. Formal

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father

For the one holy catholic and apostolic church
let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

For the mission of this new mission community,
that in faithful witness it may proclaim the Gospel.

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

For ourselves, the baptised,
that we may be strengthened as we respond to God's call to serve.

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples.

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

For all those in need in our communities

— the sick, suffering, unhappy, vulnerable and lonely —

that they may be comforted and protected.

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion

In your mercy hear us.

(adapted from "Times and Seasons" p215)

The Lord's Prayer – traditional version

3. Traditional

The General Thanksgiving (CW p 109)

inserting a line: "particularly for bringing this mission community into being"

CW p 282

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

O God, the creator and preserver of all,
we pray for people in every kind of need;
make your ways known on earth,
your saving health among all nations ...

We pray for the good estate of the catholic Church;
guide and govern us by your good Spirit,
that all who profess and call themselves Christians
may be led into the way of truth,
and hold the faith in unity of spirit,
in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life ...

We commend to your fatherly goodness
all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed,
in mind, body or estate;
comfort and relieve them in their need,
give them patience in their sufferings,
and bring good out of all their afflictions ...

We remember those who have gone before us
in the peace of Christ,
and we give your praise for all your faithful ones,
with whom we rejoice in the communion of saints ...

All this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake.

AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in confidence as Jesus taught us:

4. Active/interactive

a. . Drawing the neighbourhood

In advance of the service encourage the children to draw their neighbourhood or school. Encourage them to pray for each part as they draw it - especially the people. They could then pray together for what they have drawn. As a variation, try painting colour onto the pictures as they pray - symbolising the change that God's answers will bring. Draw attention to the pictures and pray again.

b. Building a wall

Collect some large rocks ((children could do this together in advance of the service) so that each person has one. At the service supply marker pens and encourage people to think of one thing they value about their community. They then write it down on the rock. Now get each of them to bring their rock and make a "memorial" pile to remember God's goodness (see Joshua 4).

Note: you could also use shoe boxes.

c. Photographs

In advance, ask the congregation to send photographs/pictures of something which represents their community to someone who can build a Powerpoint presentation. This could be shown during a time of prayer, possibly accompanied by music, for the congregation to pray individually as prompted by the pictures and the Holy Spirit.

d. Plasticine (or other materials) prayers

Give each person some plasticine or soft modelling material (even clay) and encourage them to make a model to represent something to represent their community eg. people, a building. They are invited at an appropriate time to move and place their model on a board labelled with the name of the Mission Community, praying individually as they place their models. You might suggest that they lift them up to Father God as they pray. Quiet music could be played during this time. When all have been placed, service leader says a summing-up prayer.

Could also work by making drawings rather than models, or even just writing. Or candles/nightlights – the concentration of light by the time everyone has placed theirs would be symbolic of light filling the community.

Seaside areas could use shells.

e. Make and walk the community

Label different areas of the church to represent aspects of the community. Invite the congregation to go and stand in the area(s) they particularly wish to pray for. Give permission for people to pray out loud or silently as they prefer.

f. Drapes

Prepare lengths of different coloured lightweight material to represent different aspects of the community. Roll them up and place together at a central point. As each is unfurled and identified say a short prayer for each aspect. By the time you've finished you should have an impressive multi-coloured star shape! Even better if the whole thing can be elevated somehow using eg. tall people, poles ...

5. Music to intersperse prayers

Taizé:	O Lord hear my prayer Ubi caritas Bless the Lord my soul
Terrye Coelho	Father, we adore you
Brian Doerkson	Faithful One