

Intercessory Prayer

The Liturgical Expression of Biblical Guidance,
Pastoral Care, and Christian Love

Paxson Jeancake | Director of Worship

Covenant Church | Palm Bay, FL

Family & Florida



Covenant Church

Palm Bay, Florida



**And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise**

Preliminary Considerations

Content, Structure, and Style

CONTENT – The Story of God; the gospel

STRUCTURE – Fourfold Order

(1) Gathering – We gather in response to God’s call, offering praise in words of Scripture, prayer, and song. We acknowledge our sinfulness and receive the assurance of God’s forgiveness.

(2) Word – Scripture is read and its message is proclaimed.

(3) Response/Table – We respond to the message of God’s Word.

(4) Sending – We are sent forth with God’s blessing to serve.

STYLE – the way in which you carry out the substance of the conversation with God; arises from your culture and context

The Formative Character of Worship

Lex orandi, lex credendi – the law of prayer is the law of belief

How are we *forming* our people?

Scripture-based Worship (Organic Liturgy)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

I believe there is a need for more Scripture to be woven throughout our worship services, letting its language, narrative, metaphors, themes, teachings, truths, and paradigms form and shape us, week after week.

- *Worship in the Shape of Scripture* by Russell Mitman
 - Mitman's paradigm: From lectionary to liturgy
- Use of lectionary-based resources

A Weekly Guide for Planning Corporate Worship



Biblical and Denominational Foundation

Biblical Exhortations

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:23-25)

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Biblical Exhortations

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. (Ephesians 6:18-19)

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

PCA Book of Church Order

From the Directory for Worship: Public Prayer, 52:2f

“Intercession and petition for others, including the whole world for mankind; for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh; for the peace, purity, and extension of the Church of God; for ministers and missionaries in all lands; for all who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake; for the particular church then assembled, and all other churches associated in one body with it; for the sick, dying, and bereaved; for the poor and destitute; for strangers, for prisoners, the aged and the young; for those who travel; for the community in which the church is situated; for civil rulers; and for whatever else may seem to be necessary or suitable for the occasion.”

Quotes from *Shaping the Prayers of the People: The Art of Intercession*

“This book endeavors to make intercessory prayer, in its recognition of our particular human need, our common dependence upon God, and our growing expectation that God will bless us, a formative practice for the church.”

“It is a joy when one can meet the intersection between the profoundest longings of one’s soul, the most direct import of the scripture, and the most desperate needs of the world. It is a joy when one can share this most intimate of encounters with a congregation one has joined for a season, for a morning, or for life.”

“The Pastoral Prayer first took shape as part of the Reformation impulse to develop a form of prayer that addressed a specific time and place, named particular needs in the local community, and lifted up pastoral cares of the congregation.”

Historical Inspiration

Intercessory Prayer in Bucer's Strasbourg

- Thesis of my paper: Intercessory prayer in Bucer's Strasbourg is the liturgical expression of his core convictions: the primacy of Scripture, pastoral care, and Christian love.
- Heart of Bucer's *Concerning the True Care of Souls* (1538)
 - “Where are the innocent servants of Christ who bring Christ's sheep nothing but the Lord's voice and word, who are zealous to seek all the Lord's lost sheep, to bring back those which have gone astray, to heal the injured, to strengthen the weak, to guard the strong and feed them aright (Ezekiel 34:16)?”

Goals for Prayer Initiative at Covenant (Spring 2022)

The goals for my initiative at Covenant Church were inspired, in part, by my research on Martin Bucer and the ministry of intercessory prayer at his church in 16th-century Strasbourg.

- (1) Kindling **pastoral care** and **Christian love** within our people
- (2) **Expanding our vision of the kingdom**, beyond our personal concerns and those of our local church
- (3) Encouraging our own **personal growth** in these areas