

Back-to-School Prayer and Worship Service Outline

Gathering around the Word

Welcome and Call to Worship
Praising God in Song
Selected readings from the book of Proverbs

Hearing the Word

The Word Read—Matthew 22:34–40
The Message

Responding to the Word

Presenting God's Tithes and Our Offerings
Commissioning of Christian Education teachers and leaders
Music- "Here I Am, Lord" - Presbyterian Hymnal #525

Back-to-School Liturgy

Children's ministry, youth ministry, and/or Christian education elder:

Loving God, we come before you with prayers on our hearts. We offer to you our very lives that we may live according to your will.

Congregation sings: "Take My Life"

Glory to God, page 697, verse 1

Community speaker one:

We pray for all children—for their playfulness, for their curiosity and for their joyfulness.
We pray, as they go beyond the boundaries of home, that they will find strong and true friendships.
We pray especially for those called to lead and to care for them.
Grant O God that our children and the adults who minister with them might grow in your love.

Congregation sings: "Take My Life"

Glory to God, page 697, verse 2

Community speaker two:

We pray for all young people, for the ways they test boundaries and question authority. We pray, O God that they will continue to develop and to use the gifts you have given them. We pray for those called to teach, to lead, to coach, and to mentor our young people. Grant your wisdom and generous spirit to these youth and adults as they commit to grow righteously in this complex world.

Congregation sings: "Take My Life"

Glory to God, page 697, verse 3

Community speaker three:

We pray for all college students, for the questions they are facing about their future.

We pray for those called to lead and to care for them—for professors, counselors, administrators, and advisors. Nurture all students and leaders, O God, in communities of fellowship and protect them from isolation and loneliness. Grant your courage to these young adults and adults as they engage in critical learning and discovery for the stewardship of our world.

Congregation sings: “Take My Life”

Glory to God, page 697, verse 4

Community speaker four:

We pray for all those who teach and lead, O God. Inspire them with creativity and commitment. Give them energy to continue teaching and bringing forth the best from their students. Help us to appreciate their efforts and to treat them with respect. Provide opportunities, O God, for their refreshment and renewal.

Community speaker five:

We pray for all adults as they endeavor to live faithful lives in their homes and in their workplaces. We pray for all who are parents, stepparents, guardians, caregivers, and grandparents of children, youth, and young adults. Help them to find the time to sit and to listen to their young people. Give them hearts and minds filled with patience, understanding and wisdom. Enable them to share your wisdom and love, O God, in word and by example.

Congregation Prays:

We pray for all those who learn—children, youth, young adults and adults. Keep them from being discouraged when facing the trials of the day. Instill in them a desire to grow in wisdom and understanding. Grant them the discipline of study and the ability to concentrate. We pray for all of us as learners, O God. We know that we never stop learning about your love and faithfulness. We thank you, O God our creator, for teaching us through your word and through your son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Congregation sings: “Take My Life”

Glory to God, page 697, verse 6

Receiving God's Blessing

Sending to Serve