

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Space for Hospitality // Hebrews 13:1-8; Luke 14:1, 7-14; Psalm 112; Romans 15:4-13 //
A Thanksgiving Service

MAIN THEME: At Thanksgiving, we remember that we are called to extend more than a friendly meal to both loved ones and strangers.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven:

who knew you and chose you before the world began;

who loves you so much that he calls you his own children;

who has brought you from darkness into light and filled you with his glorious power;

who has prepared an inheritance for you that will never spoil or fade;

who encourages and strengthens you in every good deed and word;

who comforts you in your troubles so that you can comfort others.

All: **This is our God,
the ultimate source of all things,
and the One for whom we live.
Let's worship God together!**

From "Call to Worship for Thanksgiving," by Christine Longhurst. Available [here](#).

PROCESSION

Welcome the Healer

While singing, have worshipers deliver canned goods or other necessities to stations located around the worship space. Designated assistants will build pyramids and other visuals out of these goods to heighten awareness of our giving today.

WELCOME

Say "hi" to other worshipers and welcome one another in the name of Jesus Christ. On this day, of all days, this practice should not be eliminated.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 112
Romans 15:4-13

SONGS OF WORSHIP

All I Have is Yours, from *Before the Throne*, by Sojourn
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord), by Matt Redman and
Jonas Myrin

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

Provide time for worshipers to reflect on the weight of God's word for us today. This is a good time to display images as prompts. Schmalz's "Angels Unawares" is a provocative image. You might include a description of the image to guide reflection.

TESTIMONY ON HOSPITALITY

Invite a worshiper to share a story of a time when they felt particularly welcome among God's people. How might this story encourage others to consider how they might be welcomed guests and warm hosts among the people of God?

SONG OF HOSPITALITY

All are Welcome, by Marty Haugen

MESSAGE

"Entertaining Angels and Aliens Alike"

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

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Leader: God, we are aliens and sojourners in this world, but you invite us to be your guests.
 You lavishly offer us your hospitality and lovingly welcome us into your family, You invite us to share in the abundance of your kingdom. God, you have shown us that providing hospitality to strangers opens a doorway into the Kingdom of God. Remind us that when we offer hospitality to others, we are receiving Christ into our midst and so fulfilling the law of love.

All: We open our hearts to embrace the stranger, the friend, the rich, and the poor. We open our lives to offer a generous heart toward all.

*Adapted from A Litany of Hospitality, by Christine Sine.
 Available [here](#).*

CLOSING SONG

Doxology, by David Crowder Band

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Life and Ministry of our Church

BENEDICTION

Leader: Maybe in this there is a glimpse of the kingdom
 a foretaste
 a hint
 a promise.

Let it hold you and let it send you
 so you will never be at peace
 until all are fed
 until all know home
 until all are free
 until justice is done
 until peace is the way
 until grace is the law
 until love is the rule
 until God's realm comes
 until God's realm comes
 until God's realm comes....

*By Cheryl Lawrie, "A Glimpse of the Kingdom."
 Available [here](#).*

SENT OUT TO SERVE

Practice hospitality with a community meal following the worship gathering. Encourage worshipers to sit at tables with both strangers and friends.