



Intercessors have asked for guidance in writing their intercessions during this time in which we have started to gather again for worship so what follows is one approach that would be very appropriate at this current time with a worked example of bidding prayers for Sunday 30th August.

1 The structure and form of Bidding Prayers

1. Start with an opening sentence (setting the scene of the prayers).

e.g. We are not alone in our weakness, but God is always ready to help us if we ask. So let us turn to the Lord in prayer

2. Short Biddings are used to help the congregation pray: these consist of two sentences.

The first sentence saying who we are praying for.

The second sentence praying for them in some specific way.

3. After each bidding silence is held so that people can say their prayers

4. The silent prayer is concluded with a response and then the next bidding is introduced

5. 4 /5 bidding prayers of this type is about right.

e.g. Let us bring to God any problems we are currently struggling with and any ways in which we feel inadequate. May God strengthen and encourage us.

Silent prayer

*Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer***

Let us pray for those who are new to the faith. May they not be discouraged when following Christ becomes tough but grow deeper in their faith

Silent prayer

*Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer***

Let us pray for all those in church leadership, especially those who feel tired or worn down. May they be renewed and encouraged in their ministry

Silent prayer

*Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer***

Let us pray for those who face persecutions around the world. May they know God's love for them especially deeply and may God grant them the courage that they need.

Silence

*Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer***

6. A concluding prayer such as, Merciful Father accept these prayers....

e.g. We thank you Lord for hearing our prayers and for your goodness to us. We ask all these things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen



2 How to approach writing Bidding Prayers

The key to this is simplicity and recognising the person leading has the role to help people pray not to say their prayers for them. Leaving space for people's own prayers is key but using some simple biddings which fit with the readings of the day will help people pray when they may not know what to pray for.

If writing your own biddings my suggestion would be to read the readings set for the day taking particular notice of the gospel passage as that is what we tend to focus on. Maybe if you are familiar with Lectio Divina do this to see how the passage speaks to you. Key is ask yourself what strikes you in the passage. What are the themes etc..jot these down.

Ask yourself can I describe in one sentence what is the theme, message I am hearing in the passage - this will help you with your introductory sentence.

For the biddings you **may** want to write a bidding prayer for

1. The Church
2. The World
3. Our Community
4. The Sick and those in need
5. Those who have died

Decide on the response you will use to conclude the periods of silence.

Finally write a concluding prayer which thanks God for hearing our prayers and journeying with us. Or simply use Merciful Father accept....

Resources

Ian Black's Intercessions for Year A, B and C published by SPCK in 2009 is a very good book.

Rev'd Andrew Down, Rector of the Beacon Parishes Mission Community

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