

# ALL IN: MIDWEEK WORSHIP SAMPLE

LENT 2026, YEAR A

**All In: Midweek Worship** .....1

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the midweek worship service for our 2026 Lenten series, *All In*. This worship event will stretch the term “service” to include not only worship, but also fellowship, outreach, and community engagement. Built around the weekly themes of our Lenten series, this midweek service invites worshipers to explore what God’s invitation to go “all in” looks like in your particular time and place.

Because the answer to that question is so contextual, this midweek event will have the greatest impact if you’re able to do some advance planning. Ideally, several weeks before the start of these midweek services, you’ll discern which community members will be best suited for helping you and your people connect scriptural insights to their lived experiences within your communities. We envision that you’ll do so by having the liturgy flow into opportunities for service and learning.

## OPENING PRAYER

God of limitless care, you weave yourself between every thread of our lives’ fabric. You dwell deeply in joy and pain, suffering and hope, loss and love. Immanent One, come to us now. Surface all around in the ordinary material of our congregation and our community. Draw us into deeper connections with our neighbors and with one another, for every part of creation reflects a facet of your face. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The pastor or worship leader is invited to pause before leading the scripted Prayers of the People. What needs were shared during the Message? Who is in need in the congregation or community this week? Open the Prayers of the People by offering these concerns to God in extemporaneous prayer, then continue with the prayer below.*

God, receive our prayers for our neighbors and ourselves.

To all weighed down by guilt,

**God, send forgiveness.**

To all who suffer in body or mind,

**God, send healing.**

To all who despair,

**God, send hope.**

To all who are forgotten,

**God, send love.**

To all who go without a safe dwelling,

**God, send shelter.**

To all who do not have enough to eat,

**God, send food.**

To all who are in danger,

**God, send safety.**

To all who are heavy of heart,

**God, send consolation.**

God of infinite love, cradle all for whom we pray in the palm of your hand in the name of Jesus, who pours himself out for the whole world's sake.

**Amen.**

## NOTES ON THE LITURGY

The theological heart of this series (and this service!) begins with what God has done for us: from Genesis to Revelation and beyond, God shows us over and over again how God goes all in for the world that God so loves. From shaping the world out of empty chaos, to accompanying Abram and Sarai into the unknown, to shepherding the Israelites through the wilderness, to slipping into flesh and walking among us in Jesus Christ, to breathing the Spirit onto and into frightened disciples, God is continually investing Godself in us and in the world around us. We respond to this steadfast, abundant presence by choosing to put our own resources into the places where God has called us to be.

This midweek service emphasizes worship as a place where we recognize how God is already all in, right in the midst of our lives. God brings us together for worship, and we respond by praising God in sacred speech and in service to our neighbors. The God whom we worship becomes more discernible in our everyday lives, and our everyday lives become more recognizable to us as contexts where we can respond to what God is already doing.

### *Who or what will preach during the Message?*

This service includes a preaching moment, called the Message in the liturgy above, that can take a number of different forms depending on your context. This preaching moment provides a great opportunity to open up the pulpit if you choose, inviting someone to speak or preach who can offer unique insight into the weekly theme. Your discernment about who to invite is key, and we recommend the following as you undertake that discernment:

- Read the week's scripture text.
- Pray for God's guidance.

- Reflect on your congregation's existing ministries and values. Anchoring the learning and service portion in what your congregation is already doing will keep these weekly events from veering into token community engagement. Till the ground for existing ministries to deepen and expand.

After all of this, prayerfully consider who might be able to give a testimony not only about their community engagement, but also about where they experience God's presence in their vocation.

When considering possible guests, think both in-house and out-of-house, such as:

- Congregation members
- Friends of the congregation: people who attend occasionally but are not members, people from neighboring congregations, representatives from other church bodies (your diocese, synod, or presbytery), parachurch organizations, etc.
- Organizations with a pre-existing relationship with your church: Scout troops, a representative from the care facility where you lead monthly worship, the organization that runs the community pantry on your grounds, etc.
- Organizations with no current relationship with your church, but who are actively exploring whether you might develop one