

## **Service Leading at 5:17 Church – a guide**

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Our goal:

1. Connect with Jesus (worship)
2. Connect with each other (fellowship and edification)
3. Connect people with Jesus (mission / evangelism)

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### **Checklist for preparing for chairing**

- Please check the 5:17 Rosters Google Group page regularly to see when you are on for chairing. There will be a question mark (?) next to your name – if you are OK to chair that date, please remove the question mark. If not, shoot an email to Steve or Keiyeng.
- Have a look at the Bible passage, read it, and spend a good amount of time in prayer – prayer for yourself so that God can work in you and through you for His glory; pray for 5:17ers and pray for visitors
- We have to show leadership up the front by our attitude and manner. Make sure as you prepare that your personality comes through - that will help the congregation get to know you and help them feel comfortable rather than eg. rigidly solemn
- Plan the flow of the service – what will be in the Sunday service and how all the parts fit together to make the whole. Every week the service will include (not necessarily in this order!):
  1. Welcome (including welcoming newcomers)
  2. Songs (generally 3-5 per service)
  3. Pastoral / corporate prayers
  4. Communion
  5. Giving
  6. 5:17 news
  7. Bible reading
  8. Sermon

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### **On the day of your chairing:**

- Please be at church at 3pm for music practice and then prayer time for the service
- Make sure the Communion elements are prepared before the service begins
- Make sure a the sound system and PowerPoint is ready well before the service

## The service contents

### 1. *Welcome / start*

- Service begins at 5:17pm or as close to that as possible.
  - Begin with prayer early on
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### 2. *Songs*

- Andrew chooses the songs for each sermon series, and will email you in advance what the songs will be for your session.
  - There is a database of PowerPoint slides for each song in 5:17's rotation
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### 3. *Pastoral/corporate prayers*

- Not too long (eg over 5 mins / hard to keep up concentration); not too short (prayers that don't say much)
  - Generally speaking, you can use the prayer points in the Newsheet as a basis of what to pray for but feel free to expand / diverge!
  - Biblical passages to base prayer around: Paul's prayers e.g. in Phil 1:1-11; Eph.1: 15-19a; 3:14-21; Col.1:9-14. Sometimes the psalms could be used for ideas, or parts of the NT which speak of the great mercies and grace of God in Jesus.
  - Below are a few basic ideas of what to pray for including some we tend to miss:
    - Our church leaders – Engine Room (Steve, Winston, Andrew and Murray)
    - The growth of 5:17: conversion of nonbelievers, faithfulness in witness, growth in maturity in Christ and commitment to reaching out
    - The special needs of our nation: the government, revival of churches in Australia, the work of the gospel to impact the land, Theological Colleges...
    - Persecuted and needy Christians around the world
    - What is especially appropriate for this week (eg members of the congregation who are going through particular trials, prayer for rain, current Australian and international news)
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### 4. *Adding a one-off section to the service*

- Please feel very free to share the load by asking people to help / share the responsibilities – eg. invite someone to pray, give their testimony, recite a poem etc. Steve or Keiyeng might ask you to include someone as well.
- But remember if you add something into the service (a testimony) you will have to take something out (eg. have 3 songs instead of 4) so that we don't run overtime.
- During the week before you service lead, make sure you follow-up the people you have invited to be involved in the service (testimony, prayers etc) to make sure that they are comfortable with their role and prepared.

## 5. Communion

- Our PowerPoint message: Communion is a symbolic meal of remembrance, participated in by Christians to remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection for us. If you're not a Christian, please don't take the bread and juice, but consider taking Jesus' offer to you of forgiveness and eternal life.
- A brief overview of Communion's significance in the life of the church<sup>1</sup>:
  - The past: Communion points us back to the unspeakable love of God in the sacrifice of Jesus. Here we encounter the very heart of God, and are to be moved again by His 'amazing grace' to worship, wonder and adore.
  - The present: Communion is a place of meeting with our risen Saviour. He affirms once again His love for us and the forgiveness He has purchased at such a cost, quickens our responding love, and deepens our faith and commitment to Him. He meets us too in the brothers and sisters who surround us and whom we embrace within the family of God.
  - The future: Communion lifts us beyond the immediate horizons of space and time into the larger company of heaven, and rehearses the glorious 'marriage supper of the Lamb' when He shall come again.

What is the Lord's Supper? 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. It is a simple act (verse 23)
2. It is a reminder (verse 24)
3. It is a symbol (verse 25)
4. It is a statement of faith (verse 26)

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are already believers (Mark 14:22-26; 1 Cor 11:29)

How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1. By self-examination (1 Cor 11:27)
  2. Confessing my sins (1 John 1:9)
  3. By recommitment (Rom 12:1)
  4. By restoring relationships (Matt 5:23-24)
- Bible passages that help us to explain Communion: Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:23-32; 15:3-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:20; 5:1; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 10:11-25; 1 Peter 3:18.
  - Try not to preach a 'mini-sermon' before Communion – a brief explanation is fine.
  - Pray before or after you hand out the elements.

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<sup>1</sup> From Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth*, p.293.

## **6. Giving**

- Our PowerPoint message: this is an opportunity for Christians to give generously to support the needs and work of our church both locally and in the wider world.
  - If you're here for the first time or not a Christian please feel welcome (but not at all obliged!) to join us in our giving. Non-Christians / visiting Christians shouldn't give if they wish not to and we certainly shouldn't put pressure on anyone to give, but they should be given reason to give as well as the regulars.
  - It is part of our responsibility to let the congregation know where their money is going e.g. missions, helping the needy, enabling our church to do all the things we are doing.
  - Pray either before or after giving out the backs or receiving them back
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## **7. Bible reading**

- Keiyeng organizes the Bible readers – this is on the Google group 5:17 rosters doc.

## **8. Sermon**

- Steve organizes this roster – this also is on the Google group 5:17 rosters doc.
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## **9. 5:17 news**

- These don't need to be at the end of the service, especially if they distract from the sermon that's just been preached. A possible alternative is after Communion and before the Sermon.
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## **10. Closing the service**

- Rather than ending with "I hope you enjoyed worshipping with us" (a bit 'consumer focused'), try to convey that our intention in being at church is to honour God and grow in our service to Him (ie *God*-focused and other-person focused).
  - Remember, we want to begin the Sunday service at 5:17pm sharp and finish by 6:45pm sharp. Please remember this time frame in your planning of the service.
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## **After Sunday:**

Steve (and / or anyone else you choose) can give you feedback on how you led and how we as a group can stay sharp in our service to God and each other.