SUNDAY MORNING CELEBRATION
LEADER/HOST ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Sunday Morning Celebration Leader is effectively functioning as host, providing the initial upfront welcome and then weaving between the various elements of our gathering. The more seamlessly the different parts come together to form one cohesive time or journey of worship the better. It may be helpful to think of the role similar to that of the host at a dinner party - your responsibility is to help make everyone feel welcome and safe, but ultimately to engage with one another and with God rather than just with yourself. In order to provide this sense of welcome, safety and expectation of engagement, body language, tone and choice of words are crucial at all times, but particularly at the beginning and at key transitional moments.

Typically the Leader/Host will be in communication with the Worship Leader and Preacher in the week leading up to the Sunday Morning Celebration to make sure that all three are on the same page in terms of direction and flow. It is the Sung Worship Leader's responsibility to prayerfully select songs but they may be open to suggestions, particularly from the person who is preaching.

In terms of selecting liturgy, there will typically be a **prayer of confession** and **absolution** and a final **blessing**, unless a Communion Service it is the Leader/Host's choice as to whether a **Creed or Affirmation of Faith** is also used. When choosing liturgy please be mindful of the varying ages, literacy levels and church backgrounds of our growing church family.

As a starting point it may be helpful to refer to this sample/template running order (available HERE). This is not intended to be rigid or overly prescriptive but to show how elements of our gathering can hold together and flow from beginning to end. Practically this Google Doc can either be downloaded and edited, or can be duplicated on Google Drive and edited as a live online document (this link can then be shared with others involved). If you need technical help with this please get in touch.

At present it is the Leader/Host's responsibility to recruit someone to lead intercessions and to read the Bible passage (see notes about leading prayers/intercessions below). More often than not we are currently asking the same person who has led intercessions to also read the Bible passage to assist with the continuity of our gathering (however this is not a hard and fast rule). If you don't feel in a position to find someone to lead intercessions and/or to do the Bible reading please let us know asap. When prayerfully considering who you may ask please do bear in mind who else will be involved in upfront ministry that morning and be attentive to age, gender, race and other opportunities to celebrate our diversity.

A helpful source for liturgy: https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-36

Please could you circulate a 'final' Running Order to those involved in the service by Thursday Evening. Please also send any liturgy (or anything else) that you would like to be displayed on the screen to luke@stjohnschatham.co.uk by Thursday Evening. As you lead/host please do feel free to deviate from the running order as necessary in response to the Holy Spirit's prompting - we never want to 'plan God out' of our gathered worship but believe that clear planning and preparation actually helps us to be able to respond to God more nimbly during our gatherings. Please remember that we are aiming for our Sunday Morning Celebrations to be around 80 minutes long.

As Leader/Host it is important that you are able to join the pre-service prayer time that starts at 9:45am.