

# The `liturgy-cw` package<sup>\*</sup>

Dimitri Theulings

`rector@becclesparish.org.uk`

`https://github.com/dimitrit/liturgy-cw`

June 3, 2025

## Abstract

The `liturgy-cw` package greatly simplifies the typesetting of service sheets and booklets in the style of the Common Worship liturgical resources of the Church of England. The package provides commands for a number of liturgical elements, including rubrics, responsories and ‘required part’ indicators.

## 1 Introduction

For the past quarter century Common Worship prayers and services has been the authorised liturgy for worship in the Church of England[1]. For practical and (not least) financial reasons many churches have produced their own service sheets and booklets. These materials are often created using widely available word processing and desktop publishing software packages with varying success.

The `liturgy-cw` package arose from the need to create service sheets and booklets quickly and easily, while ensuring these retain a consistent visual style that is familiar to both worshipers and service leaders. Given the familiarity that these users have with the visual style of Common Worship made its design the obvious target for this package.

Morgan’s account of the making of Common Worship[2] details the design, together with rationales for various decisions that had to be made in its implementation. While the `liturgy-cw` package falls far short of an exact, or even complete, implementation of this design, it should nevertheless prove useful in fulfilling its basic objectives.

## 2 Limitations

Because of its dependencies, including `fontspec`, the `liturgy-cw` package requires Lua $\TeX$  or other supported  $\TeX$  engine to function.

For best results you should have both *Gill Sans MT* and *Noto Sans Liturgy* fonts installed on your system. The latter is required for the symbol functions, `\Rx`, `\Pause` and `\Cross`.

---

<sup>\*</sup>This document relates to `liturgy-cw` v0.2, last revised 2025-06-03.

### 3 Bug reports and feature requests

The source code, together with instructions for building and installing the package, can be found on github; <https://github.com/dimitrit/liturgy-cw>. Please raise a github issue if you find any bugs or would like to suggest a new feature.

## 4 Package documentation

### 4.1 Basic usage

The `liturgy-cw` package provides functions and environments to create service booklets and sheets in the style of Common Worship. The following simple example typesets the contemporary version of the Lord's prayer as a 'required part':

```
\begin{required}
  \rubric{The Lord's Prayer is said}

  \minister{
    Rejoicing in 'Gods new creation,\\
    as our Saviour taught us, so we pray}

  \lpc
\end{required}
```

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## 4.2 Commands for typesetting liturgies

### 4.2.1 Environments

**required** Required parts of Common Worship liturgy are indicated by a vertical red bar. The **required** environment can be used to mark these parts. The position of the vertical bar is defined by `\vbarhskip`.

### 4.2.2 Functions

**rubric** The `\rubric{<directive>}` function adds a direction for the conduct of the service in red, italicised print. For example:

```
\rubric{The appointed psalmody is said.}
```

*The appointed psalmody is said.*

**minister** Words spoken by clergy are included using the `\minister[<role>]{<words>}` function. Using the optional *role* argument it is possible to specify a ministry role, for example:

```
\minister[President]{
  The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.\\
  The peace of the Lord be always with you}
\all{and also with you.}

\minister[Deacon]{Let us offer one another a sign of peace.}
```

*President* The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**all** `\all{<words>}` is used to highlight the words that are to be spoken by the whole congregation. Words are printed in bold, preceded by the italicised word *All* in red, printed in the margin. The *All* directive is omitted when using the starred version, `\all*{<words>}`, as shown in the example:

```
\minister{Lord, hear us.}
\all*{Lord, graciously hear us.}
```

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

### 4.2.3 Symbols

The symbol functions require the *Noto Sans Liturgy* font to be installed on your system. This font can be downloaded from the package source repository (see ‘*Bug reports and feature requests*’ on page 2).

Cross The ✝ symbol can be included in the liturgy using `\Cross`:

```
\Cross\ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
```

✝ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pause In the Common Worship Psalter pauses and refrains are indicated using the ◆ and R symbols  
Rx respectively. Support for these symbols is provided through the `\Pause` and `\Rx` functions:

```
\textit{\textcolor{red}{Refrain:}} The Lord shall keep you from all evil.}
\begin{verse}
  \flagverse{1}I lift up my eyes to the hills; \Pause \\
  from where is my help to come?

  \flagverse{2}My help comes from the Lord, \Pause \\
  the maker of heaven and earth.

  \flagverse{3}He will not suffer your foot to stumble; \Pause \\
  he who watches over you will not sleep.

  \flagverse{4}Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \Pause \\
  shall neither slumber nor sleep. \Rx

  \flagverse{5}The Lord himself watches over you; \Pause \\
  the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

  \flagverse{6}So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \Pause \\
  neither the moon by night.

  \flagverse{7}The Lord shall keep you from all evil; \Pause \\
  it is he who shall keep your soul.

  \flagverse{8}The Lord shall keep watch over your going out \\
  \vin and your coming in, \Pause \\
  from this time forth for evermore.
\end{verse}
```

*Refrain: The Lord shall keep you from all evil.*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; ♦  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, ♦  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble; ♦  
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ♦  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. R
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; ♦  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ♦  
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; ♦  
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out  
and your coming in, ♦  
from this time forth for evermore.

#### 4.2.4 Shortcuts

A number of shortcuts are provided for frequently used liturgical elements. Two versions are provided for each shortcut. The standard version of each shortcut typesets the liturgical element as spoken the whole congregation, i.e. in bold print, preceded by *All*. The starred version typesets the plain text, as shown below.

amen Declaration of affirmation: **Amen.**  
glorybe Lesser doxology:

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

1pc The contemporary version of the Lord's prayer:

Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours  
 now and for ever.  
 Amen.

1pt The traditional version of the Lord's prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name;  
 thy kingdom come;  
 thy will be done;  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation;  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 the power and the glory,  
 for ever and ever.  
 Amen.

### 4.3 Options

Default formatting options can be applied using `\usepackage[<options>]{literature-cw}`.

**font** Sets the document font to Gill Sans MT. If this typeface is not available on the system, the package will attempt to use Lato as an alternative. An error will result with this option if neither of these typefaces are available on the system.

**titles** Formats chapter, section, and subsection titles in line with the Common Worship design. Note that as chapters, sections, etc. are not numbered in Common Worship, it is best to use the starred versions of title commands, i.e `\chapter*`, `\section*`, etc.

## References

- [1] CHURCH OF ENGLAND. *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*. Church House Publishing, London, 2000.
- [2] JOHN MORGAN. *An account of the making of Common worship: services and prayers for the Church of England* (Typography papers 5). Department of Typography & Graphic Communication, University of Reading, 2022/2003.

## Change History

v0.1		v0.2
General: Initial version	1	General: Initial release
		1