Commentary

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This congregation is small and aging and includes at least one member displaying increasing cognitive difficulties. They are experienced churchgoers, now used to 1984 forms. Services are held in a hall.

A single booklet has been produced: multiple books and searching for material is causing increasing problems (beyond those generally experienced), leading to disruption of the service flow and embarrassment. The booklet is an easily handled A5 and particularly large 14pt has been used to help aging eyes and, in fact, all worshippers, given that lighting is not good in the hall. The hall has projection facilities, but this would not be a familiar or comfortable to the congregation and might not be more visible. The font chosen is a traditional serif, intended to be comfortable and familiar, and layout it also traditional, following the familiar 1984 styles of indentation and emboldening. Pictures or other novel materials are likely to be a distraction to this congregation. Due to infirmities and to the nature of the seating, kneeling and standing are not specified. The congregation will stand for hymns.

The service structure is based on that provided for “Prayer During the Day” (BCP, 2009) and the theme is taken from the set reading: Philippians 4:4-7. “Peace”, a word widely used at the Christmas season, is taken from it and this is pointed out in the introduction to alert the congregation to it. Hymn is chosen to start the service, that is familiar for the congregation and one is chosen which is more able to able to introduce the theme of the service than any of the provided alternatives. The vesicles appear after the Hymn, so as not to distract from the opening and since the words are particularly relevant to the service theme. Alleluias are omitted since it is not Easter.

The ministry of the word begins with the psalm as suggested, using the set psalm. It will be said in unison, due to the small numbers and it is presented without markings, to ease reading and natural delivery. Only the single reading ìs included, as per (BCP, 2009) and since the other set readings are not directly related. A sermon and creed are added, as suggested in (CW, 2000) . The single reading is small but can be expanded on usefully, considering the wider meanings of *shalom*, the breadth of the true peace brought by Christ, and the one aspect of it: the absence of war which will be the meaning placed on Christmas card quotes. The creed provides a response to the ministry by the congregation.

Prayers in the 1984 form are used. The first is very familiar and relevant to the theme. The second, partly extemporary, concerns a current event. The collect and the Lord’s Prayer follow.

To make a clear ending a hymn is used, book-casing with the start and again providing an opportunity for praise around the theme of peace. Grace is said together, appropriate for a small group and familiar to the congregation.

# Bibliography

BCP, 2009. *The Book of Common Prayer for use in the Church in Wales 2009: Daily Prayer.* Norwich: Canterbury.

CW, 2000. *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England.* 1st ed. London: Church House Publishing.