



Episcopal Diocese of Georgia
Celebration of New Ministry in the Diocese of Georgia
Revised October 9, 2026

This liturgy emphasizes mutual ministry through the covenant and the mutual exchange of gifts, which is lacking in the Celebration of New Ministry in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The Diocese of Georgia has used the liturgy below since 2010.

Either white or red are appropriate liturgical colors for this liturgy. While the tradition in the Diocese of Georgia has been to wear white unless the liturgy falls on a feast day where red is appropriate (such as the feast of a martyr), red is also in order. The decision for this falls to the rector. Make sure the bishop knows which color to bring for the decision for this fall to the rector the occasion.

The new rector shall also choose the preacher for the occasion, which may be the bishop, but need not be. The bishop will need to approve of the selection of preacher before it is announced to others.

Processional Hymn

The Rector and Wardens, standing before the Bishop, say
Bishop Logue, on behalf of the people of (*church name*), we present ourselves to you and the gathered church to receive God's blessing as we begin a new ministry together.

The Bishop says to the members of the parish
Dear people of (*church name*), do you commit yourselves to a lively proclamation of the gospel through the work of this congregation and the larger church, working together in love and harmony and in mutual respect for the ministries of all the baptized?

The members of the parish respond
We do.

The Bishop, standing, says
Let us then offer our prayers for all God's people and especially for the people of (*church name*).

A Litany for the Mission of the Church

The litany is led by a deacon or a layperson

God the Father, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
Have mercy upon us.

God the Son, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
Have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
Have mercy upon us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,
Have mercy upon us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits that refuse to see the need for your love,
Savior, deliver us

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,
Savior, deliver us

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,
Savior, deliver us

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,
Savior, deliver us

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place,
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our ears that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our lips that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our hearts that we may discern the mission to which you call us.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our feet that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Touch our hands that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.
Receive our prayer, O Christ.

At the end of the litany, the Bishop says the following Collect.

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

Everliving God, strengthen and sustain the ministers of this congregation, lay and ordained, that they may faithfully follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, proclaiming in word and deed the good news of the kingdom; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Rector is seated with the Wardens until following the sermon.

The Liturgy of the Word

The readings are selected from the following list or those for a major feast or from Lesser Feasts and Fasts. Other lessons may be used with permission in advance from the bishop.

Old Testament Joshua 1:7-9, or Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25a

Psalms 43, or 132:1-9, or 146, or 133 and 134

Epistle Romans 12:1-18, or Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Gospel John 15:9-16, or Luke 10:1-2, or John 14:11-15

Sermon

After the Sermon, the congregation may sing a hymn.

The Covenant of Mutual Ministry

Members of the parish stand as the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry gather facing the Bishop, who reads a charge to the members of the parish

Good people of (*church name*), through Baptism you have been adopted into the community of faith, God's holy fellowship, the Body of Christ, the Church. Together with your rector, you have been called to share in the Church's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. As your bishop, I remind you that in Baptism, you are fully empowered and

authorized to exercise ministry in Christ's name, with mutual affection and respect, within this parish, in the Diocese of Georgia, and in the wider community. Having covenanted in Baptism to do this work, remember that each of you has resources and gifts for ministry. Join your rector, in prayer, in discerning a vision for this parish, and in calling forth the leadership, resources, and talents to carry out that vision. As you love and serve God's people, remember to love, support, and nourish your rector, his family, and the members of the staff who serve you here.

May the One who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Bishop: Do you commit yourselves to this task?

People: **We do, by the grace of God.**

The Wardens, Vestry members, and parishioners are seated. The Rector remains standing as the Bishop then reads a charge to the Rector

NN, Presbyter of the Church of God, you have been called to work together with your Bishop and fellow Presbyters as a pastor, priest, and teacher, and to take your share in the councils of the Church. Now, in accordance with the Canons, you have been called to serve God in [*church name and location*] in the Diocese of Georgia. This charge is a sign that you are fully empowered and authorized to exercise this ministry, accepting its privileges and responsibilities as a priest of this Diocese, in communion with your Bishop. Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words and actions, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, empower them for ministry, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

May the One who has given you the will to do these things, give you the grace and power to perform them.

Bishop: Do you commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Rector: **I do, by the grace of God.**

The Rector is seated as diocesan clergy, members of neighboring congregations, and members of the local community stand and the Bishop says

Will you members of the local community and the wider church, who witness this new beginning, support and uphold the priest and people of this congregation in their ministry together?

Response: **We will, by the grace of God.**

The Bishop continues

Holy Scripture records that when God and God's people enter a covenant with each other, God establishes a sign to mark the new relationship. When a priest and people enter a new covenant with one another, the exchange of symbolic gifts is an appropriate way to mark the occasion.

Representatives of the congregation, the priest, and representatives of the Diocese present appropriate symbols to persons or groups chosen to reflect specific aspects of the ministry of the congregation in the world at large and within the life of the church itself. Gift-giving is to be reciprocal. The symbols presented should be large enough to be visible to all and should remain in the sight of the congregation during the Covenant of Mutual Ministry.

The Bishop presents the Rector with a vessel of water (or blessed oil of chrism) saying
N., take this water (or chrism) and help me baptize in obedience to our Lord.
People: Amen.

The Rector and Wardens present a lighted candle to the Bishop, with the following words
Bishop Logue, accept this candle as a sign of our commitment to work with the rest of our diocese in spreading the light of Christ to all people.
People: Amen.

A Bible is presented to the Rector with these words
N., accept this Bible and be among us as one who proclaims the gospel and helps us to do the same.
People: Amen.

A Bible commentary is presented by the Rector to a member of the congregation with these words
N., accept this commentary as a reminder that all Christians are to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Word of God.
People: Amen.

A Prayer Book is presented to the Rector, with these words
N., receive this Prayer Book and be among us as a person of prayer and a leader of our corporate worship.
People: Amen.

The Rector presents a Hymnal to a church musician or other member of the congregation, saying
N., receive this Hymnal and join with all others in this parish in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness.
People: Amen.

A stole is presented to the Rector with these words
N., receive this stole and be among us as a pastor and priest.
People: Amen.

The Bishop and Rector jointly present a home communion set to a Eucharistic Visitor with these words
N., receive this home communion set and help us extend the sacrament of the altar to those who cannot be physically present here.
People: Amen.

A Warden presents the keys of the church to the Rector with these words
N., receive these keys, and let the doors of this place be open to all people.
People: Amen.

The Bishop continues

(Name of Rector and congregation), let all these be signs of the ministry we share in this place, in our diocese and in the church throughout the world.

People: **Amen.**

The Rector stands in the midst of the people and says

O Lord my God, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; yet you have called your servant to stand in your house; and to serve at your altar. To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do. Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my ministry. In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praises, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The members of the congregation remain standing and say together

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in us the covenant you made with us at our Baptism. Send us forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Bishop says

Acknowledging the one mission of Jesus our Lord, which we share in unity, let us greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Bishop, Clergy, and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The service continues with the Offertory. The Bishop, standing at the Lord's Table as chief celebrant, and joined by the Rector, proceeds with the Great Thanksgiving. For the Great Thanksgiving, any of the authorized eucharistic prayers from the Book of Common Prayer may be used.

After Communion

In place of the usual post communion prayer, the Bishop leads the people in the following prayer

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for

raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. We pray that N. and the people of (parish name) may be an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that all of us together may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Processional Hymn

Dismissal