

# From our Churches

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## Church Prayer Walk

*Leader:* The first hymn in *Hymnal: A Worship Book* asks the question:

“What is this place where we are meeting?”

There is such a thing as sacred space. Space that is set apart, set aside for specific purposes. We gather each week in this building for the specific purpose of worship. This worship for us takes on many forms – teaching, preaching, hospitality, service. As I reflected on the end of the calendar year and thought about our congregation, I see that much of what happens between us *begins* here, in this space - from music practice to Sunday School to potlucks to sharing and praying together.

Much of what happens between God and us *begins* here. It begins here and grows outward. As Anabaptists we believe that God meets us in worship, whether we worship in a cave, on the street corner, in our home, or in the sanctuary.

This is not the only place we worship, but this is the place we have chosen to worship on Sunday mornings. This is an important space. So today, as we begin the New Year I would like us to take the light of Christ - which we light each Sunday - and bring that light in and through each space, dedicating the room for the work of the New Year.

This will be very simple. When we stop at each place, I will ask you speak words of thanksgiving for all the things that happen in that space.

Then, we will each speak words of petition - asking God for help and guidance in that space for the coming year.

We will end each prayer with the chorus: “O Come let us adore Him.”

Finally, we will pick up an item from each location and bring it back upstairs to place beside the Bible as a reminder that Christ is with us in all the spaces of our church.

Let’s follow the Christ candle and move to the basement in silence.

## **Sunday School area:**

Look around this space and think about what happens here in Sunday School. Be specific – no detail is too small for God. This is not about right or wrong answers but about describing what you remember - maybe a particular insight or moment, maybe something about the people or teachers...

*Go around the room and invite everyone to share a “thanksgiving.”*

Now pray for the needs of Sunday School – things you would like to ask God for. These can be anything from relationships to supplies to space to learning.

*Go around the room and invite everyone to share a “hope.”*

*Leader:*

**Lord of wisdom** we bring the light of Christ into this space

*Sing:* O Come let us adore him

*Image to bring upstairs:* poster or SS book

## **Kitchen**

*(Follow same 2-fold prayer of thanksgiving and petition)*

*Leader:*

**God of love** we bring the light of Christ into this space

*Sing:* O Come let us adore him

*Image:* mug or plate

## **Basement** (Cleaning, quilting, storage)

*Leader:*

**God of creativity** we bring the light of Christ into this space

*Sing:* O Come let us adore him

*Image:* fabric

## **Foyer, Office, Nursery**

*Leader:* **God of hospitality, schedules, playfulness and conversation** we bring the light of Christ into these spaces

*Sing:* O Come let us adore him

*Image:* coat hanger/bulletin/toy

## **Sanctuary**

*Leader:*

**God of hope** we bring the light of Christ into this space

*Image:* Bible/hymnal

*Sing:* O Come let us adore him

*Leader:*

I also encourage you to bring the light of Christ into different areas of your home this New Year, and into different areas of your life – into your mind, heart, soul, and strength. As you give thanksgiving for the past year and request God's continued help these coming months, may you all know the presence of God in each space of your lives.