

Liturgy

- **Opening responses**
- **Commissioning teachers**
- **A responsive prayer for everyone to be faithful to their God-given callings**

Here are three ideas for including as liturgical elements in a service focusing on teaching as a vocation.

Opening responses

Father God, source of all knowledge and wisdom

We welcome you here

Jesus, the teacher who calls disciples to follow him

We welcome you here

Spirit, bringer of understanding and insight

We welcome you here

Holy God,
who created a world intricate in detail and rich in potential,
help us to establish your reign in every area of our lives
that we may glorify you in our work, in our neighbourhoods and in our families through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Mum and together we sought our calling. We started our training on the same day. I went to do my PGCE and she started on the path to ordained ministry. The Sunday before we both started training one of us was called out to the front of church to be prayed for and commissioned. Guess who?"

Alison Brown

From the Transforming Lives website, www.transforminglives.org.uk/frontline.php

Traditionally churches have been good at commissioning and praying for those who serve in full-time ministry on behalf of the church – for example, church leaders, missionaries and schools' workers. We have tended to forget that people who work in other areas of life are also called to be there; they too are serving on the 'frontline' of Christian ministry, and need our support as much as if they were missionaries on the other side of the world.

"As a young mother I thought long and hard about how God was calling me when my children were more independent. I shared a spiritual journey with another

broad you want the category 'teacher' to be. It could include all those who work in schools and colleges in different roles – for example, teaching assistants, librarians and lecturers, or you may decide that for this service it will be appropriate to just commission those who are employed as teachers in schools, academies and colleges. The following prayer is written for commissioning teachers. If you are commissioning a wider group, then substitute an appropriate phrase for each mention of the word teacher.

Invite those you are commissioning to stand at the front of the church

To the teachers:

Leader: Friends, you are called by God to be teachers, to live out your faith within the world of education and to serve God in your current roles within your schools and colleges. Will you work at discerning and developing the gifts God has given you so that you can be faithful to your vocation, trusting God to guide you and equip you as you serve him?

Teachers: With the help of God, we will.

Leader: Will you be a co-worker with God, seeking to transform your school or college so that God's kingdom is restored and all pupils benefit?

Teachers: With the help of God, we will.

Leader: Will you do your best to open doors for your pupils, to help them discover the wonders of God's creation and to fulfil

the potential of their lives?

Teachers: With the help of God, we will.

Leader: Will you strive to show the love of God to colleagues, pupils and parents, to work sensitively alongside those of other faiths and no faith, to serve God through your relationships with them?

Teachers: With the help of God, we will.

The leader invites members of the congregation to stand

Leader: As the body of Christ, we are called to support our brothers and sisters as they serve God within the world of education. People of God, will you pray for these teachers and will you support and encourage them through words and deeds?

Congregation: **With the help of God we will.**

Leader: Let's pray together:

Lord God, we are all learners in your kingdom. Help us as we journey together to support one another, to share our lives, and to work to see your kingdom come, in Jesus' name Amen



A responsive prayer for everyone to be faithful to their God-given callings

Creator God

Like Anna who waited to greet the Christ child

Show us where you are at work in the world.

Like Bezalel, anointed as an artist in the temple

Equip us with skills to glorify you.

Like Samuel who sat up at the sound of your voice

Help us to respond to your call on our lives.

Like Daniel who refused to eat food that was tainted

Give us courage to be faithful to you in our world.

Like Lydia, a worshipper as well as a business woman

Help us to put you first in our lives.

Like Jesus, your son, our teacher and example

Help us to worship you in all that we do.

Amen.