

# A Celebration of Ministry



Year C

*This liturgy is written primarily for churches that are beginning ministries such as church school for the year. However, with adaptation it can be used in other settings.*

- ❑ Cut as many *strips of fabric in liturgical colours* (green, white, gold, red, blue, and purple) as there are people being recognized. The strips should be long enough to be draped over a person's shoulders.
- ❑ On each strip, write, "*(Name): Gifted for Ministry*" with permanent marker or fabric paint.
- ❑ If possible, print on the strip a *specific gift* of each person being recognized, such as compassion, humour, or knowledge. Or print a *gift required* for his or her role, such as teaching, nurture, or leadership.

**PREPARE**

## Celebration ritual

*Place the strips of fabric with the names of those being recognized at the front of the worship or meeting space so that they are ready to be presented individually during the ritual.*

## Introduction

As the prophet Elisha took Elijah's mantle of ministry on his shoulders, as Jesus passed his ministry to women and men who followed, we receive the mantle of ministry as God calls and equips us to serve.

Today we celebrate those who serve in the ministry of *(name the ministry or ministries being recognized)*. We rejoice that the Spirit gives gifts to each one. As we name these ministers, we also name their gifts.

*(One at a time, call forward each person being recognized. Read that person's strip of cloth: [Name, Gifted for Ministry, you have the gift of...] and place the cloth over his or her shoulders as a mantle. Ask each person to remain standing at the front until all have been called.)*

## Prayer

**LEADER:** God of Life,  
we rejoice that these have answered your call  
and we give thanks for the ways  
they are equipped for ministry.

**ALL:** We offer thanks for these ministers  
who gladly share their gifts,  
who work with cheerful hearts,  
who serve with open hands.  
We celebrate their gifts of  
leadership, wisdom, and knowledge,  
courage, kindness, and nurture.

**MINISTRY LEADERS:** All are given what we need  
to serve one another and the world,  
and we respond now in courage and faith.

**LEADER:** For all good gifts,  
and for these ministers,  
we give thanks.  
May blessings be on these ministers.  
Amen.

*(Thank those being recognized and invite them to return to their seats.)*