

Hearing the Call to Lead

Gather

Gathering Song

Opening Prayer

Listen

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah was a prophet called by God to challenge the Israelites to healthy and holy living. His prophecies brought hope to the people. Jeremiah was surprised that God called him to leadership. Yet Jeremiah followed through with God's desire for him and became a prophet leader during a time of trial. Listen to a reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

Read Jeremiah 1:4–8.

Respond

Right: Jesus, you taught us the meaning of leadership when you washed the feet of your friends.

Response (all): May we lead and love as you did.

Left: Jesus, you never turned down a request for help or healing.

Response (all): May we lead and love as you did.

Right: Jesus, you accepted all people and challenged them to be their best selves.

Response (all): May we lead and love as you did.

Left: Jesus, you call us as Christian leaders to meet the needs of our families, our friends, and our communities.

Response (all): May we lead and love as you did.

Send Forth

Blessing of Leaders

God, we call upon you to bless the work of these hands, these hearts,
and these minds.

Bless in a special way our friends who have been called to leadership.
Give them courage to act with justice, and make decisions for the good
of all.

Bless each one of them with your love and presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

(This prayer service is adapted from *Give Your Gifts: The Prayer Services*, by Linda M. Baltikas and Robert W. Piercy [Chicago: GIA Publications, 1999], pages 40–42. Copyright © 1999 by GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.)