

Liturgy at the Conclusion of Vestry Service

From [Meditations for Vestry Members](#) by Colleen McMahon

Leader: N., you were called by the people of God, to serve them as a member of the vestry of this parish. You answered their call. You have been faithful in attendance at meetings. You have been a responsible steward of the congregation's resources. You have considered our future course and your views have informed our planning. You have led by example, especially in attendance at worship and in sharing your time, talent, and treasure with Christ's church. Now, others must step forward to take your place among the leaders of this congregation. As you leave the vestry, we thank you for your service, saying with Jesus, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." We offer you our prayers and our support as you move on in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And we ask you to reaffirm your commitment to this parish as a fitting capstone to the duty you have so faithfully discharged.

Leader: N., do you reaffirm your commitment as a member of this congregation?

Member: I do.

Leader: Will you seek new ways to serve Christ in his church?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you continue to support the work of this parish with your time, talent, and treasure?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you refrain from meddling, and offer advice and counsel to the next vestry only when asked?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you reject gossip and backbiting about your successors, and respect the integrity of their efforts?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you respect the confidentiality of the new vestry's deliberations, and be content to learn about such matters when the rest of the parish does?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you trust the Spirit to work through our newly elected leaders to guide this parish and all its members in their life and work?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you continue to pray for this parish, its members, its clergy, and its vestry?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Leader: O God, who sent your Son to show us that the last shall be first and that the one who would be greatest must be the least, help your servant N., who has been a faithful member of the vestry of this parish, find new ways to exercise ministry and leadership in your church. Help him/her to keep the promises made here today before. Grant that he/she, free from the burdens of this office, might discover anew the joy of our Christian faith. Inspire him/her to be supportive of and helpful to those who take his/her place on the vestry. And grant that he/she, along with all good and faithful stewards within your kingdom, may enter into your joy, in this life and in the life hereafter. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.