

# The Streams within Anglican Liturgy

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Within Anglican liturgical worship are various ebbs and flows creating healthy streams within our worship together. For balance, some items provide structure while others anti-structure. Some parts of the service serve as anchors and rarely change while others serve as moorings, rarely changing placement in the service but often changing content. And even other parts of the service serve as anti-structure, allowing for more free participation and spontaneity.

Some examples:

**Sermons** change weekly. Those preaching, celebrating, reading scripture and collects, and leading The Prayers of the People often change weekly as well.

**Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs and Anthems** change weekly but their placement in the liturgy stays the same.

**Service Music** such as *The Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei*, etc. usually changes by Church Season. For many, this liturgical music changes periodically but usually far less than Hymns, Psalms, Spiritual Songs and anthems.

**Prayers of the People, Sunday announcements, Passing the Peace**, meeting and greeting as we gather for and leave worship allow for anti-structure; needed free participation and spontaneity. In addition, times of silence allow for space within the liturgy that may or may not be filled with inspired prayers, praise, speech or song.

**Anchors** are the parts of the Sunday liturgy such as The Great Thanksgiving, the Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, and Post-Communion Prayer, etc. These rarely change and provide well-known roots to the service of worship.

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