



Generis

# THE ONLINE OFFERING MOMENT TOOLKIT

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This unprecedented season in the life of the Church requires a major shift in how we conduct worship services and every element that the worship service contains. Just as we are learning to preach, worship, gather, and pray together in new ways, we must also engage in new rhythms around receiving the offering.

This toolkit is specifically designed to help you create new offering practices that effectively engage the hearts of your givers while also fitting into the culture and context of your church.

## TOOLKIT TIPS:

- Templates can be used in any order—start with the one that best fits your context.
- Customize these by adding stories and language that resonate with your givers.
- Use pictures and videos whenever possible. Did your church hand out hygiene kits this week to people experiencing homelessness? Show a picture and tell the story!
- The offering moment is a part of worship. Don't throw it in with the announcements or tack it on at the end of the service just because you don't know where else to put it.
- Just as you plan the set of worship songs, plan for your offering moment. Create the script and prep the person who will be delivering this important worship element.
- Use footers on the bottom of the screen during the offering moment with directions (website address or “text to give” instructions)
- If you are using audio only, make sure to read the website name and church mailing address
- Lean into the “newness” of this and allow church leaders and congregants to get comfortable with new practices. Everyone is learning.

When used effectively, offering moments can become a highlight of the worship service. We've seen churches break into applause when they hear reports of how their sacrificial gifts are being used to accomplish Kingdom work. Be boldly joyful about asking God's people to give God's money to support God's work in and through your church.

## TEMPLATE #1

We are preparing to receive our offering this morning—this of course looks different than it does when we are all in the building together. But it is an important part of our worship service, and we want to continue to make space for this.

We know that some of our faithful givers are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. Many people are struggling to live in this “new normal” and trying to figure out how to care for their families during this season. If you need to refrain from giving today, please do. Grace abounds.

There are others who are able to give today—maybe it’s less than what you were able to do a few weeks ago, but you still want to tithe on the income God has provided. And there are also some of you who may feel called to increase your giving during this season.

Whatever your situation, we are so grateful for your ministry partnership.

Gifts can be made today by:

- Texting keyword to phone number
- Visiting our website: [website](#)
- Giving through our church app
- Mailing a check to the church office

Please join me as we take a moment to pray for this offering and thank God for all the ways he is providing for us in this season.

## TEMPLATE #2

As we prepare to receive our tithes and offerings today, here's a story I know will be encouraging:

(Use this opportunity to share a story about how God has been at work this week in and through your church. A story that shows ministry impact in this season of COVID-19 would be ideal. How is your church ministering to the elderly in your congregation right now? How are you doing youth ministry right now? Has your benevolence fund helped a family in need (note: make sure any benevolence fund stories don't identify the people being helped).

Isn't it amazing to see how God is at work even during this season? When we give to \_\_\_\_\_ Church, we have the privilege of being a part of what God is doing here. What a gift for each of us to know that we are still active participants in the ministry of this church.

If you'd like to make a one-time or recurring gift to support what God is doing in and through \_\_\_\_\_ Church today, you can easily do this by:

- Texting keyword to phone number
- Visiting our website: website
- Giving through our church app
- Mailing a check to the church office
- Placing checks in the locked drop box outside of \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Let's pray for this offering.

## TEMPLATE #3 - EASTER

As we prepare to receive the offering today, let's reflect for a minute on the idea of generosity. What does generosity have to do with Easter? Everything.

The Easter story demonstrates generosity in countless ways.

- Jesus, the Son of God, gave up his life on a cross so that we could live. This is extravagant generosity.
- A group of women who loved Jesus, gave their time and some precious oils, spices, and perfumes to prepare Jesus' body for burial. This is extravagant generosity.
- Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus, provided a tomb so that Jesus' body could be buried with honor. This is extravagant generosity.
- And, of course, after he had been dead and buried for three days, Jesus triumphantly rose from the grave to give us the gift of eternal life and unending hope. This is extravagant generosity.

Easter may just be the most generous day of the year!

Our response to God's generosity to us is to generously give back to him. We are about to receive the offering just as we do each week. (Optional: If you are a visitor today, please accept this service as our gift to you.) If you would like to join us in sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in our community and around the world, please join us in making a gift today in one of these ways:

- Texting keyword to phone number
- Visiting our website: [website](#)
- Mailing a check to the church office
- Giving through our church app

Please pray with me.

## TEMPLATE #4

As we continue to live in this “new normal” of gathering virtually for worship, many of us are adjusting our worship habits accordingly.

For instance:

- Some people are enjoying worshipping as a family in their pajamas on Sunday morning while they participate in the service.
- Some in our community who typically work on Sundays have shared that it’s been great to engage in the worship service on Monday or Tuesday—they don’t have to “miss out” on worship just because they work on Sundays.
- People who used to attend this church but have moved away are grateful to be re-joining our community virtually.

In this “new normal,” people are also adjusting their giving habits. Since the basket is no longer passed down the row (fill in your church’s method for receiving tithes & offerings in worship \_\_\_\_\_), people are doing these things instead:

- Setting up recurring gifts online
- Using their phones to “text to give” or give via the app while participating in the virtual worship service
- Mailing checks to the church—sometimes with a note of encouragement for our staff
- Setting up automatic giving through their bank

Throughout these changes and adjustments, isn’t it good to know that God is concerned with our hearts, not our appearances or our methodologies?

Please join me as we pray for this offering.

## TEMPLATE #5

As we prepare to receive our tithes and offerings today, here is a Scripture to prepare our hearts.

Psalm 24:1 tells us that, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

Scripture is clear: The earth and everything that is in it belongs to the Lord. We belong to God, and everything that we have comes from God.

**Even in this season of great uncertainty, we have the great privilege of giving back to God some of what he has so generously given us.**

Would you join me in taking a moment right now to prayerfully consider making a one-time or recurring gift to support what God is doing in and through \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

You can easily do this by:

- Texting keyword to phone number
- Visiting our website: website
- Giving through our church app
- Mailing a check to the church office

Thank you for being a part of ministry at \_\_\_\_\_ Church in this rapidly-changing season. Let’s pray for the offering we are about to receive.

## TEMPLATE #6

We are preparing to receive the offering today, and I'd like to share with you an encouraging story I heard this week.

We have a family in our church—they are fairly new believers, and fairly new givers. God has done so much in their lives in such a short time, and we're so grateful they are a part of our church family. They let me know that they just refinanced their home to take advantage of lower interest rates, and as a result, they feel called to give some of their freed-up additional monthly income to the church. What a great story of God's faithfulness!\*

We know that many of you are still experiencing financial hardship, and if you are a regular giver to \_\_\_\_\_ Church and you need to experience the grace of not giving today, please do that. But for those of you who are able, or, like the couple in this story, able to give even more right now, I invite you join me in giving to \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

You can easily do this by:

- Texting keyword to phone number
- Visiting our website: website
- Giving through our church app
- Mailing a check to the church office

\*Author's note: this is a true story, but please substitute a giving story from your own congregation



## TEMPLATE #7

As we prepare to receive our tithes and offerings today, here is a Scripture to prepare our hearts.

Philippians 4:11-13: “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through him who gives me strength.”

Many of us are experiencing difficult circumstances today. Some of us are in need, and some of us have plenty. This scripture reminds us that whether we are living in plenty or in want, we can do all things through Christ.

One of the most challenging steps of discipleship for some of us today might be to give during this season of great uncertainty. **We give in response to God’s incredible generosity toward us, and it is always an act of faith and an act of worship.**

If you’d like to make a gift to support what God is doing in and through \_\_\_\_\_ Church today, you can easily do this by:

- Texting keyword to phone number
- Visiting our website: website
- Mailing a check to the church office
- Giving through our church app

Let’s pray for this offering.

## TEMPLATE #8

As we prepare to receive our offering this morning, I want to pause and say “THANK YOU” for all the ways you have been generous in recent weeks. Even during this difficult season, God’s people have been generous and faithful in giving to \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

(If you can insert something positive here about income, please do. Are you still able to pay all of your staff because of the generosity of your congregation? Have you increased your benevolence work in your city?)

To quote Philippians 1:3, “I thank my God every time I remember you.”

God is blessing and multiplying the gifts that we bring to him, and on behalf of our leaders at \_\_\_\_ Church, we want to express our gratitude for your cheerful and faithful giving.

If you’d like to make a gift to support what God is doing in and through \_\_\_\_\_ Church today, you can easily do this by:

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- Mailing a check to the church office
- Giving through our church app

Please pray with me.