

# Introduction

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The four services presented here – the service of Word and Sacrament is the normative service of the church – as we read in Acts 2:42, ‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.’

the church came together to meet it should involve the reading of scripture, preaching and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. This should be done at least every Sunday.

For reasons of history, the predecessor denominations of the United Reformed Church (except for the Churches of Christ) have never been, or felt, able to do this. However, they never lost sight of the centrality of the service of Word and Sacrament, and even when the Lord’s Supper has not been celebrated we still look to that service to provide us with an order for our worship of God.

written especially for this book, and both contain a wealth of new material. provides a full order of worship for a service of Word and Sacrament with the use of many of the liturgical items found in *Rejoice and Sing*. The language draws on a very rich range of biblical imagery, especially from the Old Testament. Within the service the narrative of the institution (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) may be used as a warrant before the thanksgiving prayer or included within it. While the former position is traditionally Reformed, both practices are ecumenically acceptable.

A greater degree of participation by the