Planning a Prayer

The 4 steps:

We gather
We listen to the Word (scripture)
We respond
We go forth ......

These steps must be part of our communal prayer, but how we actually do each of these steps is up to you and a million different ideas!

This is a detailed template to help you and remind you of that!

We Gather

You can use Words:

- Introduce the theme of the prayer
- Explain its significance
- Be brief

You can use Action:

- Place a symbol into the prayer space
- Invite people to complete a simple action
  (this could be elaborate or just the sign of the cross)

You can use Music:

- You may wish to play a piece of music which links to your theme or simply creates a prayerful atmosphere.
**We Listen**
You can use a story to introduce this e.g. a personal story or a favourite reflection and let the scripture echo and bring home the message of your experience.

Use Scripture:
- Select a reading that links to your theme – or more than one.
- Visit “Bible Gateway” to look-up verses online.

**We Respond**

With quiet -
- Use silent time: Give a focus for this time - something to contemplate.
- Use reflective music: Give a focus for this time - something to contemplate.

With Prayer -
- Develop a prayer (or reuse a prayer) from one of the strategies from the Staff Prayer Fire kit:
  - Lectio Divina
  - Traditional Prayer
  - Mandalas
  - Walking Prayer or stations
  - Journalling
  - Tactile Prayer
  - Contemplative prayer

With Story:
- Tell a story – from your own life
- Read a story or reflection – that you have found
- Watch a story - on video or DVD
We Go Forth

Use Words:
- For a closing blessing
- Commissioning others

Use Action:
- Invite people to complete a simple action
  (this could be elaborate or just the sign of the cross)

Use Music:
- You may wish to play a piece of music which links to your theme or simply continues a prayerful atmosphere.