

**A Liturgy for Christian Education Season/Kick-off Sunday**  
**August 25, 2013**  
**Elinor Swindle Brown & Brenthaven CPC**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, your ways, and I will observe them to the end.

**People: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

**People: Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.**

Leader: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

**People: Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.**

Leader: Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your rules are good.

**People: See, I have longed for your teachings; in your righteousness give me life.**

(adapted from Psalm 119:33-40)

**Call to Confession**

God gives us the way to be in relationship with the Trinity and yet we turn our back on God, doing what we want. We have been taught since we were little what is right and yet we still long to have control. Now is our chance to remember the lessons of our childhood and turn ourselves back to God.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**O God, we admit that we have done what is in our best interest. We assume that no matter what we do, no matter what we have been taught, that we may do as we please and you will still be there. We also know that like a little child, when we are in trouble, we come running back, longing for our relationship with you to be restored. Loving God, forgive us for letting our control issues get in the way of our relationship with you. Forgive us for not remembering that your Word calls us to be an example to others. Forgive us for the things we have done that we should not have and for the things we have not do that we should have. O God, continue to teach us your ways so we may walk the path you have laid out for us. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! God doesn't leave us stranded in the tangle of our sins. God picks us up, straightens us out and takes our hand so that we may walk the journey together. Friends, believe this. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven our sins. Thanks be to God!

**Prayer for Illumination**

O Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Incline my heart to hear your teachings so I may enact them in my daily life forever. Amen.

(adapted from Psalm 119:105, 112)

**Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon**

- **1 Timothy 4:11-16**

It is our tasks as Christians whether we are young or old to keep learning and keep teaching. Through these things, people will experience salvation.

- **Matthew 28:16-20**

Jesus' last instruction to his disciples in Matthew was to go into the world to train others, to baptize them and then teach them all that you have learned from Jesus. We are to do this to the end of our lives.

## **A Litany for Teacher Installation—Brenthaven CPC**

### **All Voices**

Hear this, you who are called to teach—You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

### **Reader 1**

I am a child. I am a child of God. See how I jump and run and explore. The world is so full of a number of things—painting, skipping, playing, running, laughing. I feel wonder and excitement as I live in God's world. I ask all kinds of questions. I am enthusiastic, curious, and persistent. You, who are called to teach—Help me to worship God, help me to grow in faith, help me to explore my world and find answers to my questions.

### **All Voices**

Hear this, you who are called to teach—Let the little children come to me. Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. Let the little children come. Let them come.

### **Reader 2**

I am a youth. I am a child of God. I search and seek, asking countless questions about life. I wonder who I am and why I am here. Why do I live at this particular time? I am full of energy and life. Help me to discover my identity. Help me to know my worth. I question what you say. Are you telling me the truth? You, who are called to teach—Help me to know the truth.

### **All Voices**

Hear this, you who are called to teach—Remember now your creator in the days of your youth. Remember your creator. How shall they hear without a teacher?

### **Reader 3**

I am a young adult. I am a child of God. I am caught somewhere in between the youth group and adulthood. At this time in my life I wonder what I will be doing in 5 years. What is God calling me to do and who is God calling me to be? I am excited yet confused about the world ahead of me. You who are called to teach - Help me to find comfort through the confusion. Help me to seek answers and direction in the midst of the chaos.

### **All Voices**

Hear this, you who are called to teach—When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put away childish things. Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we shall see face to face.

### **Reader 4**

I am a young parent. I am a child of God. I am a person living in a perplexing world, delighting in my children and worrying about their future. My family gives me joy. I want the best for them, but my children are sensitive, vulnerable and innocent. I have to teach them

integrity, responsibility, and faith in God. I have to help them grow. You, who are called to teach—Help me to lead them. Show me how to teach my children.

**All Voices**

Hear this, you who are called to teach—When your child asks, you shall say—we were slaves in Egypt and the Lord saved us. When your child asks, you shall say—Jesus Christ is the truth and the life.

**Reader 5**

I am an adult. I am a child of God. The days of my life pass very quickly and are full of many commitments and responsibilities. I search for answers as I live in an ever-changing world.

You who are called to teach - Speak to me about the meaning of life. What is faith? Does God exist? Help me with my doubts and help me to pray.

**All Voices**

Hear this, you who are called to teach—Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope that is in you. Christ died for sins once and for all, that he might bring us to God. Our hope is in Jesus Christ.

**Reader 6**

I am a senior adult. I am a child of God. I often think of my childhood days and my childhood friends. I still feel young in my mind—but often my body betrays my will. Sometimes it seems like no one needs me. Some days are long and I am lonely. I have time to think. I wonder what it is like to die. You who are called to teach—Show me your friendship and lend me your strength.

**All Voices:** Hear this, you who are called to teach.

**Reader 1:** These words which I command you shall be upon your heart.

**Reader 2:** You shall teach them to your children.

**Reader 3:** You shall talk of them in your home.

**Reader 4:** You shall remember the Lord your God.

**Reader 5:** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

**Reader 6:** Hear this, you who are called to teach.

**All Voices:** Hear this, you who are called to teach. Amen.

**Offertory Sentence**

Just as teaching and learning are special gifts from God for our ministry here on earth, so our gifts of tithes and offerings are also. For through them, we are able to share, create, support, encourage, heal, care, feed and do many other ministries together that we would not be able to do by ourselves. Let us minister through the giving of our gifts now.

**Offertory Prayer**

You, O God, have given us the gift of understanding—understanding that there are those in need who need our help. Bless these gifts that we have brought that are a portion of what you have given to us and use them to bless others. Through Christ's name, Amen.

**Charge & Benediction**

Now go into the world knowing that God the Creator has created you with a yearning to learn and use that gift this week. Go knowing that God the Son has gifted you with his teachings as he

did his own followers and use those teachings to teach others. And go knowing that the Holy Spirit puts opportunities for us to teach and learn every day and that it is up to us all to use those opportunities to further God's kingdom here on earth. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.