

**A Liturgy for Denomination Day
September 15, 2013
Laurie Sharpe**

Call to Worship

Loving God,

We come to worship today to serve you through our praying,
singing, listening, and remembering.

We want to get to know you more fully,
so we can embrace your plans for us,
for this community of faith,
for the world you love,
and for the Kingdom you are building among us. Amen.

Call to Confession

Let us ask God to forgive our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

Search deeply within our lives and see our “hoped for” faith.

We want to be led by Holy-Spirit’s power,
to serve your purposes, and glorify you.

We know our good intentions fall short,
our outreach is overshadowed by our own needs,
and our fear of people who are different from us
shortens our perspective of who you are and who you call us to be.

God, move us toward wholeness,
as we partner with you in building the kingdom to come.

Renew our lives with your mercy we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! We are God’s forgiven partners. Those the scripture tells us “he has appointed to his service.” Thanks be to God for the gifts given and the abundant grace showered on all whom God loves.

Prayer for Illumination

Creator God,

You mold us, equip us, inspire us, and call us for holy purposes
to be your partners in the world.

Strengthen our faith as we resolve to become all you intend us to be,
and transform our lives through the use of our gifts and talents.

Thank you for the skills and abilities uniquely gifted to each person,
and for equipping and calling us to live like our brother, your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People/Intercession

Equipping God,

As we gather from different places to serve you through worship
you remind us that you desire more than Sunday morning people.

Through you, we come to know the living Christ who encourages, empowers,
and enriches us, and the whole world.

We praise you for the opportunities you give everyone to come to know you through service.

We offer prayers that connect us in love to one another, to the stranger, and to you,
now and long after we leave this place. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- **1 Timothy 1:12**

“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service.”

- **Genesis 1**

The creation story retold in the short story “Partners.”

[Does God Have a Big Toe? by Marc Gellman, Harper Collins, 1989, ISBN: 0-06-440453-6, “PARTNERS”- pp. 1–3]

Offertory Sentence

God gives us abundant life and our response to God’s great love is to spend ourselves in service to God and to others. Let us express our intention to share our abundance through the singing of the hymn *“Here Am I Lord.”* (As the offering is received)

Offertory Prayer

We are reminded of the many divine graces God shares with people of every age, every tongue, and every nation. God, we offer ourselves as friends in service to the sick, the lonely, the hurting, and the devalued among us. We offer ourselves in words of compassion over judgment and abundant sharing over fear-filled hoarding. We offer ourselves for the purpose of serving you, those whom you love, and the world which you long to save. Amen.

Charge & Benediction

Take God’s love and grace to a world that is dying to be saved.

We are compelled to be much more than Sunday People!

Let our service, empowered by the Holy Spirit, become saving grace;

Bringing God’s kingdom into view for the glory of God,

Who brings new life to all things, every morning. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

Called As Partners #343 (Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs)

Make Me a Servant #653 (*The Worshipping Church*)

Renew Your Church, Her Ministries Restore #725 (*The Worshipping Church*)

We are Called... #710 (*The Worshipping Church*)

A Charge to Keep I Have

Make Me a Blessing

O Jesus, I Have Promised