

A Liturgy for Christian Education Kick-Off Sunday

August 30, 2015

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Call to Worship

One: We celebrate you, Creator of all good things.

Many: God of wonder, we come together as a community of faith.

One: We worship you, Savior and Redeemer.

Many: God of love, we come together as a community of faith.

One: We feel your presence, Spirit of truth and knowledge.

Many: God of wisdom, we come together as a community of faith.

All: Bless our time together as we worship you in faith and thanksgiving.

OR

(Unison)

God of wonder, love and wisdom, we recognize you as Creator, Savior, and Wisdom. As we come together to learn how to follow you as disciples, and to worship you, bless our time together. As people called by your name, we worship you in faith and thanksgiving. As a community of faith, let us know your presence in our words, our music and our prayers. Amen.

Call to Confession

As people of faith, we believe that God hears our prayers. When we humbly approach God with our prayers of confession, our brokenness is mended, our wounds are healed, our lives are made whole. We offer our prayers, believing that God hears our cries for help. The Holy Spirit is calling to us: "Come, my children. Lay your burdens down."

Prayer of Confession

The world around us is a confusing and chaotic place.

Our time is claimed by the everyday hustle that distracts our focus.

The noise and the constant activity often keep us from hearing you call us to follow you, to learn about you, to live in your ways.

As your church, we offer our hurts and wounds, our short-comings and fears, to you.

As people of faith we ask for wisdom to learn and grow.

Open our hearts and minds to your redeeming love.

We believe in your promises, God of wonder, love and wisdom. Hear our prayers.

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Believing that God, through Jesus, hears us when we call, we are now restored to health and wholeness. Listen closely. The Holy Spirit is calling to us: "My children, you are restored and forgiven. Go and live as my disciples in faith and peace."

A Litany of Commitment to Christian Education

One: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 18-20, *NRSV*)

As disciples of Jesus Christ and as Christian educators, we commit ourselves to model discipleship.

Many: We affirm our belief that teaching and learning enhances our journey of faith and our walk with Christ.

One: We believe that teaching and learning is based on the work of God revealed through scripture and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Many: We affirm our belief that disciples are made and strengthened by making the scriptures prominent in our preparation and sharing with others.

One: We believe that as participants in the educational ministry of the church we are responsible for creating an atmosphere of healing and wholeness, nurture and support for each individual.

Many: We also believe that we are not on this journey alone. With the Holy Spirit’s help we will commit to helping create an atmosphere in which faith journeys are freely shared and inquiry is freely encouraged.

One: We believe that through prayer in its many forms we give evidence that each person is known and heard by God. We pray for ourselves, each other, our church and our world.

Many: We commit to model discipleship through an active prayer life, affirming that the church is a house of prayer.

One: We believe that all members are a vital part of the life of this church. Participation in its ministries beyond the classroom not only model discipleship through example but is also important for our growth through the community of faith.

Many: We covenant to support each other, to pray for each other, and to stand together as a community of faith.

(May be shared in unison)

O God of wisdom, you have called us in Christ’s name to a ministry of teaching and learning. May we be faithful to that call. Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who seek to follow you and serve you. Empower us all to be willing disciples and enable us to build your kingdom. We pray in the name of the calling Christ. Amen.

Benediction

Go from this place, knowing that the wonder of God the Creator surrounds you.

Go from this place, believing that the love of Christ restores and redeems you.

Go from this place, trusting that the wisdom and comfort of the Holy Spirit goes with you now and always.

Go in peace. Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Tune: *Beecher*

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Tune: *Kingsfold*

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

Tune: *Open My Eyes*

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Tune: *Linstead*

“Bless Be the Tie That Binds”

Tune: *Dennis*