

A Liturgy for Christian Service Recognition Sunday
September 20, 2015
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Call to Worship

Leader: God, look who has gathered here today to worship you.

All: We are yours, we are your children.

Leader: God, look who has gathered here today to love you.

All: We love you with all our hearts, our souls, and our minds.

Leader: God, look who has gathered here today to serve you.

All: Our love for you moves us to serve you and to serve our neighbor.

Leader: God, look who has gathered here today to worship you.

All: We are yours, we are your children.

Call to Confession

Although God calls all of us to love and serve, we are broken and sinful creatures who fall short of that calling often. We willfully ignore that which God desires for our lives. So, we have an opportunity now to acknowledge our brokenness and sinfulness both as a community together, and during a time of silence, where you can spend time alone with God.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and compassion, you hear this same thing from us all the time.

Do you grow tired of hearing about how we have fallen short once again?

Do you grow weary of our excuses that you hear over and over,
proving we do not learn from our mistakes?

Do you know how much we need your forgiveness for all that we have done wrong,
and all the right we have left undone?

Do you feel us drawing close to you God, right now,
admitting who we really are and asking for you to love us and to forgive us anyway?

(Time for Silent Confession)

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

What a wonderful and loving God we worship and serve; a God who stands ready to pick us back up when we fall, and allows us to stand on faith and try again. To try again with full knowledge that God loves us and forgives us always. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- Old Testament Reading—Proverbs 11:25

- New Testament Reading—Romans 7:6
- Gospel Reading—Mark 10:45

Prayers of the People

With hope, we pray to you, Lord God.

For people in their lives and work each day;
 For communities, our country, the world, and all of your creation;
 For those who work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people;
 For victims of hunger, poverty, homelessness, fear, injustice, and oppression;
 For all who are in danger, all who are sad, or experiencing trouble of any kind;
 For those who help and minister to the ill and those who need special attention;
 For the peace and unison of the church and its people;
 For all the unspoken and unknown needs and concerns on our hearts and minds;

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great, as we pray with one voice:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Invitation to the Offering

We serve a God who has blessed us beyond compare. One way in which we serve God and others is to prayerfully consider giving back a portion of those blessings so that our tithes and offerings can be transformed into an instrument of your will for creation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, we humbly offer to you these gifts from your children. May your blessing be upon them and may they serve all of creation in such a way that brings glory and honor to you Lord. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

May God's will for you and your place in this world be made known,
 May you find a way to serve God and your neighbor in your own special way,
 May you find peace and love in your daily walk with God and others,
 May you be blessed and full of the knowledge that God loves you completely.
 Go in peace, love, and kindness for all. Amen.