

**A Liturgy for Family Week**  
**April 3, 2016**  
**“You Are the Body of Christ”**  
**Jodi Rush**

*This liturgy was adapted from the worship services from Children's Fest 2015. It is based on 1 Corinthians 12: 12 & 27. You are invited to use this liturgy to introduce the Family Week 2016 materials. The liturgy can also be used by congregations not observing Family Week as a way to celebrate and honor the families in your congregation.*

**Call to Celebrate**

**One:** Hear this, children of God! You are all a part of Christ!  
You are all part of Christ's body in the world!

**Many:** **We are the church, and the church is Christ's body!**  
**By ourselves and together we can serve God!**

**One:** Children, youth, and adults all have different gifts,  
We have special gifts only we can offer.

**Many:** **We celebrate our gifts from God.**  
**We want to use what we have to give God praise!**

**One:** All of you are special and one of a kind!  
God gave you something different than God gave anybody else!

**Many:** **We will use our gifts, the way God has made us,**  
**To serve God through Jesus!**

**Invocation**

Awesome, beautiful, and holy God, you have asked all your people to follow you. You have made us all different from each other. We have different hair colors, different eye colors, different things we are good at, different needs. We are each totally special and one of a kind. We want to use what we are to worship you. We want to be a part of the family of God, Jesus' body in the world. We know that the body of Christ is not complete unless all God's children are a part. Help us to offer ourselves as parts of the family of God. Help us to learn together how we can all be a part of your beautiful dream for the world. Allow your Spirit to be with us now. Let it lead us in worship. Let it lead us to become members of your family and part of your dream for all the world. Amen.

**Invitation to Confession**

**Leader 1:** We all make mistakes. Sometimes we make bad choices. God understands.  
When we admit our sins to God, we can be sure God will forgive us.

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Leader 2: We see people who need help.

Leader 3: Sometimes we choose to help, but sometimes we don't.

**All: We are sorry, God. Please forgive us.**

Leader 1: We know people who are left out.

Leader 2: Sometimes we include them, but sometimes we don't.

**All: We are sorry, God. Please forgive us.**

Leader 3: We meet people who seem different.

Leader 1: Sometimes we try to get to know them, but sometimes we don't.

**All: We are sorry, God. Please forgive us.**

Leader 2: We get chances to work together with others.

Leader 3: Sometimes we work together well, but sometimes we don't.

**All: We are sorry, God. Please forgive us.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader 1: God is sad when we sin, but glad when we trust enough to admit our sin.

Leader 2: We are part of the Body of Christ and part of God's family.

Leader 3: We are happy to know that God loves us and forgives us!

**All: Thank you, God!**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God, open our ears so we can hear what you would like to say to us through the Bible and the preacher. Amen.

### **Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon**

- 1 Corinthians 12: 12 & 27

### **Offering Time/Responding with Gifts**

Each of us is an important part of the Body of Christ—the church. And that's exciting!

Not only is each of us an important part, but we also get to care for one another.

Think about the things that you are good at.

God asks us to use those things to live faithfully—

to be the church by caring for one another and God's world.

Talk to God about the ways you can use your gifts to care for others.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Thank you for the gift of your church and for the ways you have made each of us to be able to serve you through the church. We offer ourselves to you. Show us how to live faithfully and how to use ourselves to serve and love others. Amen.