

A Liturgy for Stewardship Sunday

November 5, 2017

Sherry Ladd

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us gather in thankfulness to God
whose love and covenants endure forever and ever!

**People: Let remember in thankfulness all of the times God has rescued us
even when we were unaware of it.**

Leader: God is calling us together so we may remember our blessings—
past, present and future

**People: God is leading us out of dry and dusty places
to places of life-giving water and peaceful meadows**

Leader: God's covenants are true and sure, covering us with blessing after blessing.

People: Thanks be to God for covenants kept and blessings received.

Call to Confession

God blesses us. We often forget the blessings that are given to us daily. We sometimes withhold blessings to others, forgetting that God calls us to be givers. We complain about what we lack instead of appreciating what we have. God calls us to a higher standard. Let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of blessings and abundance, we confess that we often fail to be thankful for everyday blessings and miracles. We forget to show gratitude for having a roof over our heads, knowing where our next meal is coming from, and having a change of clothes. We compare ourselves to others who we perceive to have more, forgetting that many parts of the world would consider us rich. God, help us to be more mindful of the blessings we take for granted. Help us seek ways to share what you have abundantly blessed us with. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God has promised to never forsake or leave us. Even when we have sinned, God still claims us as sons and daughters. God can create in us hearts that are giving and full of gratitude. Let go of old ways of thinking that are holding you back from being whom God has called you to be. Through the blood Jesus Christ, we have been redeemed, forgiven, and liberated from all that holds us back from being loving and giving. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

God, giver of all good things, who even gave your own son so that we may have everlasting life, we seek to be generous givers with joyful hearts. Please put in our hearts the compassion that enables us to be givers. Help us realize we are only temporary stewards of what we possess, that

our true riches are yet to come. Open our eyes to the message of mercy and loving kindness throughout your scriptures. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God, in your mercy and wisdom, hear our prayers. Jesus taught us the power of and beauty in prayer. Therefore we pray:

- For the universal church, realizing we are all connected through your son, Jesus Christ.
- For our family of faith in this congregation, that we may grow together in love and faith.
- For our care of this wonderful earth you have provided for us; may we be good stewards.
- For the leaders and governments around the world; may they enact justice and mercy.
- For those who feel there is no hope; may hope take root in their hearts.
- For those who are poor and oppressed; may justice and mercy enter their lives.
- For those who are suffering and grieving; may they be comforted.
- For those who are sick in mind and body; may they be healed.

(Other needs may be listed here)

We are assured that we are led by the Holy Spirit as we strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ our Savior. Thank you for upholding your end of the covenant as we learn to live the way of Christ. May we be just and merciful as we practice the way of compassion and love. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

We live in an abundant universe that God has generously created for all our needs. How do we help create the mercy and justice that God asks of us? Through generously offering our time, talents, and resources. Let us continue to worship God through our giving recognizing that we are thankful for all the ways we have been blessed.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, thank you for all the blessings we receive. Open our eyes to the ways in which we are blessed on a daily basis. God, help to bring about mercy and justice through our giving. We ask that you direct us in ways of mercy and justice. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

- Leader: Go forth with love and compassion in our hearts.
Give praise to God by seeking mercy and justice for all.
- People: Praise be to God who is merciful and loving.
We honor God by being merciful and loving.**
- Leader: Go forth thanking God for the blessings of clear waters.
Give praise to the creator of the universe.
- People: We praise God by ensuring clear water for everyone.
We praise God by seeking the higher good for all.**

Leader: God's presence will be with us wherever we go.
God inspires us to live with open hearts and open minds.

**People: God's presence enables us to live life generously.
We know God inspires us to be just and merciful.**

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.