

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS & NEW LIFE**

**Hear the Good News!**

**Because of God's great love for us, we have peace with God and access to God's grace all through Jesus Christ who, while we were still sinners, died to free us from the bondage of sin.**

**Therefore, we may ask of Christ to give us the living water that quenches the dryness of our souls. In this we know we are forgiven. Let the whole church say, "Thanks be to God! Amen."**

**As God's forgiven and forgiving community, let us offer one another a sign of God's peace. Peace be with you.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Holy Spirit, you come to us in ordinary places with extraordinary truth. Quench our thirst, we pray, with Living Water. May words of long ago lead us to encounter the Word made flesh. Inspire us to live the Good News of your loving provision for our lives. We would reach out in service to this world of yours, that all may come to know the peace of deeply grounded faith. Amen.**

## **THE CALL TO A LIFE OF SHARING**

**Often we have come to the well of God's love, and there has been living water to quench our thirst. Sometimes we have needed others to draw the water for us. Sometimes it is we who offer it to them. The world is full of thirsty people. Through our offerings, we provide wells and water carriers and assurance of God's love in the place where we are and far beyond our own reach.**

### **OUR PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**What joy there can be, Loving God, in the giving and receiving of cool, refreshing water! Thank you for the living water we have received from Christ and are privileged to share. Bless the resources gathered today to sustain the programs and outreach of this church. May they and we give fitting expression to our thankfulness. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

When we were determined to remain at war with you, you sent the Prince of Peace. When our relationship with you was lying in pieces on the floor, you offered the broken Bread to restore us to wholeness. When petty pride stiffens our necks so much we cannot bow down in your holy presence, you massage our souls with grace's tender touch. We worship you in joy, our God, and thank you for all the joys you bring into our lives . . . .

When our ears become stuffed with our selves, you open them with songs of grateful praise. When our mouths overflow with complaints, you wash them out with living waters of hope. When all we can say is, "Give me! Give me!" you challenge us to submit to servanthood. We worship you in spirit, Jesus, Water Giver.

When our souls are empty, you fill them with living water. When we are reluctant to follow Jesus, you steer us in the right direction. When we are tempted to boast, your whispers of grace silence us. We worship you in truth, Comforter of our hearts as we pray for . . . .

God in Community, Holy in One,  
our joy, our truth, our spirit,  
we worship you, as we pray, saying,  
"Our Father, who art in heaven . . . ."

## **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

People of God, receive God's commissioning blessing: Depart from this time of worship, restored and refreshed by the living water from Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. Go forth, in the power of the Holy Spirit, into the world as witnesses of God, ambassadors of reconciliation, and praising God's holy name.

Let the whole church say, "God's name be praised! Amen!"

Go in peace with praise! Amen!