

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Have we said yes when Jesus invites us, “Follow me”? Have we carried the Christian name with confidence and joy? Why do we violate the best we know or hide from God who shelters us? Why do we quarrel with one another and focus on our differences? Who will save us from ourselves? These are the questions we will answer by praying Our Common Prayer of Confession printed on p. 2 of our bulletin.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS & NEW LIFE

Receive the Good News: there is no place, not even in our hearts, where the love of God cannot penetrate. God is around and among us, healing, restoring and calling us to new life as one body, united in Christ. Let the whole church say, “Praise God for the gift of forgiveness and the promise of peaceful unity!”

In the spirit of peace and the hope of unity, let us offer each other a sign of Christ’s peace. Peace be with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious Light-Bearer, into the shadows of our isolation, you speak words of life and community. Inspire us now so that we may receive liberation in your Word, and be filled to overflowing by your Spirit that we may share your reconciling love throughout the earth. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE CALL TO A LIFE OF SHARING

With a clear voice, Jesus calls us to accept the costs and joys of discipleship, and the challenges of living in peaceful unity with those who are different from one another. As we make our offering at this table, let us remember that we give and work and love on behalf of Christ’s whole and undivided body on earth, and let us celebrate the gift of unity that is ours through the Spirit and our generous hearts.

OUR PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we invest our lives as disciples of Jesus. We give our offering with thanksgiving and rejoicing. May we, with these gifts, share the beauty of God with all who walk in darkness. Unite us in faith and mission, in caring and service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**O God, you are our light and salvation,
who always gives us courage to face life.
You are our shelter and refuge on the days
of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days
of celebration. Today we celebrate your
presence with us by giving thanks for our
joys**

**Day after day, we seek your face and
and the assurance of your holy love:
O God, do not turn from us or hide your
face from us! Be our guide and our light
as we pray for**

**One thing we ask of you, O God: That we
may live in your dwelling place all the days
of our life, and never cease to behold the
beauty of your home.**

**One thing we ask, God in Community,
Holy in One: listen to us as we pray, saying,
“Our Father, who art in heaven”**

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

**People of God, receive God’s commissioning
and blessing: Go now in peace, for Christ
has called you to live in peace among your
brothers and sisters in Christ.**

**Go now in courage, for Christ has called you
from the places of your life to be agents of
redemption and partners in healing.**

**Go now in joy and thanksgiving, for Christ
is our Light!**

**Go now as the one Resurrected Body of Christ,
to love and serve God as you love and serve
in the world.**

**Let the whole church say, “Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Amen.”**