

## **Call to Worship**

We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.  
and we proclaim: Surely God is in this place!  
We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.  
and we say: Surely God is in this place!  
We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.  
and we cry: Surely God is in this place!  
We come to see God in community both far and near,  
and we hold fast to the promise: Surely God is in this place!  
We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.  
and we exclaim: Surely God is in this place! Come, let us worship!  
In our various places we look to see God with us—alive and at work.  
Our God is with you!

## **Invocation**

Holy One, you know us already.  
Help us to know you better.  
Let us see you all around us.  
Fill our worship with your Spirit  
so that we may recognize your presence in all places. Amen.

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

O God, our failures, shortcomings, and sin are like strong weeds in our lives.  
We confess them to You,  
So that we may clear away anything  
that would choke out our nourishing connection with You and Your abiding  
presence.

We pray:  
Gracious God,  
in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short.  
We get so comfortable  
that we sleep when we need to be vigilant  
about the errors in our own lives

and the injustices around us.

We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives and threatens to overwhelm the good we do.

We do not pay attention to the unjust systems which shape our lives, that we must work to transform so that your Beloved Community may come to be.

Forgive us.

Rouse us and help us to listen anew so that we can experience your love and grace in new ways and respond with the lives you call us to live. Amen.

You are God's precious family.

In you, God has planted seeds of hope and promise.

In the words of the apostle Paul,

"You did not receive a spirit of servitude to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption."

As God's children, in God's embrace, you are forgiven and set free. Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Faithful God, most merciful and just, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your promise, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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### **Prayers of the People**

Confident of your care and guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions.

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences new life.

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fear, prejudice, and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love.

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way especially we pray for: Lloyd Mart, Ruth Herz, Daniel Schowalter, Phyllis Streng (sister of Carol Leaders), Don (brother of Ruth Blomster).

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need.

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them when we rest in your everlasting care.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

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### **Benediction**

God's spirit is always with us always.  
Wherever we go, God is there!

If we ascend to heaven,  
God is there.

If we settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
God is there.

In all places, God holds you fast.  
May you know deeply the presence of God:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Go with God and dwell in peace.  
Thanks be to God.

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Call to Worship & Invocation, Confession & Forgiveness, and Benediction  
are adapted from work by the Rev. Ruth Garwood.

Prayer of the Day and Prayers of the People based on elements of liturgy from Sundays & Seasons, but  
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