

2022 Liturgical Resources Based on Psalm 23 Concerning the Theme of “Home”

Prayer of Invocation

God of all ages, praise to you through all our days.
Meet us in sabbath rest where we are renewed.
Lead us to the source of love that heals life’s pain.
Show us your path even when we cannot see our next step.
Calm the fears that keep us awake in the night.
Comfort us with your grace as we bow our heads before you.
Bless us as we eat at your table and dwell in your house.
Walk beside us all the days of our lives we continue to learn and grow in your name. Amen.

Psalm 23:6

Surely Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Litany: A Place to Call Home

LEADER Like the psalmist we are invited to choose to live in God’s house, God’s home, throughout our whole lives. Establishing the place where we know goodness and mercy.

PEOPLE **We all yearn for a place of safety and security.**

LEADER We expect some comfort in this place we call home—a frequent setting for Jesus’ ministry:
When the younger son returned home, his father threw a party in the family home. (Luke 15:25)

PEOPLE **For home, should be the place where people know a sense of belonging.**

LEADER When Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree, he was told to come down and take the rabbi to his home (Luke 19:1-10)

PEOPLE **Offering hospitality in your home is a sign of respect.**

LEADER When Martha invited Jesus to her home, she knew it would be a place for her to serve. Her sister Mary knew their home to be a place for learning at the teacher’s feet. (Luke 10:38)

PEOPLE **What better place to serve and to learn, than in the shelter of home surrounded by family and friends.**

LEADER In the house of Simon and Andrew, Jesus' presence brought about healing for his mother-in-law and in Capernum, in his own home, after the roof was lifted, the paralytic was welcomed and healed. (Mark 1:29)

PEOPLE In the privacy of home, the power of healing can come to dwell.

LEADER After the blind man was healed, Jesus directed him to return to his home, apart and away from the sight of the crowds. (Mark 8:22)

PEOPLE Home can be a place of refuge and reunion.

LEADER Healing and Hospitality. Safety and Refuge. Reunion and Belonging.

PEOPLE Learning and Serving. Working and Being - all are basic to life itself.

LEADER And yet, for many, the ability to afford the costs of a place to call home become too difficult. Without the support of individuals and programs that provide affordable subsidized housing, the threat of homelessness is far too real. One major illness or the loss of a spouse, a life of hard work for too little pay or savings drained due to the difficult choices between medical expenses or even food can jeopardize the security of having a place to call home.

PEOPLE For these reasons and more, we give thanks for the ministry of United Church Homes as together we help to provide appropriate spaces for all of God's children to have a place to dwell their whole life long. AMEN.

Prayer of Dedication

**We give thanks this day for the homes where we live in safety and peace,
where we learn and grow,
where we find refuge from life's storms
and welcome in strangers with hospitable grace.**

**May these gifts which we lift to you this day, O God,
provide the opportunity for those in the world
who find themselves vulnerable and at risk of homelessness
to be sheltered from creation's elements
and protected from the isolation and loneliness which harbor despair.**

**Give us the courage to support those around us
who need the strength and companionship that comes from participating in community.
May our lives give witness to your goodness and mercy, today and forever. AMEN.**