**Liturgical Resources Based on Psalm 23**

**Prayer of Invocation**

Creator of life and Provider of love call us to you, our spiritual home.

Lead us to Love’s source and quench our thirst for meaning and purpose.

Spark the creative way for us to follow when your call invites us to new dwellings.

Calm the fears that awaken us in night’s deepest hours interfering with the rest we need.

Extend your kindness even when we are in the presence of those we do not trust.

Comfort us with the grace of your presence as moments slow and as days speed by.

Ignite wisdom as we reflect on our experience of life in your care.

Follow us this day, and all the days of our lives as we follow you. 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: Home**

LEADER Like the psalmist we are invited to choose to live in God’s house our whole lives long. We yearn for that place where we know goodness and mercy -

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

LEADERWe expect 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 we know a sense of belonging.**

LEADERWhen Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree, he was told to come down and take the rabbi to the tax collector’s home. (Luke 19:1-10)

**PEOPLE Hospitality offered and received in our home is a sign of trust and 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 Home can be a place to serve and to learn 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, after the roof was lifted, the paralytic was welcomed and healed.

(Mark 1:29)

**PEOPLE** I**n private or joined by close friends and neighbors the power of healing can come at home.**

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.**

LEADERHealing and Hospitality. Safety and Refuge. Reunion and Belonging.

**PEOPLE** **Learning and Serving.** **Working and Being - all are marks of a faithful life.**

LEADER Whether a room or a mansion with many spaces, may we find ways that everyone may claim a place they 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, O God, for homes that provide 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 provide homes for those who are vulnerable and at risk of being unsheltered.**

**May these gifts provide opportunities to reach those with increasing needs as they age.**

**And equip us as we connect with those whose house is their only setting**

 **that they do not disappear in the experience of isolation and loneliness.**

**Give us the courage to support those around us who need strength and companionship**

**that all can participate and connect in your larger work of community.**

 **May our lives give witness to your goodness and mercy, today and forever. AMEN.**