



# Worship Resources

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER Created to age, we come bearing the image of God's love that is ours to share-

**PEOPLE We embrace the image of God we carry in the world.**

LEADER Created to create, we open our imaginations to God's will-

**PEOPLE We gather to unite with the Creator's energy among us.**

LEADER Created to matter, we seek meaning and purpose in this broken world-

**PEOPLE We yearn to know how our lives can make a difference in God's name.**

LEADER Created to connect, we gather in community remembering that we are not alone-

**PEOPLE We celebrate God's calling us together.**

**ALL Let us celebrate the presence of God's abundant love at work in this place!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of Eli and Samuel, John and his parents, Elizabeth and Zachariah, siblings, Mary, Martha and Lazarus, come into this family of faith, chosen by our need to be connected through community to you. Through the generations gathered here in your name, inspire our journeys of faith as we support and learn from each other. Reveal your visions and dreams to the younger and the older as we seek to understand the meaning you reveal for this time and place. Gather us in courage as we celebrate your community at work in the world. Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Our God is both the center of tradition and instigator of innovation, and we struggle in the tension to hold on to the familiar which gives us comfort, and our yearning for what is not yet as we assume that change threatens our sense of security. Let us confess our wrestling with this tension:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all ages, we know that we hold our own sense of control and certainty tightly. We struggle to open our hearts and hands to let go of the comfort this brings.**

**And yet, we must open ourselves,  
to receive all that we do not yet know,  
to welcome those ideas that stretch our current state of certainty and  
to anticipate that growing, learning, maturing only end after our last breath.  
Surround us as we age and as life continues to change within and around us.  
Ease the growth pains we encounter along the way.  
Inspire the growth spurts of our mind and spirit.  
And lead us into the fullness and abundance of your love increasing wisdom in the  
world. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE of BLESSING**

We were created to age. Regardless of how many years we have been on earth, despite what we have or have not done, or where we have come from or where we think we are headed, God has entrusted us with life itself. Life that is utterly dependent on the grace that connects us with our creator and with each other. Grace that creates a global community which supports our lives with all living things. And grace which has the ability to infuse our imaginations to see beyond ourselves. Friends, you are blessed to be a blessing by the grace of God, now and all the days of your life. May we live knowing that it is so!

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERING**

God of all our days, bless us as we return these gifts entrusted to our care and stewardship. In receiving your presence in our lives, we are grateful for the opportunity to return these to you as we participate in your larger vision for the world. In all the ways that we are able to participate through this community of faith, we give thanks and praise. Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

May the Creator continue to mold us into a community of Love at work in the world.

May the Redeemer call us through all life's stages to come as we are and continue to grow as followers of Christ Jesus.

And may the Spirit surround all our coming and going, that wisdom may be more fully present in the world.