February 2016
Year C

February 7, 2016
Call to Worship
Transfiguration Sunday

One: Spirit of Love, we hear of the transfiguration of Jesus, and wonder.

Many: *We long to be changed into people who act in faith.*

One: May we learn to listen to the words of Christ, seeking the way forward.

Many: *As we prepare for Lent, let our presence and our words combine, that we may Worshipping in truth and in light, allowing your love to shine in our faces and our lives.*

Gospel for Ash Wednesday
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from the Giver of Life."

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as those whose faith is found only on the surface; whether in the church or in the streets, only that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and the Giver of Life, who sees in secret, will reward you."

"And whenever you pray, do not be like those whose faith is found only on the surface; for they love to stand and pray in church and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to the Giver of Life, who is in secret; and you will find your reward."

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like those whose faith is found only on the surface, for they disfigure their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by the Giver of Life, who is in secret; and you will find your reward."

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where
neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Sources: *The Inclusive Bible* with further revisions by The Rev. Annie Brittan.

February 14, 2016

Prayer

First Sunday of Lent

Holy and Loving One, we enter another season of Lent. We know our intentions are good, and yet we also know that we are easily distracted in our attempts to know ourselves better. This Lenten Season, guide us to seek pathways of deeper faith and more just actions. May we concentrate on your love, and carry it into each relationship, leaving our own shortcomings behind as we are filled with more goodness and mercy than we have practiced before. Be our voice as we cry out against injustice, hatred, exclusion and arrogance. Amen.

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Call to Worship

One: The Giver of Life is our light and salvation!

Many: *Whom shall we fear? Rather, though challenges surround us, let us be confident!*

One: One thing we ask of the Healer of our Souls, that we might live closely with our Creator.

Many: *In the midst of all that would pull us away from our Source let us be strong. Accompany us, teach us, guide us, and dwell with us, Gracious and Loving Spirit.*

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Call to Worship

One: Friends, we are invited today to experience the goodness of our Creator.

Many: *We come with thirsty souls, longing for justice to roll down like waters on our parched and shrunken lives.*

One: And the Spirit of Life calls us to come to the water of life, and drink our fill. Are we ready to be changed?

Many: *May our souls cling to the life we are offered, and may we find joy in this journey of thirst quenching love!"*
March 2016
Year C

March 6, 2016
A Prayer for the
Fourth Sunday in Lent
(Rev. Annie Britton)

Gracious Spirit of Love and Hope who never leaves us alone, we consider today repentance, forgiveness, and restoration of relationship. May we encounter different facets of our own behavior as we hear again the story of a child who chooses without regard for others, then is treated without regard by others. Only through a deep encounter with self and with the Divine is the act of “going home” made possible. May we be ready to “go home” in repentance; may we be ready to “welcome home” with forgiveness; and may we be ready to remain “at home”, yet ever ready to cooperate in restoration of relationship. We know what love can do, and we know what lack of forgiveness can do. Let us be people of resolve and courage, acknowledging our power to choose poorly, and then seeking always justice, kindness, and the grace of walking with our Source toward the fullness of life and love. In the name of Christ. Amen.

March 6, 2016
Responsive Reading Marking Women’s History Month
Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: Gracious Giver of Our History and Heritage, today is a day to remember.
Many: Together we remember remarkable women who changed our world.
One: We remember the heartbreak of Hagar, as she was exiled from her community not once, but twice by a jealous woman and wife.
Many: God, in your mercy, teach us mercy and care.
One: We remember the courage of Esther, who risked her life to save her community from genocide.
Many: God, in your mercy, teach us selflessness and boldness.
One: We remember the excruciating pain of a mother watching a child crucified, only to witness his resurrection with joy!
Many: God, in your mercy, teach us hope in the face of hopelessness.
One: We remember so many others,
Many: We remember the powerful actions and words of the abolitionist Sojourner Truth.
One: The courage of suffragette Susan B. Anthony.
Many: The adventurous spirit of pilot Amelia Earhart.
One: The tenacity of those who stood on their shoulders, like Shirley Chisholm, Sandra Day O’Connor, and Sally Ride.
Many: Moving forward, clearing the path, inspiring and motivating us
ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE WOMEN.

March 13, 2016
A Call to Worship for Hope and Perseverance through the Lenten Journey and Beyond
Fifth Sunday in Lent
(Rev. Annie Britton)

One: As we continue our Lenten journey, let us pause a moment to think about how far we have come.
Many: We remember making choices just a few weeks ago; choices that we would pay attention, or give of ourselves and our time, or change behaviors.
One: We have chosen to allow more of the Divine in our lives, and we have chosen to be more available to the Source of Love and Life. How are we doing?
Many: The journey has many paths, and so many choices. It lasts beyond these few weeks of Lent. We look for strength, endurance, and courage to be agents of justice, of change, and of love.
One: Let us journey on in hope.
Many: Let us journey on together in faith and in love!

March 20, 2016
A Call to Worship for
Palm Sunday
(Rev. Annie Britton)

One: What must it have been like on that day? A parade, a celebration!
Many: What must it have been like? Passover in Jerusalem! The warmth of Spring and the crush of people coming to see the sight of one entering the city with confidence and joy!
One: What must it have been? The roar of the crowds, the challenge of Pharisees to silence the crowd, the answer of Jesus, “I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!”
Many: What must it have? Our attention! Our feelings! Our courage! Our deepest will, that we might encounter, without fear, the power of Love, the purity of action that proceeds from integrity, and our need to carry and act in that same Love!
One: What will it be like on that day?
Many: What will we be like on that day? May it be so.

March 27, 2016
A Prayer of Encouragement and Joy
Easter, 2016
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Resurrecting Redeemer, Maker of Miracles, Most Holy God,
We come before you in disbelief, awe and gratitude.
We come before you believing, yet asking for you to forgive our unbelief.
How does a human rise from the dead and live again?
How do we, who sometimes admit to despair, find new hope and new life?
Through your grace and wonder Christ lives and walks among us still, healing the sick, feeding the poor, giving aid to the lost.
Through your grace and wonder we find new meaning and purpose that empowers us to rise yet again, meet the day, seek out the weary, and love the stranger.
Gracious Giver, in you, all things are possible. Even the resurrection of the dead.
Make us people who proclaim at Easter, and every day of our lives, Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!
AMEN.
April 3, 2016
A Responsive Reading for the
Second Sunday of Easter
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: God, sometimes we struggle to believe.
Many: We want to touch your hands and side!
One: We want to hear your voice.
Many: But you ask us to rely on faith; to believe; to hope.
One: For the frail creatures that we are, this is hard.
Many: Give us the faith we need to believe.
ALL: CHRIST, I BELIEVE. HELP MY UNBELIEF.

The Gospel Reading for the
Second Sunday of Easter
(from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality.
Additional edits by Rev. Annie Brittan)

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Holy One sent me, so I’m sending you.” After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone’s sins, they are retained.” It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or “Twin”—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept saying, “We’ve seen Jesus!” Thomas’ answer was, “I’ll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound.” On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, “Peace be with you.” Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, “Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don’t persist in your unbelief, but believe!” Thomas said in response, “My Savior and my God!” Jesus then said, “You’ve become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen” and yet have believed.” Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, begotten of the Source of Love, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus’ name.

April 10, 2016
A Prayer for the
Third Sunday of Easter  
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

Patient and Loving Spirit, we come this day, still rejoicing in the gift of new life. We have journeyed through Lent seeking you and our more authentic selves. As you question Peter in today’s gospel reading, help us hear your words as they challenge us. We know we love you, but how have we changed during the past weeks? How are we better prepared for the new life you offer? How will we find our way further out of self-absorption and onto the path that is your Way? May we know deeply your love, inclusion, and will in these days of rejoicing. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

A Prayer for the  
Third Sunday of Easter  
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

God of Resurrection and Astonishing New Life,  
Just weeks ago the world was white and brown,  
Now the colors of crocuses, tulips and lilies abound!  
The scrawny stick planted last fall bursts with leaves and buds.  
Everywhere we look we see signs of resurrection hope.  
We know that we too can break from the tombs that imprison us.  
Help us God, as we struggle to say yes to the new life you offer.  
Give us courage to defeat the powers that hold us down and  
Fill us with strength to live our lives in joy and freedom,  
For we ask it in your most holy name. AMEN

April 17, 2016  
A Responsive Reading for the  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: Christ you come to us as a Shepherd.  
Right side: One who defends, protects, and guides.  
Left side: One who seeks, finds, and saves.  
One: Christ you show us where to find green pastures and clean water.  
Right side: You call us and we know your voice.  
Left side: You anoint us with oil, and we rejoice.  
One: You comfort us. Show us your comfort now.  
Right side: Lead us out of the darkness.  
Left side: Lead us into the light.  
ALL: THAT WE MAY DWELL WITH YOU ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES.

A Gospel Reading for the  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
(from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality. Additional edits by Rev. Annie Brittan)
Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha—“Dorcas,” in Greek—who never tired of doing kind things or giving to charity. About this time Tabitha grew ill and died. Then the body was washed and laid out in an upstairs room. Since the town of Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples sent two couriers to Peter with the urgent request, “Please come over to us without delay.” Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon arriving, they took Peter upstairs to the room. All the townswomen who had been widowed stood weeping, and showing the various garments Dorcas had made when still with them. Peter first made everyone go outside, then knelt down and prayed. Turning to the body, Peter said, “Tabitha, stand up.” Then, eyes open and looking at Peter, Tabitha sat up. Peter gave a hand of assistance to Tabitha’s rising. The next thing Peter did was to call in those who were believers—including the widows—to show them all that Tabitha was alive. This became known all over Joppa and, because of it, many came to believe in Christ. Peter remained awhile in Joppa, staying with Simon, a leather tanner.

April 24, 2016
A Call to Worship for the Fifth Sunday of Easter
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

One: Spirit of renewal and rebirth, here we are!
Many: We await your love and your challenge.
One: Today we will hear scripture that teaches us of inclusion, of otherness, and of your abiding love.
Many: Help us as we struggle to be faithful and welcoming,
One: May we open our hearts, may we stretch our minds, and may the doors of our lives remain open to welcome all who seek peace, love, and your presence.

A Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Loving One, you give us a new commandment, that we love one another. So we ask you, what does this love look like?
   Do we love one another when we turn them away from our borders?
   Do we love one another when we pay them less for the same work, or deny them a living wage?
May 2016
Year C

May 1, 2016
A Responsive Reading for the
Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

One: People of faith, we gather today in this place, in this time, and in this era of our church.
Many: We come to pray, to sing, and to ask our questions.
One: Today, we encounter the mystery that is holy, in the stories we hear of seekers like ourselves.
Many: May we find pieces of what we seek, like rich and precious purple cloth, as Lydia found answers in baptismal waters. Guide our steps, Holy One, source of our longing and our fulfillment.

Celebration of Holy Communion for the
Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich, based on Rev. 21: 1-8)

One: Blessed and Holy One,
Many: Who longs to renew the face of the earth!
One: Who ushers in the New Jerusalem!
Many: You are as beautiful as a bride and groom on their wedding day.
ALL: WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO YOU.
BE AMONG US NOW.

One: God who comes to us in visions and dreams, be among us now and bless us as you blessed John with a beautiful vision of a new world. Feed us with bread from heaven. Quench our thirst with the sweet juice of the grape. Fill us with your love: longsuffering and patient. Wipe away our tears and put an end to death and mourning, crying and pain. Make all things new, just as you promised through the proclamation of Jesus.

We remember how you sent Jesus to be among us, to teach us and heal us. We remember how he shared the gifts of grain and grape with his followers then, just as he shares those same elements with us now.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he gathered his friends around the table. He took bread, broke it, gave it to them and said, “This is my life, a gift for you. As you eat this bread, remember me.” Then he took the cup and shared it, saying, “This is my love for you, offered as a new covenant of forgiveness. Drink this cup and remember me.”

When we remember, we become one in Christ, renewed in the Spirit. So, with all of creation we proclaim the holy mystery:

ALL: CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

One: Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, descend upon us and rest upon these gifts of grain and grape. Make them be for us the love and the life of Christ, that we might be Christ for the world. Give us courage, wisdom, honesty and strength for the days ahead.
Through your child, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory and honor is yours now and forever. AMEN.

**May 8, 2016**

**A Prayer for the**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*(Rev. Annie Brittan)*

Maker of the Universe, Creative Power of Love, we admit that sometimes miracles leave us unimpressed. We can hold in our palms technology that connects us to remote areas on Earth, and in space. In our search for ever more dramatic miracles—— earthquakes, shipwrecks, and instant conversions, may we remember to abide in moments of quiet, waiting upon your presence. May we seek you in ordinary moments of life—— rushing to a meeting, striving to finish homework, learning new sports skills, eating a meal with one another. May songs of Love fill our hearts, guiding us along this path of new life. May we find deep strength and courage to live justly in this world, seeking to move in a spirit of equality. We give thanks for the gifts of women clergy who have courageously guided and challenged the Church as teachers, preachers, and Bishops. For each and every miracle, may we be thankful. Amen.

**May 15, 2016**

**A Responsive Reading for**

**Pentecost Sunday**

*(Rev. Annie Brittan)*

One: Come Holy Spirit, like wind!

Many: Come Holy Spirit, like fire!

One: Fill our hearts, fill our senses, create us new again!

Many: Fill the empty places in our lives, restore our hope, call us out of our complacency!

One: Trouble us!

Many: Disturb us!

One: Sweep us up into Love!

Many: Hold us close that we might become Love for the world! Come Holy Spirit!

**A Prayer for**

**Pentecost Sunday**

*(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)*

Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this place. Come as a gentle breeze or a rushing wind. Come as fiery tongues or gentle waves. Touch our hearts, gently kiss our breathless souls, or use your fire and wind to move us into ministries of passion and presence. Be with us a sudden transforming power or as tender comforter. Come and be with us, never leave us, for it is your soft and forceful presence that we need and desire. Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this place, AMEN.

**May 22, 2016**
A Responsive Reading for Trinity Sunday  
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: There is a voice calling. Do you hear it?  
Many: We hear horns and sirens. Is that the sound?  
One: Listen again, Wisdom calls to you.  
Many: We hear whispers in the hallway. Is that the sound?  
One: Listen once more. She cries out to all humankind.  
Many: She has been with us since the beginning of time.  
One: She is the skilled artisan who stands beside God in the Creation,  
Many: Rejoicing in the whole world and delighting in humankind.  
ALL: WISDOM, WE LONG TO KNOW YOU, BE PRESENCE WITH US.

May 29, 2016  
A Responsive Reading for the Second Sunday after Pentecost  
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: Who is this God who shows us love for all people?  
Right Side: Who is this Jesus who would heal a centurion’s slave?  
Left Side: Who is this Spirit who continually pulls us back to the love of Christ?  
One: This is the God we worship.  
Right Side: This is the Jesus we serve.  
Left Side: This is the Spirit who invigorates and moves us.  

June 5, 2016  
Scripture Reading for the Third Sunday of Pentecost  
1Kings 17:8-16 (17-24)  
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

Then the word of the Source of Life came to Elijah and said, “Now go to Zarephath, a village of Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food.” So Elijah went to Zarephath. Upon arriving at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. Elijah called out and asked, “Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink?” As the widow was going to get the water, Elijah called out again, “And please bring me a piece of bread.” The widow replied, “As the Spirit of Life lives, I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a couple of sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my child. We
will eat it—and then we will die.” Elijah said, “Don’t be afraid! Go home and do what you said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and for your child. For this what the Spirit of Life, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day it rains on the land.’” The widow went away and did what Elijah had instructed. And there was food every day for Elijah and for the widow’s family. The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Spirit of Life spoken by Elijah. Sometime later, the widow’s child became ill. The child grew worse and finally stopped breathing. The widow said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, prophet? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my child?” “Give me your child,” Elijah said. Elijah took the child from the widow’s arms and carried it to the upper room and laid the child on the bed. Then he cried out to the Source of Life: “Why did you bring such a tragedy even upon this widow I am staying with, by causing the child to die?” Then Elijah stretched out over the child three times and called out, “I pray, Holy One, let the breath of life return to the body of this child.” The breath of life returned to the child’s body, and it revived. Elijah lifted up and carried the child to the widow, saying, “See, your child lives!” The widow said to Elijah, “Now I know for certain that you are a prophet, and that the word of the Spirit of Life is truly on your lips.”

(from The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality. Further edits by Annie Brittan)

A Call to worship for the
Third Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: A widow losses her only son,
Many: And God heals.
One: Not because God is just,
Many: Because God is merciful.
One: Not because the widow is deserving.
Many: Because God is loving.
One: Today we come to worship God
Many: A God of healing, mercy and love. AMEN

June 12, 2016
A Call to Worship for the
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

One: You are our hiding place, Loving Spirit!
Many: You offer us protection in the midst of trouble.
One: We are surrounded by songs of freedom.
Many: Let us join in the song of faith, the song of justice, and the song of our liberation! Let us celebrate the Love that leads us!

A Prayer for the
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

All: Most gracious and forgiving One, we come this day to worship your holy presence among us. We come humbly as those in need of forgiveness. We come meekly as those asking for mercy. We come owing you all that we have and all that we are. Allow us to come closer so we might encounter your mercy. May we wash your feet with our tears, dry them with our hair, kiss them with our mouths and anoint them with our finest oil. For you merciful One, are our only hope in this life and the next. AMEN.

A Responsive Reading for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: A woman stands behind you, rabbi.
Two: A woman of ill repute.
MANY: WHAT WILL YOU DO?
One: People whisper about her.
Two: There are many rumors.
MANY: WHAT WILL YOU SAY?
One: Will you greet her?
Two: Will you let her near you?
MANY: WILL YOU TURN HER AWAY?
One: Her tears fall on your feet!
Two: Shoo her away!
MANY: SEND HER AWAY!
One: But the rabbi allows her to wipe away the tears.
Two: The rabbi allows her to kiss his feet!
MANY: DO YOU LOVE HER TOO?
One: The rabbi allows her to anoint him with perfume.
Two: The rabbi invites her to follow him.
MANY: LIKE YOU INVITE MARY OF MAGDALA, JOANNA, AND SUZANNA!
One: Like you invite the others,
Two: Like you invite us
ALL: AMEN.

June 18, 2016
A Prayer for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Juneteenth)
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

Holy and Loving Presence, today we acknowledge once again the day on which enslaved people in Texas finally heard the words of emancipation, long after many other enslaved people in southern states had celebrated government-granted freedom. We recall that justice delayed is justice denied. We affirm the rights of all people in this world: to freedom and self-determination, to resources, to assembly, to equal justice. We mourn systems of power that privilege some and prevent others from equal access to rights and
resources. Whirlwinds and earthquakes have not, of themselves, brought about justice. May we, like Elijah, listen, and listen, and listen for the gentle whisper that propels us out of our self-centered concerns and fears, and into just witness, just actions, and just relationships. May we find, and treasure, the freedom of doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with the Source of Life and Love. Amen.

A Prayer for the
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Father’s Day)
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Blessed Parent, Father and Mother,
We set this Sunday aside to remember our fathers.
Fathers present in our youth
Who formed and nurtured us,
Attended our school events,
Cooked our dinner and heard our prayers.
Fathers partially present
Who guided and taught us when they could.
Fathers absent for reasons we understand,
And some reasons we will never know.
We give thanks for mothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, siblings and strangers,
Who parented us when our own fathers were unable.
Most remarkably, we give thanks to you, our God,
Who acts as both father and mother,
Nurturing, encouraging, present with us,
In both childhood and adulthood.
We ask for your comfort on this day,
As we celebrate our fathers, both present and absent,
And give thanks for the blessing that parents bring.

AMEN.

June 26, 2016
A Prayer for the
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

God who is always changing, yet is forever unchangeable, you know how difficult change is for us. We love the comfortable and familiar. New adventures and different environs frighten us. We long for “the good old days.” Yet, you are the unchanging changer. Your Spirit pushes us toward change. Elisha watches as Elijah disappears in a whirlwind and asks for the gift of spirit to guide him through a new life. Jesus tells us to put our hand on the plow and never look back. Forgive us when we longingly look back. Give us courage to face a new day with
determination and resolve. Remind us that when we trust you, amazing One, we are capable of more than we can ever imagine. AMEN

July 2016
Year C

Dear Mother God
(Burke Scot Beu)

Dear Mother God, to you we pray.
Often it is "Father" we say,
Yet, everyone in-your image is made.
Dear Mother God, to you we pray.

Dear Mother God, we give you praise,
For Jesus Christ conquered the grave.
Now we are one in mercy and grace.
Dear Mother God, we give you praise.

Dear Mother God, to you we sing.
Keep us secure under your wing.
We hear your voice: "Fear not anything!"
Dear Mother God, to you we sing.

©2016 RNFA PAC

Melody: key of C, 3/4 time.
Each note is a quarter note
(exceptions in parentheses).

C D E G (half+quarter) D E D C (half+quarter)
C D E G (half+quarter) D E D C (half+quarter)
G hiC B A (half) A A G F G (half+quarter)
C D E G (half+quarter) D E D C (half+quarter)

A Prayer for the Season after General Conference 2016
(Rev. Annie Brittan)

O Triune Divinity of Creation, Salvation, and Grace, our Source and our Life, we cry out in the aftermath of General Conference. We are not of one mind, one spirit, or one way of reasoning. We cry out for ourselves, and we cry out for those who have once again been silenced by our lack of care, our lack of compassion, and our quick and fierce leaps to judgment and shaming. Here and now, we seek to make sense of how our behaviors have neither reflected your image in us, nor honored your image in others.
Help us to break the silences that keep us from right relationship with you, our own selves, and each other. May we use our voices to break silences imposed by racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, colonialism, and the host of other “isms” that divide us and keep us from our mission. May we use our intellects to create systems that include each one rather than systems that privilege some and deprive others of access and choice. May we care so much for the coming of the kin-dom, that we do not fear to call out with you, “let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream,” ready for whatever divine justice looks like and feels like. May we love, may we disagree, may we make room for all the diversity that can possibly exist in the unity of the Holy Spirit. May we open our arms, our hearts, our minds, our doors, and our lives to new possibilities born of unfathomable and eternal love. Amen.

July 3, 2016
A Call to Worship for the
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)
One: We gather in the place of healing and wholeness.
Many: We gather at the glimmering river of justice and hope.
One: We gather expecting the usual.
Many: Still hoping for a glimmer of something new.
One: Perhaps the unexpected will surprise us.
Many: Like a young servant girl surprised her powerful master.
One: Like a prophet from Israel surprised a warrior.
ALL: BREAK INTO OUR ORDINARY LIVES WITH YOUR EXTRAORDINARY LOVE. AMEN

July 10, 2016
A Prayer for the
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)
Just and merciful One,
You give us every manner of good thing.
We are awakened with singing birds and warm sunshine.
Budding trees and wispy grasses accompany us on our daily journey.
Falling stars tell us it is time to sleep.
In return, you ask us to be just and merciful,
Measuring our lives with a plumb line,
Calling us to love one another just as you love us.
Hold us in your love and guide us as we journey the road of justice,
As we work to be compassionate and merciful.
We pray it all in your unspeakable name. AMEN.

July 17, 2016
A Call to Worship for the
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: We are here to worship the unseen Creator
Left: Known to us through Christ, the firstborn of all creation!
Right: Known to us through all that is created.
One: Through rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks!
Left: Through trees, flowers, and clouds!
Right: Through streams, mountains and oceans!
One: Creator of our closes friends!
Left: Creator of our most despicable foes.
Right: Creator of all people, poor and powerful.
ALL: WE ARE HERE TO WORSHIP OUR CREATOR
KNOWN TO US THROUGH CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
LET US WORSHIP!

A Litany for the
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: Be still and know that I am God.
Two: Welcome the stranger, feed the hungry.
One: Be still and know that I am God.
Two: Heal the sick, free the captives.
One: Be still and know that I am God.
Two: Proclaim the good news, make disciples.
One: Be still and know that I am God.
Two: Be still?
One: Be still.

July 24, 2016
A Prayer for the
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

You are our loving parent, our faithful friend, and our constant companion.
Forgive us when we doubt that you hear our prayers. Help our weariness, our
worry, and our weakness. Strengthen us with the confidence of your children as we
bring our anxieties, frustrations and pain to you. Make us sure in the knowledge
that you receive our petitions and respond to them with a love that may be beyond
our understanding, but is always vital and alive. Grant us wisdom and peace in our
lives as we await your kin-dom on this earth. And make us mindful that you are
with us always. AMEN.

July 31, 2016
A Call to Worship for the
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
One: There is no Greek or Hebrew!
Many: There is no documented or undocumented!
One: There is no Jew or Gentile!
Many: There is no conservative or liberal!
One: There is no barbarian or Scythian!
Many: There is no Christian or Muslim!
One: There is no slave or citizen!
Many: There is no gay or straight!
ALL: THERE IS ONLY CHRIST, WHO IS ALL IN ALL!
A Hymn to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary
Of the Ordination of Women in The United Methodist Church,
And Its Predecessors

With Joy We Celebrate Today

With joy we celebrate today,
Women who forged both path and way
To serve your church and polity;
Proclaiming grace, equality.

Recall the strength of women brave,
Who wisdom and devotion gave
As gospel carriers, preachers strong,
In faithful nurture, prayer and song.

For women called to lead the church,
Denied, delayed, left in the lurch.
For all who served for lesser pay,
Repentance and redress, we pray.

Now grant us vision, strength and will
To solve inequities that still
Would mar your message and our goal
O, Love Divine, restore our soul.

WORDS: Rev. Annie Britton
GIFT OF LOVE  LM
Words © 2016. Permission granted to use with full credit to writer.

August 7, 2016
A Call to Worship for the
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

One: Dear ones, why are we here today?
Many: We are here for many reasons. One of those reasons is to seek answers for how we are to live.
One: Isaiah, the prophet, tells us to “learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow” rather than to bring empty sacrifices.
Many: Let us give thanks to our Maker, as we abide in the steadfast love of the Holy One.

A Communion Liturgy for the
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Dr. Tanya Lin Bennett, Ph.D, with adaptations by Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Leader: Christ invites all of us to this table.
Many: Before we gather here, we leave our cares in confession before God and each other.
ALL: Holy One, you have made us people of new things, a people who walk confidently in faith toward open doors and fresh beginnings. We hesitate. We forget that wherever we go, you travel with us. Remind us that your imagination is bigger that our dreams can ever be. Remind us that you pour courage and goodness into our hearts making us strong enough to live boldly into a new day. God of Grace, may it be so.
Sung Response: # 2257 - b (TFWS)
Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blest is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Leader: Jesus called us to live a new way, embracing all God’s creation with love and joy. We got uncomfortable. We were not ready for this new thing. And so we gave Jesus away, God’s truth in human form.
Many: Before Jesus was taken, he invited us to the Passover table. He blessed the bread and we shared it. He blessed the cup and we drank it. And he told us to do this always to remember the Truth that came to us and will come to us again. We wander away from God, but God never leaves us. God proves that, no matter what we do, Truth cannot be silenced. Goodness overwhelms Evil. Love defies Death. We cannot understand, but we can sing out our gladness for the mystery that is God’s faith in us and our faith in God.
Sung Response: #2257-C (TFWS)
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Leader: God does a new thing. God pours out the Spirit onto this everyday food and it becomes extraordinary. God pours out the Spirit on us everyday people and we become the body of Jesus Christ, dreaming together of a fresh start.
Do we see it? Do we hear it? Can we taste it?
This is a day for new dreaming. And the dream begins here at the table of forgiveness and blessing where we are set free from wandering and awed into wonder that God makes all things new.
Sung Response: #2257-D (TFWS)
One: We come to this place seeking unity.
Many: Yet, Christ promises division.
One: We come to this place seeking peace.
Many: Yet, Christ tells us there will be turmoil.
ALL: HELP US TO LIVE IN THE TENSION OF DIVISIVE UNITY AND TUMULTUOUS PEACE. AMEN.

A contextual rendering of Luke 12:49-56
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

Jesus said: "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!
Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided and opposed to each other: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law. They will be divided race against race, kindred against kindred, gender identity against gender identity, and belief system against belief system." Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

August 21, 2016
A rendering of Psalm 71:1-6
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

In you, O Loving Spirit, we take refuge; let us never be left bereft. In your righteousness deliver us and rescue us; incline your ear to us and save us. Be to us a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save us, for you are our rock and our fortress. Rescue us, O Gracious
One, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Love, are our hope, our trust, from our youth. Upon you we have leaned from our birth; it was your love which greeted us as we entered this world. Our praise is continually of you.

**A Prayer for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
*(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)*

Blessed and merciful Christ, you come to us when others would turn us away. You look deeply into our hearts when others avoid eye contact. You gently touch us when others shudder at the thought. You heal us with your love and sweet spirit when the world says that other things are more important. We praise you and give you thanks because you see us, you listen, you know our pain, and you answer our prayers, even in our most desperate days. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

**August 28, 2016**  
*A rendering of Luke 14:1, 7-14*  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
*(Rev. Annie Britton)*

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. After noticing how the guests chose the places of honor, Jesus told a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, you may hear, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Jesus said also to the one who had extended the invitation for the meal, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite those who live on the margins. Invite those who are most affected by the inequities in society, and who are least able to be heard in their oppression. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you with money or privilege, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of all that is righteous."

**A Responsive Payer of Confession for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
*(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)*

One: We confess we are a people slow to learn.
Many: We reject living water for cracked cisterns.
One: We defile the beauty and bounty of creation for our own convenience.
Many: We ignore faithful leaders, preferring to follow the brash and crude.
One: We seek seats of honor rather than tending to the poor.
Many: We pursue security instead of faith.
One: We exchange glory for worthlessness.
Many: We pursue hollow idols, and become hollow ourselves.
ALL: FORGIVE US AND LEAD US, ONCE MORE, INTO A LAND OF PLENTY.

WE ASK IT IN THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS. AMEN.
September 4, 2016
A Call to Worship for the
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

One: Following Jesus demands much of us.
Many: We must give up our reliance on family, friends, wealth, and privilege!
One: Are we willing to count the cost, and still be determined to follow the Way of Jesus?
Many: We will follow the Source of Life, who has searched us and known us, and try to trust in the Way we are offered.

A Communion Liturgy for the
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Leader: Christ invites everyone to this table.
Many: Before we gather here, we confess before God and each other.
ALL: Holy One, you make all things new. We rejoice in newness, particularly when the old has become cracked, withered, or worn. Yet we are reluctant to give up our old ways for new ones. The cost of what we may lose seems greater than the promise that awaits us. In your love, remind us of the good plans you have for us. Pour your courage and strength into us so that, even in our old age, we may recognize and rejoice in the new things you are doing. Blessed One, may it be so.
Sung Response: # 2257-b (TFWS) Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Bless is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Leader: Jesus tells us to count the cost of being a disciple. We may be asked to abandon old ways to embrace new ones. We may be called to replace old rules with new ways of living. Are we willing to embrace new ways of doing and different ways of being? Are we willing to sacrifice what we know for the promise of what we may become?
Many: When the day of the Passover arrived, and before the betrayal, Jesus took a place at the table with the Disciples, and said to them, “I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Take this bread, let it be my life, broken and shared among you. Take this cup, let it be my love, poured out for you and for
many. Do this in remembrance of me.” We resist the thought of Jesus suffering and dying so something new might happen. We don’t understand it, and turn away in doubt and fear. However, God never leaves us. No matter what we do, the love and life that is in Christ cannot be conquered. Love always overcomes Evil. Life always defies Death. We may not understand, but we can sing out our gladness for the mystery that is God’s faith in us and our faith in God.

**Sung Response: #2257-C (TFWS)**
*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

Leader: God does a new thing. God pours out the Spirit onto this everyday food and it becomes extraordinary. God pours out the Spirit on us everyday people and we become the extraordinary body of Jesus Christ, embarking together on a new beginning.

Are we ready to leave the old behind so we might embrace something new? Today is another opportunity to accept the forgiveness and blessing that sets us free from the confines of old ways and welcomes us into the wonder of a God who makes all things new.

**Sung Response: #2257-D (TFWS)**
*Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

(Suggestion: as the elements are distributed, offer the bread saying, “This is the bread of life, broken for you.” Offer the juice, saying, “This is the cup of love poured out for you.”)

**September 11, 2016**
**A Rendering of Psalm 51:6-10**
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**
(Rev. Annie Britton)

Holy One, who knows us to our core, you call out for the truth and integrity that lives deep inside us. May we listen for wisdom in our secret hearts! Let us cleanse ourselves with powerful spiritual soap, that we may be restored to health and strength and integrity. As we heal, may our inclination to poor use of our personal and communal power give way to generosity, to honesty, and to dreams of justice for everyone. Then, the wisdom of the Spirit of Life will guide us into right actions of justice and love and hope.

**A Prayer of Remembrance on the 15th Anniversary of 9/11**
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Blessed and Holy Spirit of Truth, we turn to you when there is nowhere else to turn. On this anniversary Sunday, we remember four attacks on our soil, cruelly ending the lives of nearly 3,000 human beings from 93 countries. Fifteen years later, we still ask questions for which we have no answers. We harbor anger, dehumanize others, and yearn for
revenge. We confuse power with righteousness, and participate in the very activities that we condemn. We seek our own security, hear our own truth, and feel our own pain, while failing to acknowledge the pain of others. Forgive our blindness and privilege.
Help us to realize that we are part of the global suffering. Give us your Spirit of Truth and Wisdom to create the world for which we yearn. A world free of exploitation of the poor and voiceless; a world that embraces people of all religions, races, and genders; a world that bypasses power brokers and wealth in favor of justice and equity for all. Give us new eyes to see and new ears to hear. For we ask it in the name of the One who makes all things new. AMEN

September 18, 2016
A Call to Worship based on Psalm 4
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: We come to this place to worship!
Many: May the light of your face shine upon us.
One: Women and men,
Many: Young and old,
One: Every race and hue.
Many: We are here to worship!
ALL: GIVE US JOYFUL HEARTS AND PEACEFUL SPIRITS. AMEN.

A Prayer of Confession based on Amos 8:4-7
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

Just and Merciful Source of All Life and Love, with troubled hearts we admit that we have cooperated in the oppression of so many of your children and creatures. We have trampled those who live in need and brought ruin upon people who are poor by our callous disregard of the need that surrounds us, even as we allow our own lives to be consumed by the acquisition of more and more objects of wealth and privilege. We have denied others the rights that we proclaim to be self-evident for all. We have behaved dishonestly in our commerce with others, freely cheating others out of commodities, and withholding our true selves from right and just relationships. Today, we will choose differently. We will see our own selves clearly, so that we can see others and the world around us more clearly. We will question our values, and how our choices affect others. We will work for justice by using our power for the common good instead of for our own wants. We will join with those who are poor and those who live in need as kindred, as we accept our own poverty of spirit and neediness of restoration. May the path we seek find its revelation in the power of our conviction to be justice and love in our world. Amen.
September 25, 2016
A Call to Worship based on Timothy 6:6-19
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One:  Do good, and be wealthy in good works!
Many:  Be generous and willing to share.
One:  Create a treasure for the future,
Many:  Not in diamonds and pearls,
ALL:  BUT IN THE GUARANTEE OF THE ONE LIFE THAT IS TRULY REAL.
AMEN.

A contextual rendering of Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

Look out everyone who has more than you need! Look out you who live in ease in the cities and the suburbs and in great mountaintop homes! Look out, those who have no worry about work and what you will eat each day: you who can spend your time in leisure and relaxation, surrounded by music and art and opportunity! Look out, all who believe that you do not have time for justice, as you participate in excess of consumerism and self-centered pursuits! Justice is coming! Your wealth will dissolve and your unearned and hard-hearted privilege will melt away because you have not cared for others, but only for yourselves.
October 2016
Year C

October 2, 2016
Call to Worship
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 17:5-10
(Rev. Annie Britton)

One: We are told not to fret -- not to be consumed by worry -- especially about the
behavior of others.
Many: What are we to do in the face of so much wrong in the world?
One: We are told to stay strong in our faith, that our vindication will come, and that
justice shall reign.
Many: We have been given a spirit of power and love! Let us not fret!

Prayer of Confession
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 17: 5-10
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Loving and forgiving One, you remind us ever so gently that we are the ones you
create to plow your fields, prepare the meals, and serve your children. With great
sensitivity, you tell us that we are the workers, that you have given us jobs to do,
and that we should be found busily doing those things. Not one of us is promised a
place closer to you, a house bigger than our friends, or an extra jewel in our crowns
for doing what you require. We are simply workers, and our ministries are our
duty to you and to your kin-dom. Remind us of this basic truth when our uppity
selves seek unearned rewards or recognition for merely doing the things you created
us to do. We are here for you, to feed, to clothe, to visit, to listen, to care, to shelter
and to love your creation. In the name of Christ, may it be so.

Communion Liturgy
20th Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday
Based on Psalm 137
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Leader: Today, we join with Christians all around the world as we celebrate the
sacrament of Holy Communion
Many: From the Himalayas to Patagonia, from the Sahara to the Great Basin Deserts,
From shining cities to mud huts, from freezing poles to the steaming equator, Christians
throughout the world pause and give thanks to you, Holy Mystery.
ALL: Blessed One, you join us in our lonely places and spaces. Along the rivers of
the Babylon, we sit and weep, hanging up our harps in hopelessness. We are
reluctant to pull our focus from our pain. We forget how close you are, just the
breath of a prayer away. In your love, remind us of the good plans you have for us. Pour your courage and strength into us so that, even in foreign land, we might recognize your children and rejoice. Blessed One, may it be so.
Sung Response: # 2257-b (TFWS)
Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blest is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Leader: Remind us once again of your constant presence, your eternal love, and your never ending grace. Show us how to live in foreign lands, how to befriend those who look different from us, and how to learn new ways of being and doing. Grace us with the love Christ felt for us at that Passover meal.
Many: When the day of the Passover arrived, and before the betrayal, Jesus took a place at the table with the Disciples, and said to them, “I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Take this bread, let it be my life, broken and shared among you. Take this cup, let it be my love, poured out for you and for many. Do this in remembrance of me.” We resist the thought of Jesus suffering and dying so something new might happen. We don’t understand it, and turn away in doubt and fear. However, God is ever present. Love always overcomes Evil. Life always defies Death. We may not understand, but we can sing out our gladness for the mystery that is God’s faith in us and our faith in God.
Sung Response: #2257-C (TFWS)
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Leader: God is with us, pouring out the Spirit onto this everyday food and making it extraordinary; pouring out the Spirit on us everyday people and making us the extraordinary body of Jesus Christ, bound in connection throughout the world. Are we ready to trust the presence of Love and Life? Today is another opportunity to accept the forgiveness and blessing that sets us free from a solitary existence and welcomes us into the wonder of Christian connection on this World Communion Sunday.
Sung Response: #2257-D (TFWS)

(Suggestion: as the elements are distributed, offer the bread saying, “This is the bread of life, broken for you.” Offer the juice, saying, “This is the cup of love poured out for you.”)

October 9, 2016
A rendering of Luke 17:11-19
21st Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus entered a village, ten lepers approached. Keeping their distance, they
called out, saying, "Jesus, have mercy on us!" Seeing them, Jesus said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, recognizing that healing had occurred, turned back, praising Divine Love with a loud voice. That one, who was a Samaritan, then fell at Jesus' feet and spoke thanks. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this one who comes from another land?" Jesus then said to the one who had returned speaking gratitude, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Prayer
Luke 17: 11-19/Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Generous God, you give us all the good things of existence: eyes to see the beauty of the world around us, ears to hear the melodies of nature, and mouths to savor the yield of the harvest. Some of us lack seeing eyes, or hearing ears, or even the ability to taste. Yet it seems you sharpen our other gifts and grant us skills to help us compensate. You strengthen us and give us courage to live in places that are unfamiliar, where it is difficult to see or hear or taste. It may even be disorienting. Help us to settle into emotionally and physically foreign places, planting our own gardens there and eating what we grow. Give us commitment to thrive when we are in unfamiliar spaces and circumstances. Help us to pray for the prosperity of foreign lands, so we may also grow and prosper. In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN.

October 16, 2016
Call to Worship
Luke 18: 1-8
22nd Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: We gather to worship
Many: Help us to pray.
One: We seek the God of love.
Many: Help us to pray.
One: We hear the call of Christ
Many: Help us to pray
One: We yearn for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Many: Trinity, three-in-one, help us to pray.

Prayer
Jeremiah 31:27-34
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Mysterious and Constant Companion, you are with us through the agony of our days. Through times of war and hunger, anger and destruction, injustice and evil, you walk with us, matching our steps, reaching for us when we fall, lifting us when
we try again. Loving One, we give you thanks. May we be just as grateful when you forgive our trespasses and put a new covenant in our hearts, so that we might walk with you in truth and renewed hope. Be our God so that we might be your people, and build your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. AMEN

October 23, 2016
Call to Worship
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
(Rev. Annie Britton)

One: People of Love, we are taught to take care in how we treat each other and ourselves!
Many: It matters how we perceive, and speak about, ourselves and others!
One: Being “humble” means we don’t call ourselves “humble”
Many: Being humble is not just about our actions, but is also about our relationships with the Source of Life and with others.
One: May we worship today in a spirit of gratitude, service, and care.

Opening Prayer
Joel 2:23-32
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

As children of God, we rejoice and give thanks to you, creating God, for we have been given all good things: Autumn rains and threshing floors heaped with grain, vats overflowing with wine and oil. We will forever praise your name and give thanks to you, and you alone, for the abundance of our lives. During times of peace, we will listen to our daughters and sons as they prophesy in your name, and hear the prophetic dreams of the elders. In times of turmoil, we will listen too, and call upon your precious name. AMEN

October 30, 2016
Call to Worship
24th Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Day
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

One: We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.
Many: Women and men willing to speak and act on behalf of the oppressed.
One: Martin Luther who nailed his theses to the door of an ancient church.
Many: And Katharina Von Bora who established new roles for women in the Church.
One: Women and men willing to break from traditional belief,
Many: Reading and interpreting the Bible in their own languages,
One: Creating new ways of thinking and gathering,
Many: Opening new ways of understanding God.

1 The nun who married Martin Luther, establishing a new understanding of Christian family life.
ALL: WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL WOMEN AND MEN WHO ANSWERED THE DIVINE CALL TO REFORM THE CHURCH, AND WE LISTEN TODAY FOR GOD’S CONTINUING NUDGE INTO THE FUTURE. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession
24th Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Day
(Rev. Leigh Goodrich)

Only you are righteous, most glorious God, yet we expect righteousness from all people. We demand hope for the downhearted, healing for the afflicted, and justice for the oppressed. We expect purity and perfection from our leaders. We profess knowledge of what is right and true. Forgive us when we mistake ourselves for you. Help us to recognize our own failings. Let us know your constant love for us, and grant us the faith to persevere when answers are not easy. In the name of Christ. AMEN