

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This we believe.

**That it is central to the mission of Christ
to participate, by word and action,
in the struggles of the poor for justice,
to share justly the earth's land and resources,
to rejoice in the diversity of human culture,
to preserve human life in all its beauty and frailty,
to accompany the uprooted and to welcome the stranger,
and to witness to the love of God for all people of the
earth.**

This we believe.

**That we are called to become
the Church of the Stranger, to open ourselves
to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit
which may come to us through the foreigner,
to take the risk of speaking out
on behalf of those who are different from us,
and to see that when we minister to the stranger,
the uprooted, we are serving our Lord and Saviour.**

This we believe.

**That Christ, fully aware of our differences,
prays that we might be one, so that the world may believe.**

**This we believe, and to this we are committed
for the love of God in the way of Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

As you have been loved – love.

As you have been welcomed – welcome.

As you have been fed – feed.

As you have received – give.

And may the boundless love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
be always with you. Amen.

Recessional Hymn #502 You are the Salt of the Earth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Knowing that our God walks with us in our confusion,
our doubts, our failings, our struggles,
we now come humbly before God to ask for mercy.

For the times we fail to offer hospitality
to those in our world who suffer injustice,
oppression, and poverty, we pray:
God, have mercy on us and your people

For the times we lack courage to address the causes
of injustice, oppression and poverty, we pray to our God:
God, have mercy on us and on your people.

For the times we give in to despair and resignation
when confronted with the injustice of our world,
we pray to our God:
God, have mercy on us and on your people.

For the times we allow our fears to triumph
over the call to solidarity, we pray to our God:
God, have mercy on us and on your people.

**Merciful God, receive our petitions.
Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world
caused by injustice, indifference, selfishness and fear.
Open our hearts to hear the cries of your suffering people.
Support us as we seek to respond in solidarity and with
hospitality. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The wideness of God's mercy, the range of God's forgiveness,
the infinite love of God, the Heart of hope which is never empty:
all these gifts are ours, as God restores us
to the fullness of life meant for us.

**Grounded in love, rooted in discipleship,
we offer ourselves in service to others,
recognizing the limitless grace
which is ours to share in Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn #484 In Christ There Is No East or West

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We remember before God all those who have been uprooted from their homes and communities – people who are compelled to flee for their lives, to leave their land and culture, and live apart from their families. With them, we mourn their loss of dignity, community, resources, and employment.

We especially pray for the women who are the majority of those displaced. We remember the work that women do to keep families together, to nurture community and end violence and injustice.

We remember the millions of children whose lives are marked by danger and exploitation.

We remember those who are persecuted because of their gender, race, or creed. We pray for the women, the men, the children, and the elderly, who seek safety and solace, who yearn to begin new lives.

For all the uprooted, sheltering God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember before God those countries where people must leave their homes because of war, injustice, and violence.

We remember those places which have been made unsafe by land mines, and all those who have been killed or maimed by land mines.

We remember those in our own homeland who live with violence and its brutal threat.

For all people terrified by violence, gentle God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who leave their homes for economic survival; we remember that the gap between rich and poor gets wider, and the earth's resources are shared by fewer people.

We pray for those who pay the cost of international debt with their lives. We remember the homeless and poorly housed and the unemployed in our own communities.
For all people displaced by economic disparity, God of justice, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We remember before God those who leave their homes because of earthquakes, storms, floods, and other disasters.

We acknowledge the effects of deforestation, degradation of farmland, nuclear and weapons testing, and the exploitation of resources for the sake of consumers in other countries.

We remember those in our own communities who have been hurt by poor stewardship of creation.

For all people displaced by devastation of your world, Creator God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to you, God, for the world's diversity of peoples and cultures.

We pray that hostility and indifference may give way to hospitality and justice.
Help us to be vigilant stewards and faithful partners and strengthen us to live as people of your creation, committed and bold in deeds of justice.
God of all, you taught us through your Son to seek the signs of your reign in the tiny mustard seed.
Plant your word deep in the soil of our hearts,
sow in us the seeds of compassion;
let your hospitality take root within us,
and your compassion grow in us,
so righteousness may spring forth in all the world,
and your holy will be done.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**