

# 2015 Recommitment – Taking It Seriously

## GATHERING

### ENTRANCE



## REFLECTION

If I make of my life an offering and a dedication to God, then this dedication will include all my entanglements and involvements. There follows, then, a radical change over my entire landscape and miraculously I am free at my center. It is for this reason that it is well, again and again, to reestablish my dedication, to make repeatedly an offering of my life. I must keep my dedication up to date with my experiencing.

Howard Thurman, "Life, an Offering to God" in *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*, pg 71

## CANDLE LIGHTING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus asks us,

Who do you say that I am?

People: We come to discover what it means

to be fully human and fully divine.

Leader: Jesus tells us,

Many who are first will be last, and the  
last will be first.

People: We come to pour out our lives

for the healing of the world.

Leader: Jesus calls us to be servant of all,

to make our lives an offering and  
dedication to God.

All: We come to become the Body of Christ.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **HYMN**

### **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYERS**

### **CONFESSION**

Leader: Holy One, you call us to offer to you  
all of our entanglements and involvements.

Voice 1: We choose to be selective,  
keeping some of our stuff hidden  
in the private corners of our lives and psyches.

Voice 2: You call us to radical change  
over the full landscape of our lives.

Leader: We choose to tweak the edges,  
making adjustments here and there.

Voice 1: You call us to regular recommitment,

to bringing our lives in line with your purpose.

Voice 2: We prefer to linger in the past,  
clinging to old addictions,  
fearful of the future.

Leader: Hear us, Holy One,  
as we cry out from our loneliness and despair.

All: Forgive us and free us  
to become agents of your change  
and models of your love.

#### ASSURANCE

Leader: The Holy One knows our fears and limitations,  
even before we speak them.  
We are forgiven and loved,  
and strengthened to be the body of Christ.

All: Amen.

#### THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

#### INTERCESSION AND PETITION

#### COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today  
to claim our relationship with you.  
We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
sharing the gifts you give us with others  
here and in the wider world.  
Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,  
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.  
Give us strength and discipline  
to nurture our relationship with you;  
to care for every part of your creation;  
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those  
in need;

to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
and to respond joyfully when you call,  
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your  
creation

in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ.

Amen.

## **HYMN**

## **THE WORD**

## **SCRIPTURE**

## **SERMON**

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

## **OFFERING**

## **COMMUNION**

### **PREPARATION**

Leader 1: This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,  
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the  
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at  
once;

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,  
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of  
knowing,  
believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: O God, we thank you

for the depth and breadth of your  
commitment,

always making all things new.

Voice 1: We give you thanks for the abundant riches of  
creation

that you spread before us,

a feast for sight and sound and touch  
and smell,

a taste of heaven already present.

Voice 2: We give you thanks for the gift of the Holy  
Spirit,

flowing freely around us, through us,  
and among us,

joining us with all your creatures  
throughout the ages.

All: We give you thanks for the good news in  
Christ

who models freedom flowing forth from  
deep commitment as we rededicate ourselves to you.

## BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of  
life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall never hunger,

You who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
This is my body,  
broken for the healing of the world.  
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all.  
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and cup  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Unite us with Christ forever  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your eternal realm.

## SHARE THE ELEMENTS

If you do not wish to receive the elements today you are welcome to join the circle and allow them to pass, or remain in your seat. We serve grape juice in our cups.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All:                    God of abundance and mercy,  
we give joyful thanks  
for your eternal love and healing presence  
in our celebration of bread and cup.  
Bless this body of Christ  
that we may attend faithfully  
to our call to be your servants,  
with each other and throughout the world.

## SHARED REFLECTIONS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader: Let us go forth with joy

and renewed intention to hear God's call,

offering and dedicating ourselves as  
co-creators with the Holy Creator.

Centered in freedom through Jesus the  
Christ,

and guided, moment by moment, in the  
Spirit's path,

let us greet one another with signs of  
peace.

All: Amen.