



Prayer Service: Becoming the People of God

Leader: Let us remember that the Creator is present in this place with us. We are held in the palm of God's hand.

Reading from John 15:1–9

Left: I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

Right: He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

Left: You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Right: Abide in me as I abide in you.

Left: Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

Right: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Left: Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

Right: If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Left: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

All: Glory to God who is and ever shall be. Amen.

Reading of Colossians 3:10–17

Leader: Let us review the ways in which we are God's hands, mouth, eyes, and ears. How can we be of more service?

[Pause for silent reflection.]

In Praise and Thanksgiving (Adapted from the Gospels)

Leader: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

All: Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers to his harvest.

Leader: And preach as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

All: Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Leader: Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not a single one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

All: Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

Leader: Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

All: And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

Leader: Glory to God who is here and loves us.

All: Glory to God now and forever. Amen.