

# St. Mary's United Church of Christ



## Liturgy for Daily Prayer

*They shall be like a tree planted by streams of water.*

### **Welcome!**

“If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; behold, the old has gone, the new has come!” The apostle Paul encouraged a fledgling, diverse congregation with these words, reminding them who they really are deep inside. Discovering that new creation, what God has created each of us to be and to do, is the work of faith. God is at work; what is happening in me, in the world? That’s the work of pray.

Throughout the centuries, the Church has taught her children to pray. Prayer is not about giving God a to-do list for the day; it is about shaping us, helping us chip away all of the old so that we might discover this new self. Liturgy is a tool we use to train ourselves in prayer. When we pray liturgy together, we discover a common language that builds deep relationships with God and with one another.

This liturgy in front of you is one attempt to shape our prayers as a worshipping community. It is intended (but not required) to be used as part of a daily prayer structure that includes Sunday worship. The elements that change week to week are included in the insert in the Sunday bulletin – just pull it out each week and stick it in this booklet, and you’ll be ready to go. Pray what you can, and leave for later what is still missing. There is no failure here, only the road ahead! May God bless us as we set out on this journey to discover God and the new creation that we are! Peace and good!

## Gathering

*Begin in silence, visualizing yourself coming into the presence of God. Then, as you are ready, speak..*

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**As the day rises to meet the sun.**

O Lord, open my lips,

**And my mouth will declare your praise.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.**

## Opening Sentences (choose one or more)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5)

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in your sight; O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. (Ps. 19)

O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill, and to your dwelling. (Ps. 43)

This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it! (Ps. 118)

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. (Colossians 3)

## Psalm 95 or Psalm 100

*Psalm 95*

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

when your ancestors tested me,

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation and said,

"They are a people whose hearts go astray,

and they do not regard my ways."

Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

*Psalm 100*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## **Psalm of the Day**

### **Readings**

#### **Benedictus**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

#### **Beatitudes**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Intercessory Prayer

*Offer a prayer for yourself, for someone God brings to your mind,  
a prayer for your Church, your community, and for the world.*

## Our Father

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## Collect for the Week

### Benediction (choose one)

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you :  
wherever he may send you;  
may he guide you through the wilderness :  
protect you through the storm;  
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;  
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

Therefore, my beloved siblings, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

## Sending

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.