

Thursday Evening

Opening Song: Holy Ground by Sam Hensley

We pray in fellowship with those from this time and beyond time who have witnessed your call to community. In baptism we placed our hearts and trust in your call to be instruments of justice and reconciliation. We offer to you these prayers as we remember our baptism.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

We will with God's help.

Our God, we know we were not meant to go it alone because you created the church to be a supportive community for your children. And we know the church is made up of people maturing in Christ. Help us to learn from the teaching, be encouraged by the fellowship, be renewed in the Eucharist, and find strength for living each day through prayer.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the lord?

We will with God's help.

Our God, you understand that sometimes we do things we never intended to do, in things done and left undone. Our sorrow doesn't make it right and neither can we use our weakness as an excuse. Help us to begin anew, to experience your forgiveness and to walk again in Jesus' way.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

We will with God's help.

Our God, help us to live in the new humanity of Jesus. May our actions speak louder than words of your love and of new life in Jesus. Help us to rise above our own stumbling speech and give us the words to express what we believe. Empower us as witnesses to the truth.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

We will with God's help.

Our God, all too often we do not look at others with love. Help us to see others with your eyes, knowing that every person is created in your image, as your child. Give us a new love that reaches out to everyone because Jesus died for all.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

We will with God's help.

Our God, rescue us when our attitudes are shaped by injustice, discrimination, greed, and lust. Empower us to live in Jesus, to see people through the eyes of Jesus, and work for the harmony that reflects your kingdom. **Amen.**

O God, who created all peoples in your own image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races, cultures, orientations, classes, and ethnicities in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us. May we use our diversity to spread your message of love and peace to all the world. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior and our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song: Sing a New Church