

A PRAYER SERVICE ON THE GIFT OF VOCATION

Call to prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We come together to listen to the God who calls us to new life and to a new identity rooted in love.

All: Lord God, give us listening hearts.

Leader: We pray for the power of your Spirit that the hidden self within each of us will grow strong.

All: Lord God, give us willing spirits.

Leader: We know that Christ wants to dwell in our hearts through faith.

All: And then, planted in love and built on love, we will have the strength to grasp the breadth and length, the height and the depth, until knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all measure, we are filled with the utter fullness of God.

Song: [Any appropriate song may be sung or played on tape.]

Leader: We are a chosen race, a holy nation, a special people beloved of God. We are called and chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God – the God who leads us from darkness into light.

All: I sing of your light, O God and my hands want to clap for you. A cry breaks from me, praise wells up to my lips, and before you my whole being glows with the smile of your tenderness. My entire life is voicing its joy and gratitude to you. I am glad to be alive and I want to grow in understanding the mystery of who I am and who you are, my God. I thank you for your life, and the lives of all your people. I am glad you became human and lived in the midst of us, Jesus. Teach me to be truly human and to know and do God's will in my life.

Scripture: A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1:3-10

Silent A time to remember and prayerfully reflect on the time(s) when you felt

Response Jesus look at you and love you... invite you to “come and see”... call you to follow him more clearly, more freely, more steadily...
Close your eyes. Let yourself see, feel, hear, walk with Jesus. Let him ask you: “What do you want?” Let him invite you: “Come and see.” Respond to the experience; relax and encounter God.

Share your responses and reflections with one another if you wish.

Leader: Let us pray. We thank and praise you, our Creator, who has been pleased to be with us in this time of prayer. Blessed be God who has chosen us before the foundation of the world and called us each by name to be a part of God’s family.

All: We want to hear your call, God.

Leader: God has chosen us to be holy and without sin in union with God’s Son and our brother, Jesus Christ.

All: We want to respond to your choice, God.

Leader: We were appointed by Jesus who is the head of the church. We are united in the Holy Spirit of love and the gift of God’s life which makes us one.

All: We want to be faithful servants of one another, God.

Leader/All: Dear God, You are both father and mother to us. Thank you for the gift of creation to invite us to come with you into the fullness of love you have given us in Jesus through the power of your Spirit at work within us and among us. Help us to share in Christ’s mission of being and bringing “good news” to all those who suffer from physical, spiritual, and all sorts of pain. Teach us Lord to be food and drink, freedom and peace, courage and fidelity, education and comfort, forgiveness and healing in a world so hungry, angry, oppressed, and broken. Help us to be open to your love and the ways we should love one another.

Leader: We pray especially for those men and women who will hear the call of Jesus and will be willing to respond by staying with him for the rest of their lives.

All: Touch the hearts and minds of many young people today, God, that they may give themselves in generous service to you and your family, the Church. Grant that we may be blessed with sisters, brothers, deacons, lay ministers, and priests who respond positively to the mystery and miracle of your call to “Come, follow me.”

Song: [Any appropriate song may be sung or played on tape.]