



**All Things New: Worship Resources
to Conclude the Fiftieth Anniversary Year
of the United Church of Christ
All Saints' Sunday, November 4, 2007**

Call to Worship

We have told stories of faith in Jesus Christ:
fifty years in the United Church of Christ,
of love and service with all the saints.

We give thanks and rejoice in our co-workers and companions:
fifty years sharing
ministry, challenge, struggle and blessing.

We pray that the eyes of our hearts be opened
to a future of wisdom and grace;

May we come to know more fully the God of Christ Jesus,
and recognize the hope to which we have been called:
Resurrection power at work in the world,
making all things new!

Opening Hymn

#407 The New Century Hymnal "How Firm a Foundation"

Invocation

O Living God of past and future,
we praise you
for this present moment.
Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit,
that our strength may be renewed
to sing a new song of your glory
in a world which longs for your justice and peace.
All this we ask in the name of Jesus,
in whom we become
your new creation.

Prayer of Confession

One: When we do not listen to your voice in the depths of our own hearts,
calling us to love and forgive:

Many: Lord have mercy.

One: When we do not listen to your voice in our common life,
calling us to welcome the stranger and create community:

Many: Christ have mercy.

One: When we do not listen to your voice in our world,
calling us to work for justice and to make peace:

Many: Lord have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon

One: The Word is very near to us, in our hearts and on our lips.
In Christ, we are forgiven; our lives are made new,
and our future of hope is restored.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture for All Saints Day, Year C

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

Sermon

Responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving for Fifty Years:

We Are Listening, and We Give Thanks*

One: Speak to us, O God, of mothers and fathers
who responded to your call,
joining hearts and hands in the United Church of Christ.

Many: O God, we are listening, and we give thanks.

One: Speak to us, O God, of forebears
who taught us the vocation of
extravagant welcome and evangelical courage.

Many: O God, we are listening, and we give thanks.

One: Speak to us, O God, of a united church still seeking the wider
unity of the church universal.

Many: O God, we are listening, and we give thanks.

One: Speak to us, O God,
of Native peoples, and of German, English, Hungarian, Russian,
Armenian, African, Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islander,
faithful people bound in covenant across cultures, continents,
and confessions.

Many: O God, we are listening, and we give thanks.

One: Speak to us, O God, of a church
where all are welcome to share the cost and joy of discipleship,
where all receive the promise of courage
in the struggle for justice and peace.

Many: O God, we are listening, and we give thanks.

One: Speak to us, O God, of hope and promise,
and then speak to us still,
that as we move into the future we may "let your light shine."

Many: Amen. Let it shine!

Communion

Hymn

#343 *The New Century Hymnal* - "Jesus Took the Bread"

Greeting

God is with us.

Here in this place;

at this time of sacred refreshment and renewal.

Called in grace and gifted in love.

Prayer

God, you know us better than we know ourselves.

You know our thoughts,

our weaknesses,

our motivations,

our sins.

And you love us still.

Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible;

When we wonder how You could love us just as we are,

when we forget our intricate construction,

fearfully,

wonderfully made,

in Your image!

Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you.

Break down the walls,
push aside the pride,
and help us to trust anew.

You know our hearts.
And you love us still.

Amen.

Invitation and Institution

Called in grace and gifted in love,
Jesus gathered with his friends and shared a meal.
Bread of life,
cup of blessing.
"Do this in remembrance of me."

(The bread is broken; the wine/juice is poured.)

This table is God's offer of grace and an invitation to community.
Where forgiveness is found and
we are called to be the body of Christ,
affirmed in our shared mission,
and empowered for discipleship.
Come, share the feast!

(The bread and wine/juice are shared.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We give thanks to you, God,
for this meal.
Simple.
Elegant.
Refreshing.
Re-creating.
May we hear the call:
Love one another
as you have loved us.
One body, many members,
the body of Christ.
Amen.

Call to Offering

The ministries of this church and of the United Church of Christ would not be possible without your financial support. May we give not out of obligation, but in hope for all that our gifts can do.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, enable us to use these offerings to strengthen the body of Christ, both in this local church and in the greater Church in all of its settings. As the fiftieth anniversary year of the United Church of Christ draws to a close, may we not rest on what we have accomplished. Rather, give us continued courage to speak prophetically, act boldly, and respond compassionately, both in this place and beyond the safety of our doors. Amen.

UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

#885 in *The New Century Hymnal*

Closing Hymn

#538 in *The New Century Hymnal* - "Standing at the Future's Threshold"

Benediction

May the God of challenges call us to minister with renewed purpose and drive.

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun!
Amen.

All Things New: Worship Celebration Concluding the Fiftieth Anniversary Year was prepared by the Reverend Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship, Liturgy and Spiritual Formation, and the Reverend Scott A. Ressman, Minister for Worship, Music and Liturgical Arts, Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries, a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

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