



## Our Whole Lives Worship Service

### Sample liturgy

#### **Call to Worship**

One: God of new life, we gather together on this day.

Many: Together, we seek new life in you on this day.

One: God of new life, we gather in community on this day.

Many: In community, we seek new life with you on this day.

One: God of new life, we gather in hope on this day.

Many: In hope, we gather together in community to proclaim new life in you.

All: Amen

#### **Invocation**

A Prayer for Peace for All Bodies

Holy Creator and Author of Life,

We pause amidst the busyness of our days to

Still our bodies

Hear our hearts beat

Feel breath move in and out of us with your Spirit.

We pray for peace for all bodies.

For bodies ravaged by legislation removing choices

For bodies needing care that has been villainized and vanquished

For bodies healing from physical, emotional, spiritual, medical and political assault  
For bodies shamed and stigmatized for their size, their shape, their parts, their color,  
their experiences

We pray for peace for all bodies.

For young bodies, old bodies, teen bodies, middle aged bodies, bodies of all ages

For black bodies, brown bodies, indigenous bodies, Asian bodies, Latine bodies and  
bodies descended from every corner of the globe and all ethnicities and cultures

For queer bodies and intersex bodies and cis bodies, disabled bodies and bodies  
that are temporarily able to do what we want them to do, bodies of faith and those  
who have lost faith or never had any to begin with

We pray for peace for all bodies.

And we remember, how you created humanity in your image, with abundant diversity

And as you breathed breath into each of us in the beginning

You declared every single body to be very good.

Amen

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

God of Abundant Diversity, we say we embrace your creation, yet limit our actual welcome to those with whom we feel comfort. We confess that sometimes, we think we know better than others or even you. We blame you for injustice, while we sit back and select which actions to take for a more just world. Help us, O God, to open our hearts in new ways to receive your grace and mercy and passion for humanity. Have mercy on us.

### **Words of Grace**

Beloved, the God of Covenant and Community is with us always, offering love and grace and mercy enough for every single one of us; showing us ways to care for one another as They care for us. In God and the Holy Spirit, there is always abundance and a new way to move ahead. Let us receive this generously and with humility, so that we might live into this abundant love.

### **Invitation to Generosity**

Christ calls us to love and care for one another. Pierce our hearts today that we may give abundantly in love to create communities of care and aid for one another. Infuse us with a

spirit of abundance to do your work in this world with these bodies and these gifts. Help us reach beyond comfort toward radical generosity in this community and beyond.

### **Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Holy Spirit, may these gifts be blessed and transformed into tangible gifts to those in need, bringing hope to those in despair and comfort to those who grieve and are in pain. May we continue to give and receive care through these gifts and your grace.

Amen

### **Benediction**

Beloved, as you depart from this place but never from the Spirit who is as close as each breath you take,

Breathe.

Infuse your body with breath and the knowing that your Creator has proclaimed the creation of you very good.

And now, surrounded by abundant love and grace, go forth and use your body to create God's kin-dom and community right here, right now, on this earth. Amen

### Suggested hymns:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

We are One in The Spirit (They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love)

I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Part of the Family

Bring Many Names

For more information and resources , go to [www.ucc.org/owl](http://www.ucc.org/owl).

***Our Whole Lives Worship Service*** was written by the Rev. Amy Johnson, Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice for the United Church of Christ.