

A Service of Worship for Disability Awareness Sunday

Entrance

Quiet Meditation: "God has made us." *Psalm 100:3b*

Opening Hymn:

Litany of Thanksgiving:

One: We are all reflections of the divine image.

In every life we catch a glimpse of the presence of God.

All: Thank you for creating us in challenging and amazing ways.

One: Our disabilities and our abilities are all gifts to the body of Christ, each necessary and irreplaceable.

All: Thank you for creating us in challenging and amazing ways.

One: Our disabilities invite us to join with the divine in acts of creation and imagination assisting the world in finding new ways to live and move and have being.

All: Thank you for creating us in challenging and amazing ways.

One: Our disabilities expand sacred space allowing more of humanity can experience the presence of God.

All: Thank you for creating us in challenging and amazing ways.

One: Our disabilities strengthen the bonds of community.

All: Thank you for creating us in challenging and amazing ways.

One: Our disabilities give those who struggle hope through our unique witnesses of faith.

All: Thank you for creating us in challenging and amazing ways. Amen.

Anthem:

Proclamation and Response

Prayer for Illumination:

As we use our senses in differing ways, reveal Your holy word to us in transformative ways. Communicate with us intimately so that our communal faith might be strengthened and we might live more inclusively as the Church of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

Hymn:

Sermon:

Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in a God who created everyone very good. No one is created broken, defective, or unnecessary. Every life is created with sacred worth and everyone is a wondrous gift from God to the world.

We believe in Jesus Christ who is found most clearly in the lives of those who seem to be the least important to society. Jesus invites all to live their lives fully, teaching that it is our faith that makes us whole.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who calls us all to serve and not to be served and who gives to all, holy gifts for the edification of the body. That the Holy Spirit cultivates the fruits of a productive life in every believer, enabling them to share with others: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control.

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ with each and everyone of us having an essential part to play in the salvation of the world through its ministries of grace. That every life radiates the glory of God and that every life is a blessed gift to the world. Amen.

Prayers and Concerns:

Prayer of Confession:

You are the potter and we are but the clay shaped by Your hands, glazed and fired in your kiln. You look upon us with delight and You perceive that which makes us irreplaceable to Your life. Forgive us for seeing others as broken. Forgive us for treating their lives as unimportant. Forgive us for our lack of imagination, our lack of affirmation, and our outright denigration of Your beloved children. Give us awareness of the inaccessibility we create for others. We have been uncaring. Open our hearts to Your desire for the inclusion of all. This is our humble cry to Jesus. Amen.

Words of Pardon:

One: You are precious to God. Your life has meaning and purpose to the One who is able to use all for good. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: You too are precious to God. Your life also carries meaning and purpose. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

One: Now change your perspective and share God's grace!

Offering:

Doxology:

THANKSGIVING

Invitation:

The table of the Lord is accessible to all. None are to be denied the saving grace of God poured out upon us all. Come and receive the unmerited favor of the God who adores you.

The Great Thanksgiving:

One: The Lord's creativity is beautiful in you.

All: It sparkles in your life too.

One: Embrace God's delight

All: We are exploring with awe why our God loves us.

One: Rejoice in being accepted just as you are

All: We do rejoice and overflow with praise.

One: Wow! Just wow!

You are the Creative One, who makes a way out of the impossible.

You call for the tearing down of barriers.

You are the One who calls for the smoothing out the way, so that all have access to You.

You want no one turned away.

We thank you for technology that expands our perceptions.

We thank you for access to language, spoken, manual, tactile, and electronic.

You are our greatest service provider, never leaving us, and never forsaking us.

You want no one to be left out of Your choir.

You want all of us to participate in our own unique ways.

You want us to join with the trees in the wind,

the insects that buzz in the grass,

the fish who splash in the sea,

the birds who cry out Your praise from the clouds,

even with all the people who dwell upon the earth,

and all those who dwell in heaven declaring the greatness of Your love, saying:

All: I lift up my soul,

From where shall my help come from?

My help comes from You;

Maker of everything.

You keep my foot from stumbling.

You never are asleep.

No, You never sleep.

You're the shade at my right hand.

You're my faithful guard.

My guard from evil,

All my comings and goings,

You watch o'er my soul. (Psalm 121)

One: You are faithful and so is Jesus who came and dwelt among us.

To Jesus no one was invisible.

To Jesus everyone was important, especially the neglected.

To Jesus the last were first and the first were sent to the end of the line.

We want to be like Jesus.

With Jesus no need was unimportant.
With Jesus no one was untouchable.
Jesus always made the way accessible.
We want to be like Jesus.

When others were filled with self-importance
Jesus humbled himself and became the servant of all,
washing the feet of those who betray,
the feet of those who deny,
and those who run away.
We want to be like Jesus.

When Jesus took the bread with thanksgiving on his lips,
He broke the bread and gave the first piece of bread to Judas, his betrayer,
then to all present saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you."
We want to be like Jesus.

When Jesus took the cup with thanksgiving on his lips,
He shared the cup first with Judas his betrayer, then to all present saying,
"Please drink with me, this is the cup of my blood,
poured out in honor of God's eternal covenant of grace,
a promise of forgiveness to you and to all the creation."
We want to be like Jesus.

With all of our hearts we desire to be like Jesus.
We want to make his grace accessible to everyone.
This is why we boldly make this declaration of faith:

**All: Christ died so that all might be whole.
Christ lives so that all might share in hope.
Christ will come again, so that we will all become like Jesus.**

One: Fully Accessible, Intentional Inclusion
infuse these gifts of bread and wine with Your presence,
making them for us, the very body and blood of Christ
given for all.

Fully Accessible, Intentional Inclusion
infuse the gift of our lives, our abilities and inabilities,
making them for the world, Your church,
the complete body and bride of Christ given for all.

Fully Accessible, Intentional Inclusion
create a fresh desire in the heart of Your church for inclusion.
Give us an awareness of changes that need to be made
internally and externally, so that all are granted access

to Your worship, Your good news, so that all might join together in praise.

For your grace is accessible through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
by the power and fruit of the Holy Spirit,
and through the creative imagination of the Holy who Created us all
for the honor and glory of the God who is the lover of us all. Amen.

Now let us join as one to pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you for inviting us to share in this Your holy mystery found in Jesus Christ.
We have been acknowledged by You, loved and accepted by You. In Your grace we have
become whole again. Now send us out to make You more accessible, to remove barriers and to
share Your inclusion with every soul. We want all to join in our celebration of Your
accessibility in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Hymn:

Going Forth:

**All: We go forth to be the blessing that God has created out of our lives:
Encouraging those who are struggling;
Coming along side those who need a friend;
Being the family of God to one another today and in the days to come.**

One: Now may the only one who can make all things work for good,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always. Amen.