
A CELEBRATION OF THE FAMILY

GREETING

Leader: We are all part of the rhythm of life:
we are born,
we give birth,
we live in relationships,
we search for meaning,
we make choices,
we die,
we suffer the loss of those we love.
As we celebrate this day of the journey,
peace be with you,
People: and also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In your image we are made, Creator God,
People: male and female, young and old,
we are your creation.

Leader: You took on our life, Jesus Christ.
People: We find you there
in truth and grace within ourselves.

Leader: You lead us, on Holy Spirit,
People: in golden threads of life
in pain and joy.
Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

CONFESSION

Leader: We had a dream about families, O God.
It looked like many lights
from a great stream of people
generation after generation,
adding to each other's light,
warming each other's life
setting each other free

across the boundaries
of all our differences,
creating in between
the brave and gracious light
of human community.

(The candle is lit.)

(Silent reflection)

Leader: We are remembering
how far we are from that dream.

(Silent reflection)

Leader: O God, so often it is the small
things that defeat us:
the lid off the toothpaste,
the bathmat in a heap,
one more unwiped bench,
the last grizzle from somebody,
another gift taken for granted.
These small things build upon each other, God,
and when our energy is low
and our hurts are high,
they take from our life.
It is often hard to live as families.
Lord, have mercy
All: Lord, have mercy (SA, No 99a)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the word of grace in Jesus Christ:
the love of God for us never fails.
Nothing can separate us from that love.
A new dream is always ours.
Rise up and live in freedom and faith.
Amen.

People: Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

HYMN OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: In our homes, we are family,
in the church, we are family,
in the community, we are family,
in the whole creation, we are family.
In every place, we depend on you, O God.
In faith we pray for the moments
in our life when we need your help.

(The people offer their prayers.)

Response after each petition:

People: We pray for this moment in our life.

Leader: All these prayers,
and the silent prayers within our hearts,
we offer to you, O God of grace.
Show us the liberating love
which you give to us
that we may free each other
for life
and trustingly place in your hands
those who leave us in death.
O Lord, hear our prayer.

All: *(sung)* O Lord, hear our prayer,
O Lord, hear our prayer,
When we call answer us.
O Lord, hear our prayer,
Come and listen to us. *(Taizé)*

BLESSING

God go with you into this day,
Christ Jesus walk before you,
and the Spirit be a cloud of grace.

*= Echoes of Our Journey
Dorothy McRae - McMahen
(adapted)*

