

A Celebration: Joining Our Prayers, Hopes, and Dreams

May 6, 2018



Litany of Blessing These Walls

Leader: These walls embody our prayers, our hopes, our dreams. They tell our story of love and justice. They shout to us and to our community: "Welcome!" These walls do talk.

People: These walls speak not of separation, as many walls do; not of keeping out and keeping in. They speak not of hatred or hostility; not of division or oppression.

Leader: Rather, these walls are Covenant walls.

People: These walls speak of hospitality, of friendship and mutual support. These walls proclaim hope and healing.

Leader: We read in our sacred stories of a hand appearing and writing on a wall. No one could be found who could read the message or understand its meaning until Daniel, one of those living in exile, was brought to the King and to the writing on the wall. Daniel could read the message and knew what it meant. It was a message of coming justice. Our writing will be inside our walls, but it likewise speaks of justice.

People: Our writing in these walls offers our hopes for a world we are building even now: a world of compassion, of freedom, of sharing. May our activities in these walls and among the dreams held within them, be always in pursuit of the realm of God's justice.

Leader: We are continuing our sacred stories together. Our Covenant story began more than fifty years ago and will continue into the future. When we built our church building almost twenty years ago, prayers and hopes and dreams were likewise joined inside the walls.

People: We can hear those words now speaking their joy at what was only then a dream. These walls, likewise, help hold this chapter of our story. We will listen to our church walls as we move into the future with courage. These walls are the foundation of learning, of community, of growth. These walls do talk. These walls speak our Covenant to each other and to this world.

All: God, our dreams and our hopes and our prayers speak from these walls. Your divine love shines from them and from each of us. Help us to be brave. Help us to move into the future living into our best visions of a realm of justice and peace, of welcome and love. Help us to create that which we long for, that of which our walls now speak. Amen.

Hymn: "God Bless Your Church with Strength!"

1. God, bless Your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be,
2. God, bless Your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive,
3. God, bless Your church with hope! De - spite cha-ot - ic days,

Up - build Your ser - vants as we work In com-mon min - is - try.
Un - blem-ish-ed, whole-some, bear-ing fruit, A - bun-dant - ly a - live.
May we in cha - os shine to light A path-way through life's maze.

Urge us from fledg-ling faith To ven-ture and to soar Through
From You, one ho - ly vine, In free-dom may we grow; Sus -
May jus - tice be our aim, And kind-ness ours to share, In

o - pen skies, to sing the praise Of Christ whom we a - dore.
tain us in our mis-sion, Lord, Your love and peace to show.
hum - ble-ness O may we walk, As - sured our God is there!

Unison Benediction

And so we go from this place and from these walls knowing there is work to be done. Work not only to finish the project: work of sheetrock and flooring of hinges and countertops. But also work in us and among us: work to strengthen our dedication to justice and peace, work to continue to expand our welcome and compassion. Bless this ongoing work and help us to live into the hopes and prayers and dreams now speaking from these walls. Amen.