

Welcome to Progressive Pathways Fellowship.

This is our first worship service and I'm glad you're here.

Let me introduce you to the organizing group and tell you a little bit about what we're going to do here today.

I'm Jim Hensley. I'll be leading worship. Sometime in the very near future I'll be the first newly ordained person in the fellowship.

Would the folks on the organizing committee please stand and introduce themselves.

If you would like to introduce yourself to all of us please do so.

Now let's talk about the worship service.

This first service is going to be a modified celebration of Lauds in the Roman Catholic Rite. Lauds is the morning prayer service in a monastery.

First, let me teach you some responses.

Please repeat after me, "Amen"

When I say "Let all the fellowship acclaim" you say "Amen"  
Let's practice. Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Now please say "And also with you"

When I say "Christ the Lord be with you" you say "And also with you."

Last one. "May our prayers rise up and be heard."

I'll say "Let us pray in Christ's mercy"

I'll also sing some things for you to repeat. They're easy to pick up and I'll bring you in when it's time just like a choir. It'll be great.

And now we're ready to begin.

PAUSE

Glory be to the one who loves us, the one who leads us and the one who guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.

Christ the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SING I raise my hands to you in prayer.

REPEAT I raise my hands to you in prayer.

Holy one, I wait for you from the dawn.

My soul thirsts for you.

My body longs for you.

I come to your sanctuary.

I raise my hands to you in prayer.

I will bless you throughout my life.

My mouth will sing your praises and rejoice.

I think of you in the morning.

I take joy in the protection of your wings.

I raise my hands to you in prayer.

SAY

Glory be to the one who loves us, the one who leads us and the one who guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.

SING Blessed be the one that loves us.  
REPEAT Blessed be the one that loves us.

Heavens and angles, give praise.  
Waters and powers, give praise.  
Sun, moon and stars, give praise.  
Dew, winds and rain, give praise.

Blessed be the one that loves us.

Fire and heat, cold and warmth, give praise.  
Frost and ice, winter's snow, give praise.  
Light and darkness, lightning and storm clouds, give praise.

Blessed be the one that loves us.

Mountains, hills and growing things, give praise.  
Seas, rivers, springs and fountains, give praise.  
Whales and fish, birds of the air, give praise.  
Beasts, wild and tame, give praise.

Blessed be the one that loves us.

Holy, humble servants of the greatest good give praise.  
Ananias, Azarias and Mishael, give praise.

Blessed be the one that loves us.

Glory be to the one who loves us, the one who leads us and the one who  
guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship  
acclaim.  
Amen.

FIRST READER

Christ the Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

A reading from the book of Psalms.  
Sing a new song  
Let there be praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let the nation rejoice in its maker,  
And the children of Zion delight in their sovereign.  
Let them praise the sacred name with dancing,  
Sing out with timbrel and lyre.  
For the one that loves us looks with favor on the holy ones and there is much  
honor for the humble.

Glory be to the one who loves us, the one who leads us and the one who  
guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship  
acclaim.  
Amen.

## SECOND READER

A reading from the book of Asclepius

No, I cannot hope to name the maker of all majesty, the father and master of everything, with a single name, even a name composed of many names; god is nameless or rather she is all-named since he is one and all, so that one must call all things by her name or call him by the names of everything. The only and the all, completely full of the fertility of both sexes and ever pregnant with her own will, always begets whatever she wished to procreate. His will is all goodness. For this divinity the same goodness that is in all things came to be naturally so that all might be as they are and were, so that to all things to come hereafter they might provide the power to be of themselves.

Glory be to the one who loves us, the one who leads us and the one who guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.

### THIRD READER

Christ our Lord be with you  
And also with you.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 10. verses 9 through 16.  
The next day, as they were on their journey and coming near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. And he became hungry and desired something to eat; but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heaven opened, and something descending, like a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "No, Holy One, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What the Holy Name has cleansed, you must not call common or unclean." This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

Glory be to the one who loves us, the one who leads us and the one who guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship acclaim.  
Amen.

## OFFERING

Let the first fruits of the harvest be gathered into the storehouse. Let those who have an offering or a contribution bring them forth for the good of the fellowship. Part of this offering will be donated to the Chapel of St. Philip Neri in gratitude for their generosity and the use of their space.

Sermon

## PAUSE

Christ the Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation: for our world, the heavens tell of your glory; for our land, its beauty and its resources, for the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth, that we may use your gifts responsibly, Let us pray in Christ's mercy.  
May our prayers rise up and be heard.

We pray for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors and marvel at your creation. Let us pray in Christ's mercy.  
May prayers rise up and be heard.

We pray for artists, scientists and visionaries, that through their work we may see the world afresh. Let us pray in Christ's mercy.  
May our prayers rise up and be heard.

We thank you holy one for giving us life; for all who enrich our experience.

We pray for all who through their own or others' actions are deprived of fullness of life, for prisoners, refugees, the handicapped and all who are sick. Let us pray in Christ's mercy.  
May our prayers rise up and be heard.

We pray for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for this church and for all churches and for all who seek to bring life to others.

Let us pray in Christ's mercy.

May our prayers rise up and be heard.

For what else shall we pray?

We thank you, supreme and most high, by whose grace alone we have attained the light of your knowledge; holy name that must be honored, the one name by which our ancestral faith blesses you alone, we thank you who deign to grant to all a father's fidelity, a brother's reverence and a mother's love, along with any power that is sweeter, by giving us the fit of consciousness, reason and understanding:

Consciousness, by which we may know you;

Reason, by which we may seek you in our dim suppositions;

Knowledge, by which we may rejoice in knowing you.

And we who are saved by your power do indeed rejoice because you have shown yourself to us. We rejoice that you have deigned to make us for eternity even while we depend on the body. For this is our only means of giving thanks: knowledge of your majesty.

We have known you, the vast light perceived only by reason.

We have understood you, true life of life, the womb pregnant with all coming-to-be.

We have known you, who persist eternally by conceiving all coming-to-be in its perfect fullness.

Worshipping with this entire prayer the good of your goodness, we ask only this, that you wish us to persist in the love of your knowledge and that we never be cut off from such a life as this.

Let us pray in Christ's mercy.

May our prayers rise up and be heard.

Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.

Christ our lord be with you.

And also with you.

May the blessing of god go with you, the one that loves us, the one that leads us and the one that guides us.

Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.

This celebration is ended. Go in peace.

Let the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.