

Synod of the Covenant

August 27, 2021

Mid-Day Prayers at the Beginning of the School Year

Call to Worship

Elona Street-Stewart

ONE: Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

ALL: Let us worship together, the young and the old.

ONE: The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

ALL: Let us worship together, every generation.

ONE: After months of learning behind screens or separated by dividers and physical space,

ALL: Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

ONE: We may still feel uncertain, seeing so many faces again, but we come together seeking God's peace in this beautiful community.

ALL: Let us worship together, united in Christ.

Opening Prayer

Brady Radford

First Reading

Blessing for Creativity

Ben McConaughy

Exodus 31:1-5

Second Reading *Blessing for Nourishment* Michelle Johnson
Matthew 14:15-21

Third Reading *Blessing for Learning* Adel Malek
Philippians 4:8-9

Fourth Reading *Blessing for Community* Sue Krummel
Romans 12:4-8

Prayers of the People Patrice Hatley

ONE: ... We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... Open our minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways, and settle our thought loops in peaceful places.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... grip monkey bars and lunch box handles, spin wheelchair tires and basketballs.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... Remind us to open our mouths for deep belly breaths when we're feeling anxious or afraid.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... We know you are with us wherever our feet go or stay.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... And help us see with the most important eyes—the eyes of the Spirit within us.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... Help us hear with the most important ears—the ears of the Spirit within us.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... bless them with peace and the promise you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: ... Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways children are also teachers.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

ONE: We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold us all the way through.

ALL: We thank you, God, and love you. Amen.

Sending and Blessing on the Coming Year

Richard Rojas

¹ Call to Worship, Prayer of the Day, and Prayers of the People are offered with deep gratitude to the folks at Illustrated Ministry.

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