

A Service of Celebration and Farewell

Sample Service A

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God has been our help in ages past,

People: Our hope for years to come.

Leader: God has been our safe home,

People: Our shelter in the face of every storm.

Leader: So we come with praise,

People: And we bring our prayer:

All: God, be our guide forevermore.

***Hymn of Praise** #117 (*United Methodist Hymnal*) *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Opening Prayer

O God, Giver of every gift, now and in times past,
we remember your mighty acts that have given us strength and endurance through hardship and loss.

We remember your steadfast love that has brought joy and new life.

Be with us all in these days of change.

We give thanks for all that has been good in our ministry together,
and we confess with sadness

those times when we have hurt one another
or failed to live our ministry together faithfully.

Forgive us, and help us forgive one another.

Be now our shelter and our guide, this day and forevermore.

Through Christ, the One in whom we have known grace and healing. Amen.

Words of Assurance to One Another

May we all know the assurance of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ,
offer forgiveness to one another, and know forgiveness in our own hearts.

And may we all live in the promise that we can begin anew. Thanks be to God.

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles Creed*

***Gloria Patri**

Call to Prayer #2200 (*The Faith We Sing Hymnal*) *O Lord, Hear My Prayer #*

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"For Our Life Together: Give Thanks!"

***Hymn of Response**

#2036 (TFWS Hymnal)

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Litany of Response

Dear friends, you have allowed us to share the responsibilities of the ordained ministry in your midst. It is time for us to return to you these symbols of our life together. Will you hold them in trust until you offer them to your new pastor?

We will.

We were called among you to baptize. Here is water that symbolizes God's gift of belonging to this family in Christ.

(A vessel of water is presented to a family whose child was recently baptized.)

There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.

We were called among you to proclaim the Good News. Here is the Bible, from which we have endeavored to preach a faithful word.

(A Bible is presented to a lay leader.)

Thanks be to God for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We were called among you to lead worship, to plan and guide our prayer and praise. Here are the hymnals from which we have drawn music and liturgy.

(Hymnals presented to worship chair, music director and choir member.)

We bring our praise and thanksgiving.

We were called among you to offer the sacrament of Holy Communion. Receive now this chalice as a symbol of our life in communion.

(A chalice is presented to the laywoman who is responsible for preparing the elements.)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

We were called among you to teach. Here are United Methodist resources we have used in our teaching and learning.

(Curriculum materials are presented to representatives of several classes.)

Thanks be to God who causes us to grow in wisdom.

We were called among you to help provide order and keep the covenant that strengthens us as United Methodists. Here is the Book of Discipline that guides our life together.

(The Book of Discipline is presented to the Administrative Board chair.)

We are bound together in Christ Jesus.

We were called among you to help us all be good stewards of our resources. We return to you the congregation's budget records and the keys to this church building.

(Records and keys are given to Trustee and Finance chairs.)

May we all prove to be faithful stewards of God's marvelous gifts.

We were called among you to lead us all in our mission to this community and all the world. This globe reminds us of our commitments to God's people everywhere.

(Globe is presented to Mission chair and others in mission activities.)

We go to all the world in Christ's name.