



# A MINISTRY OF TRANSFORMATION



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

*September 10, 2006 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary time*

**T**his liturgy reminds us of the celebration for Christian Education week. Christian Education or Christian Formation is a central ministry in the life of any congregation. We should remember that formation is not only for children but also for youth, young adults, and adults. This liturgy helps the local congregation seek a commitment from those that have been called to the ministry of education.

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### Gathering Music—Lighting the Altar Candles

#### \*Call to Worship

- One: Come! Come and celebrate.
- Many: **Let's celebrate the ministry of discipleship.**
- One: Come! Come and celebrate our call.
- Many: **Let's celebrate the ministry of those who help us make disciples.**
- One: Come! Come and celebrate our common calling.
- Many: **Let's celebrate our calling of transformation and leading people to our God.**
- One: Come! Come and celebrate our commitment to the educational ministry of our church.
- Many: **Let's celebrate the gifts of our people, the gift of our teachers, the gifts of our children, of our youth, our young adults and celebrate the God that is so merciful to empower us for God's mission in our community.**

\*Hymn

*Colorful Creator*

30 TNCH

## **Prayer of Adoration**

Wonderful and merciful God, we come to you this day with open minds and grateful hearts. You called us to be your people, and to share with others the richness of your love. We are thankful for those you have called to be your servants in the teaching-learning ministry of our congregation. Use them as instruments of your grace in such a way that those who would be taught can not only hear their voices and see their actions, but that they may hear your voice through them. Help us to understand the gifts in each of us, so we may also be faithful to your call. Amen

## **Call to Confession:**

God calls us to look into ourselves, to go deep into our hearts, to those places where our lives fail in contradiction to the will of God and to confess and seek forgiveness. Let us confess to our God.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Eternal Creator, we come to you seeking to fill the emptiness in our lives and in our ministries. Many times as a community of faith we have forgotten to follow you. We have been selective in what we teach and we have been selective in the justice we seek for others. There is in all of us the “null” curriculum we do not want to teach or confront, because we are afraid of the consequences. Help us identify what it is you are calling us to do. Help us to be faithful to that call in all we do and in all we say. Amen.

*The next elements can be placed elsewhere in the service according to the local preference.*

## **Passing the Peace**

One: Let us show the peace of forgiveness by passing the “Peace of Christ” to each other.

## **Welcome and Community Life**

### **HEARING THE WORD**

## **Children’s Message**

**Hymn**

*Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God*

287 TNCH

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 7:24–37 Theme: Voicing Justice

**Sermon/Message**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology (Traditional or new tune)**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Presentation of Church Education Teachers**

*Church educators, Sunday School teachers and those related to the educational ministry of the congregation are asked to come forward as they are able.*

**Litany of Commitment**

**One:** Sisters and brothers, you have been called by our church to fulfill the responsibilities of teachers of the faith. Will you commit yourselves by giving enough time to fulfill this ministry?

**Many:** **We will, with the help of God.**

**One:** Do you understand that by accepting this ministry you are becoming agents of transformation in people’s lives?

**Many:** **We do understand.**

**One:** Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people could see in you the life of Christ?

**Many:** **We will with the help of God.**

**One:** *Directing the question to the congregation. Will you brothers and sisters promise to support and care for these you have called to this ministry?*

**Congregation:** **We promise with the help of God.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

O God, eternal wisdom, you are always teaching us in every flower, every bird, every human being you have created. We ask your blessings over these people you have called to be your servants in the service of our congregation. Guide them with your Holy Spirit, so they can

show in their own lives the love that comes from you. Help us as a community of faith to pass on to others the faith that sustains us in our daily lives, and to understand how to be your disciples and how to make disciples. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

*God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

531 TNCH

## SENDING WITH THE WORD

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

\* Those who are able, please stand.



This service was prepared by Rev. Dr. José Abraham De Jesús, Minister and Team Leader for the Worship and Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

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TNCH refers to hymns or resources from The New Century Hymnal (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 1995). Similar resources may be found in other hymnals.

