

MORNING DEVOTIONS
PW Churchwide Leadership Training
Albuquerque, New Mexico ♦ Tuesday, March 13, 2007

GATHERING

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: We acknowledge and welcome you in our presence, O Holy One, as we prepare for this day and as we wait for the day when all shall drink deeply your peace in our midst.

All: Let your presence shine in our midst, as this candle shines symbolically, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Responsive Reading *Psalm 95:1-7*

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

One: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

All: In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

One: The sea is God's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

All: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

One: For he is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

All: O that today you would listen to God's voice!

Hymn "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" (see last page)

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading *2 Timothy 1:6*

Message "You Are the Hands of Christ"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" (see insert)

SENDING

Blessing The Four Directional Litany (adapted from a Lakota prayer tradition—see next page)

[The congregation will face north, south, east and west, acknowledging that Christ is the center of all creation and God's plans for the universe, and the central truth of our lives. Following each prayer/direction, we will face the center (the Christ candle), as a reminder it is Christ who brings all healing and eternal life, and through God's Spirit is able to renew the face of the earth.]

Leader: Let us face the east, the direction of the rising sun, reminding us of God's gift of wisdom and knowledge. Let us pray:

All: Engage us, Creator God, to present our best to you, to use wisely the resources that you give, sharing them in justice and partaking of them in thankfulness. (All face the center).

Leader: Face the south, for God's radiating warmth, reminding us of God's grace, which gives us each our power, strength and abilities. Let us pray:

All: We worship you, we glorify you and we honor you by committing ourselves to be good stewards of our training in our journey together as sisters in Christ, rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows and renewing our hearts together (All face the center).

Leader: Face the west, for God's purifying waters and invoking the Spirit of God to refresh us for our journey. Let us pray:

All: We pray that you might nurture us at your oasis O God, our Creator. May you show us your beauty and potential in the faces of our sisters and the entire face of the earth (All face the center).

Leader: Face the north, from where God's purifying wind comes making us pure for our journey. Let us pray:

All: From the north, we face your cleansing and energizing winds, O God, as we commit ourselves to your service. (All face the center).

All: God of all creation, as you commanded us move our whole being—heart, mind and spirit to serve you. We give you our hands to do your work, our feet to follow you and our heart that you may love in and through us; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Leader—Eveline Steele, Native American, Member at Large, Synod of the Sun

Song Leader—Sharon Cely, Synod Representative, Synod of the Rocky Mountains

Accompanist—Jean Vieten, Synod Representative, Synod of Southern California and Hawaii

All scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, are copyrighted © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission.

All music is reprinted with permission. Please do not duplicate without permission from the publisher.