



Blessing of the Parsonage

**St. John's United Church of Christ
Newark, Ohio**

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Call to Gather (Location – Parsonage Driveway or Backyard)

Leader: A house blessing is a rite performed to protect the people living in the house from misfortune. Eternal God, we offer thanksgiving and give you praise on this festive day.

Hymn No. 518 **“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”** Todd Baldosser

- 1) This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.**
- 4) In faith we gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.**

People: **May it please the Lord to bless the home to the use of your glory.**

Leader: Dear God, be our shelter Lord when we are at home; our companion when we are away and our welcome guest when we return.

People: O God, make this door wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife; the threshold smooth enough to not be a stumbling block to children or straying feet; rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's pride. May those who enter be drawn more deeply into God's mercy and love.

Leader: O God, make the door of this house a gateway to your eternal kingdom, for your word says, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them."

Hallway Blessing

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness that all who enter through them give thanks to the Lord. ²

People: This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter through it. ³

Living Room Blessing

People: Loving God, let this space be a place to comfort those who mourn, provide help for those in need, security for those in fear, and relaxation for the guidance of those who seek strength. May it also be a place of socialization and relaxation.

Leader: May those who live here build bonds that are as sweet and strong as those left behind.

Dining Room Blessing

People: May the hospitality of Martha, the produce of your earth and the fellowship of Jesus and his disciples be present at each meal shared in this room. Let that communion be a tribute to the Holy Communion we share.

Leader: Dear God, give to each who eats here a share of the foods of the earth that you may give to all a share in eternal life.

Kitchen Blessing

People: Warm this kitchen, Lord God, with your love and light it with your peace. Bless all who enter this heart of the home. Bless the hands that prepare and serve the bounty of your earth. May it be seasoned from above.

Leader: Lord, accept this service done by those who live here for the nourishment of self and others as a service to you.

Study Blessing

People: **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.** ⁴

Leader: Lord, thank you for this time you have given he who lives here to open your Word and discover who you are. Thank you that he who studies here is not left in the dark about who you are and what you are doing in the world, for you have revealed yourself and your will through the Bible, your sacred work to us. Provide wisdom as the pastor reads your word, that he does not rely on his own understanding. Thank you God for the clarity, encouragement and hope your Word brings.

Bathroom Blessing

People: **The Asher Yatzar is a Jewish blessing to be recited upon entering a bathroom.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, who formed humanity and created their bodies with many openings and hollow spaces. If one of them were ruptured, or blocked, it would be impossible to stand in your presence. Blessed are you, O God, who heals all flesh and performs wonders.

Bedrooms Blessing

People: **Jesus said “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** ⁵

Leader: Lord, refresh all those in rest in these rooms. Refresh their tired souls, renew their strength, sustain their being, be patient with their doing. You are their shepherd; they will lack for nothing.

Basement / Attic / Garage Blessing

People: **“...Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. Let your Holy Spirit fill every part of this house with the fullness of your love, your peace, your rest. As Christ is the cornerstone, He is also the capstone of our lives, holding all the broken pieces together and completing what is unfinished and imperfect.** ⁶

Leader: Father God, creator and builder of all, this home and land is dedicated to the rule of Jesus, the presence of your Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God. Protect this dwelling and drive away all snares of the enemy, natural and spiritual.

Street Entrances

People: We are reminded that the Lord keeps us from all evil. The Lord keeps our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forever more. ⁷

Leader: O God, protect the going out and the coming in of those who live here from evil snares. Let them share with hospitality all who are visitors. Amen.

Singing Benediction

Go Now In Peace/Never be afraid/God will go with you/Each hour of ev'ry Day/Go now in Faith/Steadfast, strong and true/Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in Love/And show you believe/Reach out to others/So all the world can see/God will be there/Watching from above/Go now in Peace/In Faith and in Love. Amen/Amen/Amen. CCL#2548454

¹All Scripture is from the New International Version.

Please return back to the Fellowship Room to meet Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher and to enjoy some light refreshments.