

Elements for Worship – Bethany Sunday

Call to Worship

All: Listen, O people of God, for Wisdom cries out to us.

One: We are called to seek understanding, to hunger for knowledge, and to embrace instruction, for in God's wisdom we find many hidden treasures.

All: Struggle, O people of God, to hold holy tension.

One: We must learn to trust in God that, though we may not always find comfort, God is ever with us, holding us in our times of growth.

All: Kneel, O people of God, stoop to serve one another.

One: As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we serve each other in a spirit of humility and love.

All: Rejoice, O people of God, for we are not alone.

One: We rejoice that we need not solely rely on our own insight, but rather God walks with us, and God gives us companions and mentors on our journey.

All: Rejoice!

*Katie Shaw Thompson, MDiv student
Stone Church of the Brethren (Pa.)*

Invocation

Almighty God, who raises the dead,
who renews our spirits,
who gave us wisdom and the Word
so that we may do your good work,
Bless our worship today.

Open our hearts that we might follow as you lead us
to take part in the work of the community that lies ahead.
In the name of Jesus, the ultimate servant-leader, Amen.

*Katie Shaw Thompson, MDiv student
Stone Church of the Brethren (Pa.)*

Prayer

Spirit of the Living God,
we give thanks for the many gifts you give us -
a caring heart, eloquent preaching
a listening ear, a patient teacher
May we notice gifts for ministry
within our brothers and sisters.

**Your voice calls out
Come, follow me.**

Spirit of the Living God,
we give thanks for opportunities to learn -
foundational scriptures

Brethren ideals and identity
May present and future students of Bethany Seminary
be enriched and empowered for enduring Christian witness.

**Your voice calls out,
Prepare a way for the Lord.**

Spirit of the Living God,
we give thanks for Bethany Seminary.
We thank you for the professors and staff
who instruct and guide our future leaders.

**May our lives display appreciation
for the gift of ministry education
and respect for the dedication
of those who share the gift with us.**

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer. Amen.**

*Rebecca O. Rhodes, MDiv 2010
Interim Pastor, Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren (Blacksburg, Va.)*

Offertory Statement

In response to the songs we sing,
the Word we hear,
and the fellowship we celebrate,
we bring our offerings to lay before the giver of all good gifts.

Some bring offerings of service,
some offerings of prayer,
some offerings of thanksgiving,
and some offerings of financial support,
all of which are necessary
to carry the love of God into the world we journey through together.

As we bring what we have to offer today,
may it in return
bring a smile to the face of our God.

*Robert Miller, MDiv student
Pastor, Northview Church of the Brethren (Ind.)*

Benediction

Go now. Listen, struggle, kneel, and rejoice
in the unique path God has given each of us.
Go, seek the wisdom that calls us to be servant-leaders
in this community and throughout God's great creation. Amen.

*Katie Shaw Thompson, MDiv student
Stone Church of the Brethren (Pa.)*