

Spirit of Unity

Opening Prayer/Liturgy

January 2006

Closing Prayer... The New Year

Faithful Companion,

In this new year I pray:

To live deeply, with purpose,

To live freely, with detachment,

To live wisely, with humility,

To live justly, with compassion,

To live lovingly, with fidelity,

To live mindfully, with awareness,

To live gratefully, with generosity,

To live fully, with enthusiasm.

Help us to hold this vision and to daily
renew it in our hearts, becoming ever more
one with You, our truest Selves.

All: Amen.

-J. Rupp

Out of the Ordinary



Opening Song

We are One Body

Dana Scallon

**We are one body. One body in Christ
And we do not stand alone
We are one body, one body in Christ
And he came that we might have life.**

For he tells us:

When you eat my body and you drink my blood,
I will live in you and you will live in my love.
When you eat my body and drink my blood,
I will live in you and you will live in my love.

Can you hear them crying, can you feel their pain?
Will you feed my hungry, will you help my lame?
See the unborn baby, the forgotten one.
They are not forsaken, they are not unloved.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.
I am the Final Sacrifice.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.
He who believes in me will have eternal life

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we who are baptized in Your son Jesus Christ, form one body, one church. Although we now see many churches, all who live in Christ are called to unity through Your Holy Spirit. Amen



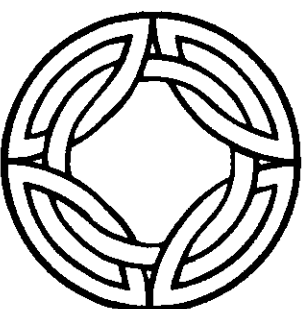
Scripture Reading: **Ephesians 4:3—5**

Let us listen to the words of the apostle Paul:

I...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Renewed in God's forgiveness, let us proclaim our faith in God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Reader 1 We proclaim that God is with us in love, bringing all people together.

Reader 2 Creator and *life-giver*, father and mother of us all regardless of race, gender or class: you reveal yourself in justice, peace and love, and desire for all peoples on earth your equity and truth.

Reader 3 We welcome Jesus Christ, our Saviour, God's beloved son, who was raised from the dead. We commit our lives to Christ and his transforming power.

Reader 4 We reveal Christ's truth by challenging injustice and upholding faithfulness. We resolve to live into being Christ's community of peace.