

Consecration of the Sanctuary

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a day of rejoicing. We have come together to consecrate this building of Christ United Methodist Church. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive God's Word with faith. May our blessed communion, born of one baptism and nurtured at one table of the Lord, become one temple of the Holy Spirit as we gather in love.

Rejoice that God so moved the hearts of people that this house has been built for praise and prayer. Let us now consecrate it for service and celebrate its holy use.

O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands, you have promised your special presence whenever two or three are assembled in your name to offer praise and prayer.

By the power of the Holy Spirit consecrate this house of your worship. Bless us and sanctify what we do here, that this place may be holy for us and a house of prayer for all people.

Guide and empower us in this place by the same Spirit, the proclamation of your Word and the celebration of your sacraments, the pouring out of prayer and the singing of your praise, professions of faith and testimonies to your grace, the joining of men and women in marriage and the celebration of death and resurrection.

Save us from that failure of vision which would confine our worship within these walls, but send us out from here to be your servants in the world, sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem.

Now, O God, sanctify this place, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the dominion, and you are exalted as head above all. *Amen.*

Dedication of the Lord's Table

Lord God, we thank you that when we gather at the Lord's Table the living Christ is known to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup; and we are renewed as his body, whose life is in his blood. When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, refresh all those who partake at this holy table.

Feed the hunger of our hearts with the bread of heaven, and quench our deepest thirst with the cup of salvation. Strengthen us for your service in the world, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." We consecrate this table in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*