

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

Service of Intercessory Prayer

Song (Guitar picking or other soft music intro as campers enter circle)

Leader: Tonight's worship is a simple service of intercessory prayer. For most of the liturgy the room will be quite dark, inviting silence and stillness, as we immerse ourselves in scripture, song and prayer.

During intercessory prayer we offer ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually on behalf of that for which we pray. We pray for ourselves and for others, for broken relationships, and for our broken world. And when we do not know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express.

Throughout this service there will be three invitations, interspersed throughout the readings, to pray at the cross. At these invitations, you may kneel or sit around the boxes of sand, and pray as the community around you joins in your silent prayer. As we are a community in Christ, we ask that no one come alone to pray at the cross. When someone comes to pray, we invite you to come with them, and lay your hands on their head or shoulders as a sign of support and care.

When you have finished praying or when the next reading begins, light a candle and place it in the sand. The candles are visible signs of your silent prayers to God, glowing in the darkness.

Please join us in singing **Sanctuary** (or other song)

Song

There are those among us who are troubled and afraid: individuals, families, communities, churches, and nations. Fear and trouble seem to rule the day. We invite you now to remain seated, but name aloud friends or strangers, situations or places in our world that are now filled with fear or deeply troubled. After each name, please say, "Do not be troubled," and we will respond with, "God is with you."

When this has come to a natural ending, Leader says:

Hold near, O God, all for whom we pray, and lead us into Your Peace.

You are now invited to come to the cross, to kneel, and to pray. If you choose not to kneel, remain in your seat to pray, then light a candle as a sign of hope, dancing in the darkness. When you have finished praying or you hear the next reading begin, light a candle as a symbol of your prayer and return to your seat. Come. Come to the Cross and pray.

***Music begins, either guitar picking or other selection. Leader, WATCH THE TIME! If there is a natural ending in the campers' movement to the Cross, begin the second selection of readings. If not, use your judgment, but 10-15 minutes is sufficient to have the kids gathered at the cross.**

Leader: Jesus said, "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in my name, will teach you everything. And will remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you my friends, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid."

Please join us in singing **I love you, Lord** (or other song)

Song

Now, O Lord, calm me into a quietness that heals and listens, and molds my longings and passions, my wounds and wonderings into a more holy and human shape. Enfold me now in your presence; restore me to your peace; renew me through your power; and ground me in your grace. (Prayer from Guerillas of Grace)

Come. Come to the Cross and pray.

***Music begins, either guitar picking or other selection. Leader, WATCH THE TIME! If there is a natural ending in the campers' movement to the Cross, begin the third selection of readings. If not, use your judgment, but 10-15 minutes is sufficient to have the kids gathered at the cross.**

Leader: After each statement, please join me in saying, "Come Christ Jesus." Into our darkness, our doubt and despair, Come, Christ Jesus. Into our sorrow, our sickness and grief, Come, Christ Jesus. Into each place of conflict, division and war, Come, Christ Jesus. Into our wounded world, the earth, sea and sky, Come, Christ Jesus. When we call to you, hear our prayers.

Please join us in singing **Lord, Listen to your children praying** (or other song)

Song

In this moment, draw me to yourself, Lord, and make me aware not so much of what I've given, as of all I received and have yet to share. Send me forth in power and gladness and with great courage to live out in the world what I pray and profess. That, in sharing, I may do justice, make peace, and grow in love. Amen. (Prayer from Guerillas of Grace)

Come. Come to the Cross and pray.

***Music begins, either guitar picking or other selection. Leader, WATCH THE TIME! If there is a natural ending in the campers' movement to the Cross, begin the final reading. If not, use your judgment, but 10-15 minutes is sufficient to have the kids gathered at the cross.**

Leader: Merciful God, source of all goodness and life, into your wide and welcoming embrace we place all for whom we pray. Grant that we, having turned toward you in prayer now might turn to one another in peace, and grant that we offer ourselves to be sent into the world as instruments of your mercy, healing and grace. Amen.

When you see your counselor begin to exit, please leave as a cabin.

***Music can resume again as cabins leave the circle.**