

Returning Liturgy: “Giving Thanks for Renewal”
Labor Day, September 6, 2009

The interim leads the first part of the service. After the sermon hymn and offering....

L: Pastor, we welcome you and Irene back from your renewal time

C: We welcome you back with open arms.

P: It's good to be back! I have journeyed in new places to renew my spirit, my ministry, and my life.

C: We too, have had a time of renewal, a time to look at our ministries and our church.

P: I know you spent your time going through “100 Days of Prayer” and looking at yourselves so you too, could grow in ministry.

C: And we know that you spent time in prayer, travel, study and refreshing your spiritual lives and ministry.

P: I thank God for my ministry with you over these 14 years and I thank you for the gift of this renewal time you've given to me.

C: We thank you for your presence amongst us as our spiritual guide and leader.

P: As a symbol of returning from our mutual time of renewal, I take my stole and put it back on my shoulders once again- a symbol of my servant hood to God and to His church.

C: May God continue to be with you in your ministry amongst us.

P: May God continue to so richly bless our congregation with the resources to be in ministry and the divine enthusiasm to share His Word of forgiving grace and love in our communities and the world.

C: We pray God's Spirit to be present amongst us- calling, empowering and sending us to serve and share. May we continue to seek His will and walk in His ways.

L: Let us pray: Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts. We thank you for this time we had apart to renewal ourselves, and now for this time to reunite with one another and begin our ministries once again. We pray that we minister and serve with the enthusiasm of your Spirit upon us. We pray that we, together, as your church, may be open to your Spirit's leading in the future, to be willing to risk in faith to follow where you lead us.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, and bless us in our ministries as you have blessed us with a time of renewal!

P: Come, Holy Spirit, and bless us in our ministries as you have blessed us with a time of renewal!

ALL: Thank you, Lord, for this time away and for this time or returning! Help us to continue to dream your dreams for our future. Bless us, in Jesus name, AMEN!

Pastor leads Holy Communion the rest of the service.