

CALLS TO WORSHIP, INVOCATIONS, LITANY

Call to Worship #1:

Let us worship God as children...with wonder and awe.

Let us worship God as youth...with questions and eager hearts.

Let us worship God as adults...with gratitude and praise.

Let us worship God as elders...with wisdom and hope.

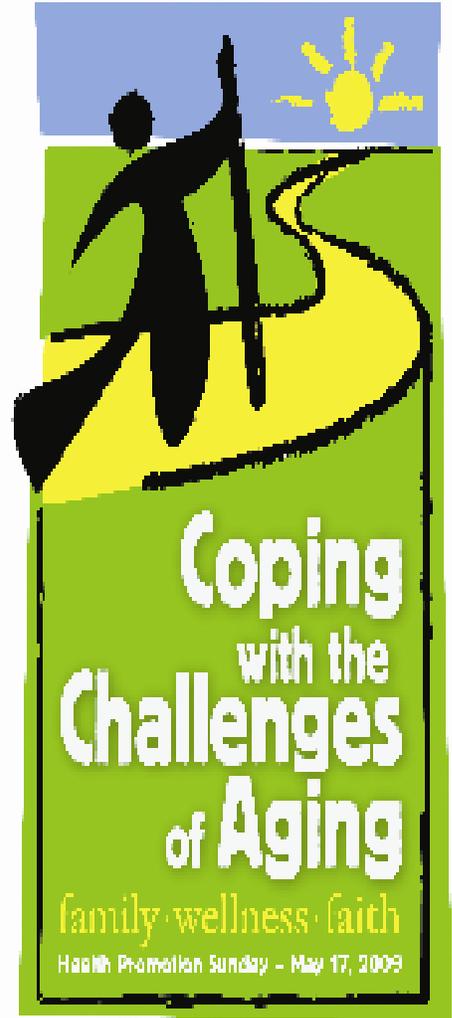
Let the Body of Christ sing praises to God, from whom all blessings flow.

Call to Worship #2:

One: Come, we gather to meet our God this day.

**All: Even when we might be home reading the paper...
Even when we might be taking a scenic drive...
Even when our work beckons us...
Even when our bodies ache with pain...
We come to meet you today, God.**

One: Come, as we make God the focus of our Sabbath.
Come, as Jesus' lessons bring us our guidance.
Come, as we open the Scripture for guidance.
Come, as we pray, praise, repent, and forgive.



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Contributed by:  
*Myrna Wheeler, Chaplain  
Brethren Hillcrest Homes  
Health Promotion Sunday 2009*



Church of the Brethren

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**All: Our God sustains us at every age.  
God gives us ways to cope with our struggles.  
We come to meet our God this day.**

**Invocation #1:**

O God, you who gave us birth and who will walk with us through our older years, we come to you today to worship and praise you. We call your name and you answer us. In every age of life you give us what we need. Help us today to have ears to hear the message of your faithfulness, and to celebrate the ways in which you help us to cope with the challenges we face at every age. Surround this congregation today with your presence, your love, your grace. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

**Invocation #2:**

Creator God, we pray to you this day and thank you for giving us tools to find you more fully in our lives. We sing, chant, read, meditate, pray, fast, keep silent—and we find you in our worship. We confess that we turn to you when we need more than what life gives us. When we have a hard time coping with life at any age, we then seek your face and your wisdom. Be with us this day. Know our hearts. Listen to our silent prayers. Show us your light. We come seeking you in this worship. Bless us with your presence and your power. We pray through your son Jesus Christ. Amen

**Litany**

Reader 1: There are two inevitable things in life: death and taxes. Human bodies are weakened by age or disease—we cannot escape the inevitable.

**All: The blessing is to realize there is also inevitability about our God.**

Reader 2: *Just as the rain and snow come down...so shall my word be...it will do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it" (Is. 55:10-11)*

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Reader 1: God plants seeds of promise and hope through all time. Their fruit inevitably bursts forth in unexpected ways: tender mercies and amazing graces, which surprise our weary spirits.

All: The "soil" of your spirit at all ages determines the fullness of their flowering. Hope and faith that lack true commitment is choked with thorns and cannot bear fruit to their fullest.

Reader 2: *Part of the seed landed on good soil and yielded grain of a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold. (Matthew 13:4-8)*

Reader 1: God's reliability and power and the inevitability of God's promises carry us from childhood through old age.

All: Let us rejoice at every age and every stage of life, for God has given us hope through Jesus Christ; seeds of promise for a life abundant; and the nourishing soil of faith to live with confident expectation.

Reader 2: *I will be with you always until the end of time (Matthew 28:20)*

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