

CONFESSIONS FOR COB VISION STATEMENT  
Written by Elizabeth Kelsey

First Sunday - DISCIPLESHIP

Leader: Jesus, we hear your call to be disciples, to leave everything and follow you, but we worry where you will lead us.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: We recognize our lack of trust and loss of vision, wanting the resurrection without the garden of Gethsemane.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: Move us from mediocrity, to follow you not just in word, but in deed and in truth.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: Make us bold, give us courage to claim a vision and share your word of hope and good news.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Second Sunday - SURRENDER

Leader: Jesus, we confess our desire to "look good" to others, but we are slow to change our hearts.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: We marvel at your unconditional love for us, but fail to offer unconditional love to others.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: We fill our calendars and depend on technology for instant communication, but fail to walk beside the still waters.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: Restore our balance, renew our faith, that we may surrender and rest in you.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

### Third Sunday - DIVERSITY

Leader: Jesus, our commission is to love others as you love us, but we fail to be the hearts and hands that bind the wounds of others.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: We are to be shepherds of the flock, yet we ignore or separate your sheep.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: Sometimes our loyalty to you is usurped by loyalty to things and ideas and religious or political opinions.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: Transform our hearts to offer reconciliation and show compassion for all God's children.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

### Fourth Sunday - CREATION CARE

Leader: God of all creation, we take for granted all you have made, and presume to think it is ours for the taking.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: You created the earth with love and care, yet we squander its resources, taking more than our fair share of its wealth and forgetting its limits.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: We turn our heads, ignoring the interdependence of creation and the cost of our extravagance on future generations.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: May we marvel at the magnificence of your creation in every river and animal, tree and flower.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

#### Fifth Sunday - SOURCE OF VISION

Leader: God of all wisdom, we acknowledge you as the source of all truth, yet we seek other more tangible sources to define our faith.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: You reach out your arms to receive us, and we grieve you by thinking ourselves unworthy to accept your love.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: We follow the traditions of the church and feel comfortable in regular participation, yet hesitate to get close to the Head of the Church.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: May we seek you in scripture, find you in the community of believers, and hold fast to the Trinity who offers life, redemption and guidance.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

#### ASSURANCE (unison) - to be used all Sundays

God's mercy is sure from everlasting to everlasting. God's grace makes us whole. God forgives us, strengthens us, and sets us free. Thanks be to God.  
Amen.