

Liturgy for Celebration of Laurel Ridge

Almighty, yet gracious and loving God, we worship you as the Creator who stretched out the heavens and the earth—making the beauty we behold and cherish at Laurel Ridge.

We are awed that you always invite us to be in your presence. We love and worship you, O God. How could we do otherwise, because you created us in love and you have shown your love for us again and again—even before we could seek it, and certainly before we could merit it, for we cannot.

We thank you for your grace, by which our unworthy lives are not only sustained, but enriched and fulfilled.

We are thankful for your gift to our church of Laurel Ridge. It has been your instrument for times of spiritual birth and rebirth, times of finding direction and purpose and new commitment.

Hear our confessions as we implore your forgiveness:

We confess that we are part of a society which poisons the earth for profit. Our careless acts often destroy your handiwork. Our stewardship has often been found wanting. We are driven by greed for more and more, laying up treasures which moth and rust consume. We know you want to provide for our needs as well as relationships with you and each other, enabling the abundant life you have promised. And you continue to offer more abundant living through our life together at our Laurel Ridge “home.”

May we hear you declaring to us now, “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and will not remember your sins. Go and sin no more.”

Our hearts are now full of praise and thanksgiving. We thank you, on this occasion, especially, Creator God, for your marvelous creation which is apparent:

- **in the artistry of frost and snow in winter,**
- **in the new life which bursts forth in spring,**
- **in the sunshine and rain producing the beauty and growth of summer,**
- **and in the abundance and color of the fall—**
- **all of which we experience in the “Garden of Eden” which we know as our Laurel Ridge.**

We praise you for the stewards you have used to build, support and lead in the development and ongoing ministry of this place. We recognize these as your gift to our church during these sixty-five years, and would now lift up to you these petitions:

May Laurel Ridge continue to be a place of affirming the Gospel of Christ’s love and redemption, and a place where it is lived out in example; a place where the Gospel is received and shared freely. Inspire us to a stewardship of giving even more of ourselves and our treasures to build this ministry. Enrich our lives with fresh memories and continuing friendships along with personal growth and determined service.

O God, please pour out your blessing on this service of celebration and renewal. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Chief Elder,

Amen.