

Litany for the Life of Work and Faith

Affirmation of Faith

There are diverse gifts:

But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God:

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways:

But it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit:

And there is no gift without its corresponding service.

There is one ministry of Christ:

And in this one ministry we all share.

Together we are the body of Christ:

And individually members of it.

The Uniting Church affirms the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them for the building up of the Kingdom of God. As Christians, we believe there is no separation between the life of faith and the realm of work, irrespective of whether that work is exercised in the home, as a volunteer, in a business setting, or as we study and train for further qualifications and new employment opportunities. Even in retirement, we are called to be witnesses to faith; for the vocation of faith does not end with our labours, but continues over the whole of life.

Believing God calls people into the service of faith, a service which incorporates and reconciles the reality of human work to the life of God, let us together make affirmation of our call to this vocation:

To the whole congregation

Do you confess anew Jesus Christ as Lord?

I do.

Do you believe that God calls you to the service of faith, and to the integration of this service into all aspects of human life?

I do.

Relying on God's grace, will you try to be a witness to Christ in all that you do and say, and in all parts of life, including the life of work?

With God's help, I will.

May God give you strength to be true to this undertaking.

Amen.

Prayer of Commendation

Lord God, you call us into your service wherever we are and regardless of our circumstances. Whether employed, unemployed, or retired; whether full-time, part-time, or casual; whether paid or volunteering; whether training or learning, teaching or mentoring; whether in business or at home; in all the ways that humans undertake their labours, you call us to witness to your Gospel of grace and compassion, forgiveness and peace. Grant that wherever and however we work, we may be beacons of the dignity which you bestow upon all humans through the gift of our creation in your likeness and image. **Amen.**

The names of the different industry sectors in which members of the congregation work are called. Those who wish to do so may come forward to light a taper from the Christ candle and place it upright in a sand-filled bowl placed on the Communion table.

Lord God, we have made offering of our lives and our labours, represented by the tapers we have lighted from the one, true Light of Christ. Grant that we may continue our work empowered by the knowledge of your grace, and the solidarity of your love, which never ends.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, receive the Holy Spirit and be witnesses for Christ in all that you do and say, when, wherever, and however you work. **Amen.**

Aaronic Blessing. *(sung twice)*

This litany is reproduced with grateful thanks to Rev. Brendan Byrne, minister of Mountview Uniting Church, Melbourne, Australia.