

A Liturgy for Heritage Sunday

Leader: Let us thank God for those who have shaped and preserved our expression of the Christian life in Congregational Ways.

Congregation: We thank you, O God, for the lives of those who exemplified a pilgrim spirit.

Leader: For the Robert Browne, John Robinson, and William Brewster, William Bradford, John Eliot, Henry Ward and Lyman Beecher, Julia Ward Howe, Louise Baker, Alice Freeman Palmer, Mary Lyon, Thomas Gallaudet, Thomas Hooker, John Wise, Antoinette, Brown, Harriett Beecher Stowe, Samuel Morse, Jane Addams, Jonathan Edwards, Thomas Hooker, John Cotton, and hundreds of other theologians, ministers, writers, inventors – who contributed in countless ways to the beginnings of our Way.

Congregation: We thank you, O God, for the lives of those who have exemplified a Pilgrim spirit.

Leader: Henry David Gray, Harry Butman, Vaughan Abercrombie, Arvel M. Steece, Raymond Waser, Carrie Mead, Charlotte Abercrombie, Lydamar Reese, Lois Heilmann and those of more recent times, whose passion and generosity helped define and refine our heritage in new and vibrant ways.

Congregation: We thank you O God, that these and others have continued to lift up the best of who we are as Christians in covenant with each other.

Leader: For Lowell Mason, Leonard Bacon, Washington Gladden, Isaac Watts, Katherine Lee Bates, Allen Eastman Cross, Henry Hallum Tweedy, Jack Brown and other Congregational hymn-writers who continue to inspire our worship.

Congregation: We thank you, O God, for the music which weekly lifts our spirits and binds us together.

Leader: For Christ, who remains the head of every Congregational Christian Church who is the Gospel upon which we live and in whose Spirit we witness to this world.

Congregation: We thank you O God, for continuing to unite our tradition under Christ.

Leader: For the vibrancy of our church, the faithful service of our members, and the covenant which binds us together.

Congregation: We thank you, O God, for the freedom of conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: For the strength of our diversity, and from it the unending opportunities to learn from each other and grow in faith to the benefit of the kingdom of God.

Congregation: May we continue to be a Way which finds unity in essentials, charity in non-essentials, and Jesus Christ in all things.