

Program for Blessing of the Mountain

Song : “Morning Has Broken”

Leader: In the name of God, who creates mountains, in the name of Christ, crucified on a mountain, and in the name of the Spirit, deep in the mountains. Amen.

**People Holy! Holy! Holy!
Earth is filled with God’s presence.**

L Christ, as we come to this mountain today,
we enter the holy mountain of God.

**P Holy! Holy! Holy!
This mountain is filled with your presence.**

L We invite the mountains to worship with us:
**P Deep forests, babbling brooks and clear mountain
streams**

L We invite the wildlife to join us:
**P Bear, deer, squirrels, chipmunks and birds of all
kind.**

L We join with the mountain creatures in praising God:
**P Leaping trout and crawling creatures,
Beautiful flowers and honey bees.**

L We call the depths of the mountains to celebrate:
P Coal, minerals and things from the earth

L We come to the mountain of God today:
**P and we worship in God’s presence,
a sacred place on our planet.**

L We remember the mountains where God chose
to reveal a special presence,
Mount Sinai and Mount Zion,
a presence that also fills our planet.

**P We remember our excitement as a child
climbing a peak and viewing creation,
wonders that extended almost forever
and fascinating creatures around us,
the mysteries of God’s wild world.**

L We remember and rejoice.

**P Thank you, God, for mountains to remember,
wild worlds to make us wonder.**

L we remember and confess
that we have become alienated from Earth and we have
viewed mountains as little more than tourist spots, hills
as places for mining, or wild beasts as creatures to be
tamed.

**P We are sorry.
We have polluted rivers with waste from mountain
mines. We have turned the wonders of the wild into a
commodity. We have killed creatures in the wild with
chemicals. We are sorry. We are sorry.**

L Christ hears your confession from Mount Calvary
and forgives your sins against the wild.

**P Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home
and mountains as gifts for wonder.**

L Let us pray together.

**P God, our Creator, as we stand on this mountain
today, we celebrate the wonders of the wild that
surround us. Help us to see in the surrounding
landscape the mountains that have destroyed in our
state and where it has been polluted. Teach us to
recognize that the hills are alive with your Spirit and
to rejoice with all our kin, especially the creatures of
the wild. In the name of Christ who reconciles and
renews all things in creation. Amen.**

Readings for Mountain Blessing II

Old Testament: Isaiah 65:17-25 ‘Good News from a Holy Mountain’ The prophet dreams of Mount Zion being transformed into a ‘peace mountain,’ a world where humans and animals live in harmony.

Psalms: Ps. 48:1-11 ‘Mount Zion, God’s holy mountain’ The Psalmist hails Mount Zion, the ‘city of God’ that rejoices in God’s presence.

Epistle: Romans 8:28-39 ‘No separation from God’s love’ In no way does creation separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Song: “You Raise Me Up”

Gospel: Mark 16:14-18 ‘Good news for all creation’ Our mission is to ‘go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.’

Reflections ----- Father Stan Holmes

Blessing the Mountain

Let us pray
Jesus Christ, our host, we join you on your mountain today.
Surround us with your light. Stir us with your voice. Heal us with your touch. Fill us with your love. Refresh us with your blessing and bless these mountains filled with your spirit. We pray that we may be agents of healing for the earth. Amen.

L Christ calls you to be his disciples, to come down the mountain and serve him by caring for creation, especially the mountains, where we celebrate God’s presence. Will you care for creation?

P **We will care for creation! We will rejoice in the mountains. We will celebrate God’s presence!**

L May the Spirit of God blowing from the mountains, fill you with the knowledge of God’s presence in Earth and the knowledge of Christ within you. May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the blessings of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with these mountains and with you, now and always, Amen.

Song: “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks To The Risen Lord”

L Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving Earth!
P **We go in peace, serving Christ and tending Earth.**