

## **SESSION 2: BLESSING SERVICE<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Welcome to each one who has come - we are glad you are here! Let's join our voices to bless the Lord.

**Song:** SJ 2 Come, walk with us

L: We are here for a service of blessing. Let's begin with blessing words from Hebrews 13:20-21.

Reader: Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. amen.

L: We are blessed to be together today, and as a visual way to remind us of the blessing of this group in our lives, we've brought these symbols.

### **Opening Prayer**

L: Let's pray together.  
God of hope;  
thank you for giving us life and breath today.  
Thank you for calling us to be your children  
and the many ways you bless us every day.

**ALL: We give you thanks, Lord of life.**

Side 1: Thank you for the church where we can worship you freely and without fear.

Thank you for giving us good news to share,  
good news for all people.

**ALL: We give you thanks, Lord of life.**

Side 2: Thank you for this group that has met for fellowship and retreat. Thank you for the gifts of each one, and the love and support we offer each other.

**ALL: We give you thanks, Lord of life.**

Side 1: Help us to join with your vision of communities where the least are welcomed, where those who feel lost or left behind can take their place at the table.

**ALL: We give you thanks, Lord of life.**

Side 2: Be with us today as we remind ourselves of all the blessings you shower upon us, your love flowing in and around and through us, each and every day.

**ALL: Lord of life, we worship and bless you today, and always.**

**Song:** HWB 76 Praise, I will praise you Lord

**Psalm 63** NRSV (light print) *The Message* (bold print)

Reader: O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

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<sup>1</sup> Carol Penner. *Every Day Worship* p86-90 adapted. Used in *Walking in Worship* retreat March 22-23, Shekinah

**ALL: God - you're my God! I can't get enough of you!  
I've worked up such a hunger and thirst for God,  
traveling across dry and weary deserts.**

Reader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

**ALL: So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open,  
drinking in your strength and glory.**

Reader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

**ALL: In your generous love I am really living at last!  
My lips brim praises like fountains.**

Reader: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up  
my hands and call on your name.

**All: I bless you every time I take a breath; My arms  
wave like banners of praise to you.**

### **Light of Blessing:**

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord  
make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to  
you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give  
you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

### *Words of instruction*

Blessing each other:     name of person on left     The  
Lord Bless you and shine upon you.

**Song:** SJ 77 The Peace of the earth be with you

Leader: Light of the world,

**ALL: thank you for your blessing, which shines in us  
every day and even in the darkest night. Help us to  
be a blessing to one another and to the world. Amen.**

Let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

Say, "Peace be with you."

And the other responds, "And also with you."