

A Liturgy to Celebrate the Gifts of Service to the Larger Church

Today we are gathered to celebrate the wonderful people who have volunteered their time, talent, and treasure to the larger church, through service to Flint River Presbytery, Synod of the South Atlantic, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Paul tells us that there are variety of gifts and varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good. There is no insignificant work that is done among us. It is appropriate on this day that we should recognize the work that is done by so many faithful and dedicated people, give thanks to Almighty God for the variety of ways our people serve. ***(It is appropriate to list the names of those in your congregation who serve and how they serve or have served)***

Suggested Scripture: Romans 12:9-13 or 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Leader: We acknowledge and express heartfelt appreciation for those who give of their time and talents for the betterment of our presbytery and the church universal.

People: **We celebrate their willingness to give and acknowledge sacrifices made to be an active part of our presbytery.**

Leader: We give thanks for those who have served on presbytery committees and commissions, for those who think deeply, thoughtfully, and creatively, working together toward a bright future that all of us may enjoy together.

People: **We are mutually blessed by your work and service.**

Leader: We give thanks for all who have served the Synod and General Assembly as commissioners or through other forms of service.

People: **Thanks be to God for those who seek to serve within the connectional church.**

Leader: We lift up the ones whose labor and effort are unseen and unsung, but who carry Christ's ministry into our community and world.

People: **Thank you God for the love that motivates, empowers, and equips your people to serve.**

Leader: We ask you, O Lord, to work through us. Keep us ready and watchful for new and surprising ways to serve You, our presbytery, our church family, and community,

People; **Keep our eyes open to the possibilities around us. Grant us the opportunity to be Your hands and feet. Allow us to shine our lights into a dark world, spreading Your hope, truth, and love in every corner. Amen.**

Benediction: As you go to live and serve, go with the sure knowledge and peace that the God who calls you will go before you, beside you and with you. May God bless and keep you this day and forevermore. Amen.