



# Liturgies of Celebration & Commissioning

A Resource for College & Young Adult Sunday and Beyond

*For more worship resources honoring college students and young adults, including full orders of worship with song suggestions and more, visit [pcusa.org/collegesunday](https://pcusa.org/collegesunday). The litanies included here were originally featured in the worship services listed there.*

## Responsive Litanies

**A.** By Rev. Jasmine Evans & Rev. L. British Hyrams | Included in *God Is with Us in Every Season*

One: When we find ourselves at the intersections of life, we remind ourselves...

**All: God, we know you are with us!**

One: As we move to new places and meet new faces, we say...

**All: God, we know you are with us!**

One: When we can't decide which way to turn, we say...

**All: God, we know you are with us!**

One: Even when we are sure of exactly where you are leading us, we say...

**All: God, we know you are with us!**

One: For new schools and new jobs, for new adventures and old friends, for going and growing, for learning and unlearning, for change and sameness, and for all that we will find in between, on this we can depend...

**All: God, we know you are with us!**

One: We give thanks to You, God, for being with us every step of the way. Let this refrain be a charge to you to walk boldly into your next season of life reassured by God's promises and saying...

**All: God, we know you are with us!**

**B.** By Rev. Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra | Included in *Belonging & Becoming*

One: For young adults of varied experiences, that they might receive encouragement on their journeys of faith, as they continue becoming the people God has called them to be, supporting each other and accepting support:

**All: O God, we pray.**

One: For campus ministries and spiritual communities for young adults, that they might be settling spaces, places of welcome, comfort, and rest, and also places to stretch, change, and grow:

**All: O God, we pray.**

One: For the leaders who guide these communities, discerning faithful ways to accompany young adults in the midst of an often overwhelming world, and learning from those they serve:

**All: O God, we pray.**

One: For college faculty and staff members, as well as those who supervise or mentor young adults during formative years:

**All: O God, we pray.**

One: For the siblings of faith who have nurtured each of us along our way, and the ways we might share that care with the ones who come after us:

**All: O God, we give you thanks.**

**D.** By Rev. Colin Pettigrew & Natarsha P. Sanders | Included in *Listening for Jesus' Instructions*

One: We are called by Jesus Christ to expand the Kin\*dom of God. We are drawn by Jesus Christ with love and compassion to live out the Good News, to love each other like Christ loves us, and to walk humbly with God.

**All: They will know we are Christians by our love for all of humankind. They will know we are Christians by our appreciation of all of creation. Our lives are a reflection of the goodness of God.**

*(For campus ministers)* One: May you be reminded this day that you are a servant of the Most High God. Called to serve those on college and university campuses across the nation. Do you accept this call?

**Campus Minister(s): Yes. I accept the call of God.**

*(For students)* One: May you be reminded this day that you are a servant of the Most High God. Called not only to the academic demands of your institution but also to the discipleship of Christ. Do you accept this call?

**Students: Yes. I accept the call of God.**

*(For families of students)* One: May you be reminded this day that you are a servant of the Most High God. Called to love and support your student in this new stage of life, and to trust God to guide you in this new season of your own. Do you accept this call?

**Families of Students: Yes. I accept the call of God.**

One: May we all be reminded today that we belong to the Lord.

**All: Lord, I belong to you.**

One: May we all be reminded today that we can depend on Jesus Christ.

**All: Christ, I depend on you.**

One: May we yield ourselves to the work and way of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Holy Spirit, I yield to you.**

*(To those commissioned)* One: You are a member of a community of believers. You are never alone. You are held in the daily grace of a fierce savior and in our love and prayers..

*(To all gathered)* One: You can lean on one another. You are a living demonstration that the Holy Spirit leads us. Follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As challenges arise, remember that you are called to this. As joys arise, remember that you are called to this. As weariness arises, remember that nothing shall separate any of us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

### **E. Commissioning of a Campus Minister** by Rev. Colin Pettigrew & Natarsha P. Sanders | Included in *Listening for Jesus' Instructions*

One: Acknowledging Jesus Christ of Nazareth as your Savior, will you serve the people with love and compassion, energy and humility?

*Campus Minister: Yes, I will.*

One: Acknowledging the responsibility of this service, will you rely on the mercy of God and work toward justice?

*Campus Minister: Yes, I will.*

One: Acknowledging a community you can trust, will you seek help when necessary? You are not expected to do this work alone.

*Campus Minister: I will ask for help when needed.*

**Congregation (to the Campus Minister): As members of the body of Christ, we confirm God's call of [Name(s)] to campus ministry. We pledge support of prayer and resources in the months ahead. We pledge before God and each other to pray for your ministry, our college and university students, and all young adults who are called to the workforce and other endeavors. Our love and God's journeys with you all.**

## Other Blessings

### **F.** Based on a prayer written for the Class of 2023 by Rev. Michelle Thomas Bush<sup>1</sup> | Included in *Listening for Jesus' Instructions*.

Blessed are you, on the brink of something new: new opportunities, new friendships, new classes, new journeys. Blessed are you, dear one, so full of hope — you whose horizon extends far beyond what your eyes can see. May your celebration be sweet and delicious and have as much laughter as tears. This new thing is worth rejoicing. May the joy that buoys you today carry you through the difficult spots to come.

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<sup>1</sup> Originally adapted from "A Blessing for Hellos and Goodbyes" by Kate Bowler ([katebowler.com/resources](https://katebowler.com/resources)).

And blessed are you, closing the door on something: maybe just something, maybe something you loved, something that challenged you, something that will be significant in your life for years to come — a school, a team, friendships, connections, spaces that feel like home. You sit on the edge of something new. There is great joy, but there may be some grief too.

May you, dear ones, find comfort from places and people you don't anticipate—those who remind you that you are not alone. You may be saying goodbye to something or someone dear, but something new is being born. I cannot promise it will replace what was there...and I will not tell you that it will not be hard...and it may not even feel better... but I do believe that you can and will find beauty, meaning, and truth right where you stand.

In our transitions, in our hellos and goodbyes — the love of God will always surround you, the peace of Christ will be with you, and the Holy Spirit will comfort you in community always.

### **G. UKirk Beatitudes** by Rev. Rachel Penmore & Rev. Allison Wehrung | Included in *Belonging & Becoming*

Blessed are the college students  
in brick buildings and behind computer screens,  
those with a trust fund and those on financial aid,  
those in their first year, those finishing a fifth, and all the spaces in-between,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the sports superfans and those who don't know the difference between a  
football and a baseball,  
for they will both find a place here.

Blessed are the procrastinators and the planners,  
for God willing the work will get done.

Blessed are the loud and boisterous and the calm and contemplative,  
for they will all be heard.

Blessed are those who feel pressure to define a major before they're ready, and those  
who see their calling clearly,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who are overworked, overscheduled, and overwhelmed,  
for they will find rest.

Blessed are those who feel lonely and isolated,  
for they will be comforted by the living body of Christ.

Blessed are the survivors,  
for their stories will be heard and believed.

Blessed are those who find affirmation in the Church and those who have been harmed  
by it, for they will find peace.  
Blessed are those whose truest identity is unwelcome in their family of origin,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those living with mental illness or instability,  
for they will see God, and a plan for moving forward.

Blessed are those in the age of imposter syndrome, feeling crushed by filters, feedback,  
and followers,  
for they are created in the image of God.

Blessed are those who invite one another into this family of faith  
and those who are brave enough to show up.

Blessed are the hopeful,  
the hopeless,  
the forgotten,  
the found,  
the closeted, the open,  
the meek,  
the proud,  
the courageous, and the coping.

Blessed are those working to make the world a better place,  
and those who aren't sure where to start.

Blessed are you in all times, in all places, exactly as you are,  
for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

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