

WALK TO EMMAUS – SPONSOR’S HOUR

If you are sponsoring a candidate and will be hanging a cross for them, please take a cross from the table as you enter the chapel, and hold it throughout this service until you are called forward in the Act of Sponsorship.

WELCOME: Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of an Emmaus weekend – a sponsor is “one who assumes a certain degree of responsibility for another in any of various ways.” You have carried out that responsibility. We gather now to celebrate the act of faith and trust that you have responded to as sponsors and to entrust your candidates to this Walk with our Lord.

SCRIPTURE: “A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’” Luke 5:17-20

LITANY OF SPONSORSHIP:

Leader: As sponsors, you have carried someone to this encounter with Christ; this Walk to Emmaus weekend. They are probably not paralyzed physically but all of us can be paralyzed in other ways; emotionally, spiritually, relationally. And all of us can grow from a renewal experience without Lord.

Sponsors: We acknowledge our trust of the leading of the Holy Spirit who guided us to this candidate and who worked in them to bring us both here tonight.

Leader: Getting your candidate to this weekend may have seemed easy or very difficult. You may have had to fight your way through the crowds and broken through barriers to place your candidate before Christ.

Sponsor: And now we acknowledge our trust in the process of the Emmaus weekend, the unfolding of the experience, the disclosure and discovery that will take place in God’s perfect timing.

Leader: Just as the friends who brought the paralytic to Jesus, most of you are leaving your candidates for them to experience this weekend without you. You will pray for them and support them and their families in many ways and your love and care for them will remain constant.

Sponsor: We acknowledge our trust in the other members of this community who will minister and serve as the team and in the larger community who will provide countless acts of agape and their visible presence as the Living Body of Christ.

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Leader: Christ offers the paralytic forgiveness and healing. When any of us encounters Christ, we stand in need of healing and forgiveness.

Sponsors: We acknowledge our ultimate trust in God and the Holy Spirit to provide through this encounter – healing and challenge and growth. We pray that they, like us will hear Jesus command: “get up, take your mat and go home.”

ACT OF SPONSORSHIP – Sponsorship is an act of trust – we are entrusting someone we care deeply about to this encounter with Christ. As your candidates name is read, please come forward, place the cross you have been holding on the larger cross and as you do so, send them off with this invocation:

“I entrust _____ to this encounter with Christ.”

UNISON PRAY FOR THE CANDIDATES: Gracious God, we place our candidates before you. We entrust them to this encounter, this journey in faith. Calm their minds and hearts on this night and open their eyes and ears that as they listen, pray, celebrate communion, sleep, and eat, the Holy Spirit will become so present to them that they will have their hearts strangely warmed. All these things we ask in the name of Your precious Son. Amen.

UPLIFTING THE TEAM: Leader: We lift up those of our community who have responded to God’s call to serve on this Emmaus Team. The names of all team members and their roles on the team are read.

UNISON PRAYER FOR THE TEAM: Lord, for these team members we pray that they surrender themselves and let You lead the way this weekend. We pray that their words, thoughts, and actions are what You direct. And we pray that as this team reaches out and touches the candidates on this Walk, the result will be growth in grace and knowledge of You, and closer walks with You every day. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SONG: “Amazing Grace”

BENEDICTION: And now with the faithfulness of God’s children, hear the work of the Psalmist: “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait for him.” Psalm 37:3-7

In the spirit of self surrender and charity, let us depart in silence.

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AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed

Through many dangers toils and snares, I have already come

“Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun

John Newton

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