



## FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEPTEMBER

# *Faithfulness ~ fidélité*

The school year begins with a renewed commitment toward education. Faithfulness is the fruit of the spirit that is enjoyed in this commitment: we are faithful in our dedication to academic efforts and in loyalty within all of our personal relationships.

*“For great is Your love, higher than the heavens;  
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.”*

PSALM 108.4



### THEORY OF ACTION

*“If we are committed to our mission in Catholic Education,  
then our students will be faithful in their commitment to Christ centred Learning.”*



Peterborough Victoria  
Northumberland and Clarington  
Catholic District School Board

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# Daily Prayers

1

Father,  
I thank you for the gift of my family  
for whom I now pray  
and upon whom I now ask you  
to shower your blessings.  
With **St. Joseph** as my guide,  
may I always be ready  
to help and support them. Amen.

2

O dear Jesus,  
I ask You to grant Your special graces to my family.  
May my home be a shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith.  
I ask You, dear Jesus, to protect and bless all of us, absent and present, living  
and dead. Amen.

3

Loving God,  
Help me to grow in my faithfulness, to my family, to my friends and especially to  
You. I ask this prayer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

4

O God, bountiful in forgiving,  
we humbly beseech your mercy on behalf of our friends,  
relations and benefactors,  
who have passed from this world, that,  
through the **intercession** of Blessed **Mary** ever Virgin  
and all the Saints,  
You would permit them to come  
to the full participation of everlasting happiness.  
Through the same **Jesus Christ** our Lord. Amen.

5

Lord Jesus, you have said that your followers must be the light to the world. Light  
propagates itself, dispels darkness and is life-giving. Help me, Lord, to be a light  
to this world, so that my **life** radiate your message of love, hope, and joy. May I be  
the beacon leading to You those who seek truth. Amen.

6

Dear Lord,  
You said that your disciples must be the salt to this earth. Salt gives taste to food.  
It is a healing agent. Lord, may I be the salt that takes away the blandness in the  
routine of living, that prevents hatred and greed from expanding around me that  
brings compassionate healing to anguished souls I encounter. Lord, help me to be  
"worth my salt." And infuse your "saltiness" in me, so that I do not become "flat"  
and useless. Amen.

7

Dear Jesus,

"Be the leaven to the world," You said to your friends. Bread, a staple of life, always present at celebrations, would be dull and lifeless without the tiny bit of yeast. Without it, the dough remains inert and flat. May I be a bit of leaven in the Bread of Life, and a sign of Your celebration for everyone I meet. Amen.

8

### **Did You Know?**

Today is the Blessed Virgin Mother Mary's Birthday. As a young girl in Nazareth, she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The Angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she will have a Son and to name him Jesus. By the example of Mary, Mother of God, we learn how to follow Jesus. She is the first and greatest disciple, because she believed and trusted in God's promise to her. Today, let us say thank you to Mary for being our spiritual Mother and a guiding light of faith. Amen.

### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace.  
Our Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### **Je Vous Salue Marie**

Je vous salue Marie  
pleine de Grâce  
le Seigneur est avec vous.  
Vous êtes bénie entre toutes les femmes  
Et Jésus, le fruit de vos entrailles, est béni.  
Sainte Marie, Mère de Dieu,  
priez pour nous pauvres pécheurs,  
maintenant et à l'heure de notre mort.  
Amen.

9

Dear Lord Jesus,

As we grow and learn this year together, help us to remain faithful to ourselves, and to Your teachings. Help us to become like You. We ask this prayer in Your name. Amen.

10

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings, all that this day may bring, be they **good** or bad: for the love of God, for the **conversion** of sinners, and in **reparation** for all the sins committed against the Sacred Heart of **Jesus** and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.

11

Dear Lord,

We live in a beautiful country filled with Your creations. Remind us that we are keepers of Your gifts, and that we need to respect the land we live in. Help our nation's leaders to make good decisions and guide them in being honest people of God. Let faith be the foundation of a loyal and trustworthy relationship with the people of this country. Keep us safe as we live as one in harmony. Amen.

12

Heavenly Father,

When we are hurt, frightened, and powerless or frustrated, we sometimes give up and surrender. Grant us the freedom of Your presence and teach us to overcome defeat. Let us remember that it is okay to cry and to ask for help. Strong faith will guide us in the direction of support. Give us the power of grace to mend our injuries and to stand strong against the things that harm us. Amen.

13

Almighty God,

Our bus drivers are protectors and care givers. They work hard in making sure that we get to and from school safely. Please give them eyes to watch the paths we take, strong hands to steer us towards our destination and ears to listen to our needs. Please help us to remember to be good passengers, and to follow the rules of the bus. Just like a faith community, we need to work together to ensure the health and safety of each other as we travel. Amen.

14

#### **Did You Know?**

Today is the feast day of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross is the symbol of the way that Jesus defeated sin, hatred and death. Making the sign of the Cross shows our willingness to follow Jesus and our joy at being part of His family. The Cross is not only a sign of sorrow, but also a sign of God's love for us.

#### **Prayer of the Holy Cross**

Assist us, O Lord our God; and defend us evermore by the might of the Holy Cross, in whose honour You make us to rejoice, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

15

Dear Lord,

We all make mistakes, and it is through faith that we are forgiven. Help us to be forgiving of others, and remind us to apologize to those friends that we have hurt. Give us the courage to admit when we are wrong and the strength to overcome our pride. Inspire us to mend broken relationships with our peers, and help us to become peacemakers and live in God's image. We need to choose positive words and gentle actions instead of putdowns and rough play. O Teacher of forgiveness, guide us to peace and love with all. Amen.

16

Faithful Lord,

Thank you for teachers who help us see the world, dream about the future, and reach for the stars. They have a great responsibility to help us be the best we can be. Let us help our teachers by working hard in everything we attempt today. Protect our teachers and help them to be examples of God's love and faith. Amen.

17

Heavenly Father,

We discover new things each day. We come across new words, we learn new ideas, and we are challenged to make better choices. We visit new places and meet people for the first time. May we look at life as a great opportunity to learn and to grow. May we be open to discover new things today and always. May we accept the challenge of using this new knowledge for the good of all. Amen.

18

Holy Lord,

Thank you for our teachers of the Church especially for Father \_\_\_\_\_. He helps us understand Your word, tells us stories about our friend Jesus, and encourages us to practice our faith by going to church, praying, and making good choices. We hope that we can continue this faith filled relationship. O Heavenly Father, please guide our spiritual leaders with Your holy love, and grant them the strength to continue living in Your grace. Amen.

19

Almighty Father,

Noah built an ark to save his family and creatures of the earth from the flood. After many days of uncertainty, a dove returned with an olive branch symbolizing new life and abundance. A rainbow filled the sky to show Your promise to keep the world safe. Noah was a man of strength and courage. During his long trip Noah continued to have faith and complete trust in You and Your everlasting covenant. Like Noah, we look to You for Your guidance during times of frustration and doubt. We will continue to do our best to commit our lives in keeping promises and doing well. Amen.

20

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the crunch of leaves, buds on trees, mud puddles and sandy beaches. Thank you for the moon and stars, rays of sunshine, snowflakes, raindrops, and cool breezes. The changing of these seasons shows that You are with us each day. We watch nature change colour, grow, fade, and be reborn. Thank you for sharing Your beauty with us and for showing us that You are just a cloud away when we need to talk, think or sit and listen. Amen.

21

O Lord, my God, You renew the Church in every age by raising up priests outstanding in holiness, living witnesses of Your unchanging Love. In Your Plan for our **salvation** You provide shepherds for Your people.

Fill the hearts of young men with the **spirit** of courage and love that they may answer Your call generously. Give **parents** the **grace** to encourage **vocations** in their **family** by **prayer** and **good** example.

Raise up worthy priests for Your Altars and ardent, but gentle servants of the Gospel. Give the Church more priests and keep them faithful in their love and service. May many young men choose to serve You by devoting themselves to the service of Your people. Amen.

22

Holy God,

We are all different. People come in different shapes, sizes, colours, genders and ethnicities. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, talents and faults. Please help us to remember that we are created in the likeness and image of God. Allow us to grow and learn to accept these differences. Teach us to love all and to embrace imperfection. Help us to accept ourselves, and realize that we are good people and that we have the power to become even better. Amen.

23

Heavenly Father,

The goal of faithfulness is that You will do Your work through us. We pray that our hearts will be open to the Holy Spirit to allow each of us to understand what You have called us to do. Amen.

24

Loving Father,

Thank you for giving us our friend Jesus. His belief in You and steadfast love show us the importance of faith and commitment. Guide us to live like Jesus. Remind us to be loyal to our friends, and to not turn our backs on them when they ask for help. Let us think like Jesus, be kind to each other, share and welcome those who are new to our circle of friends. Amen.

25

Dear God,

**Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

26

Dear Lord,

Music is a large part of our lives. We listen to music in our cars, on the bus, at school and at home, both with our friends and when we are alone. Music is a gift from God, but it can be used in positive or negative ways. Let us remember that we must choose our music responsibly. Guide us to choose music that teaches us to love, not hate, and to celebrate, not despair. May we listen to music that inspires us to live in God's image and to make good choices. Amen.

27

Dear God,

Today we remember St. Vincent de Paul. Noble Saint Vincent de Paul, beloved servant of the poor, may we follow your example and do good works among those whom society has abandoned, enslaved, or forgotten. Inspire us to feed the hungry, to love a child, to provide comfort and medicine to the sick, to clothe those whose garments are threadbare, and to offer hope and our Lord's words to all who need respite. Pray for us to our beloved God that we may commit ourselves selflessly to doing the same charitable acts that you did all your life, and intercede with him that we may have the favor of his guidance and strength and love upon this important and meaningful work. Amen.

28

Dear Lord,

You have given us such beauty. The mountains, the oceans, the sky, the trees, the animals, and the sun and moon are all a reflection of your hard work and commitment. Please help us to work hard in keeping this environment safe and clean. Remembering to reuse and recycle, turning off lights, shutting down unused energy sources and composting, are small gestures in helping to keep Your gift healthy. Allow us to unite as a school community to continue in doing our part, and show our care for your creations. Amen.

29

### **Did You Know?**

Today is the Feast Day of the Archangels. Archangels are pure created spirits who deliver important messages from God. They are shepherds that lead us in Faith, and help spread God's message of love and salvation. St. Michael, the Archangel is the protector of the Christian Church, and patron saint of police officers. He is usually called upon in times of danger. The name Michael signifies 'Who is like God'. He is one of God's chief princes and leader of the forces of heaven in their triumphs over the battle against evil. St. Gabriel, the Archangel is the patron saint of communication workers. The name Gabriel means "Man of God" or "God has shown himself mighty". Gabriel was the chosen archangel to deliver the important news of a child to the Virgin Mary. She was to bear the Son of God, and to name Him Jesus. St. Raphael, the Archangel is the patron saint of the blind and traveller's. The name Raphael means "God is my health". In the bible Raphael was sent by God to help drive out evil spirits, and heal the blind.

### **Prayer to the Archangels**

Heavenly Father,

You have given us archangels to assist us during our pilgrimage on earth. Saint Michael is our protector. We ask him to come to our aid, fight for all our loved ones, and protect us from danger. Saint Gabriel is a messenger for the Good News. We ask him to help us clearly hear Your voice, and to teach us the truth. Saint Raphael is the healing angel. We ask him to take our need for healing and that of everyone we know, lift it up to Your throne of grace and deliver back to us the gift of recovery. Help us O Lord to realize more fully the reality of the archangels and their desire to serve us. Holy Angels pray for us. Amen.

30

Heavenly Father,

Help us to live respectable lives. Teach us to be good people, and to live honestly. Allow us to be open minded, to love, to encourage, and to embrace. Show us how to heal, to comfort, to understand, and to forgive. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and guide us through grace to a life of meaning and pure joy. In God's image we live. Amen.

# Prayer Service / Non Eucharistic Liturgy



## Faithfulness:

*“The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through Baptism, have been constituted as the people of God; for this reason, since they have become sharers in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal office in their own manner, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each one.” (CCC 871)*



## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord

We gather today to celebrate Faith. Help us to build a strong commitment to You O God. Allow us to celebrate our faith in You together as a Catholic community. Even though we can't see You, we know that You are with us in many shapes, sizes and forms. Give us the opportunity today to share ways in which we live and practice our faith, and help us to grow and find new ways in which we can explore this everlasting relationship. Teach us to be trustworthy, guide us to live in Your image and show us how to be devoted disciples. Amen.



## Old Testament Reading Genesis 9.1-12

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life. Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that person's blood be shed; for in his own image God made humankind. And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it.” Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations.”

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*



## **Responsorial Psalm** **Psalm 27**

The response to the psalm is *“God’s faithfulness is forever unfailing.”*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid? *R*

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
Though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident. *R*

One thing I ask of the Lord, that will I seek after:  
To love in the house of the Lord all the days of my Life,  
To behold the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire in His temple. *R*

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.  
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
For false witnesses have risen against me,  
And they are breathing out violence. *R*

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord,  
in the land of the living, Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord. *R*



## **Second Reading (Optional)** **1 Corinthians 10.1-13**

I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to dance.” We must not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.



## **Gospel Reading** **Matthew 6.25-34**

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.”



## **Universal Prayer**

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For Church leaders, that they may be faithful to their vocation. *R*

For School Leaders that they may continue to guide us in Faithfulness. *R*

For those who show devotion and commitment and live by faith through God, we pray. *R*

For the members of (name school) who are suffering with an illness, we pray. *R*

For the women, men and children who suffer the effects of war, violence and the lack of justice in our world, we pray. *R*

For the people in our communities who are hungry and those who are living on the street, may they never give up hope and have complete trust and faithfulness in God’s plans, we pray. *R*

For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they find faith and be strengthened by God’s help and aided by their friends, we pray. *R*



## Optional Activity

**Footprints:** Students can bring up footprints to symbolize that we walk by faith, and that God is always with us, even though we can't see Him in His physical form.



## Closing Prayer

### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## **La Foi de Nicene**

Je crois en un Dieu,  
à toute-puissant de Père,  
générateur de ciel et de terre,  
et de toutes les choses visibles et invisibles;

Et dans un seigneur Jésus le Christ,  
le seul engendré le Fils de Dieu,  
begotten de son père avant tous les mondes,  
Dieu de Dieu, lumière de lumière,  
très Dieu très de Dieu,  
engendré, non fait,  
étant d'une substance avec le Père;  
par qui toutes les choses ont été faites;  
qui pour nous hommes et pour notre salut  
est descendu du ciel,  
et était incarné par l'ordinateur de secours saint  
de la Vierge Marie,  
et a été fait à homme;  
et a été crucifié également pour nous sous Pontius Pilate;  
il a souffert et a été enterré;  
et le troisième jour il s'est levé encore  
selon les Écritures,  
et monté dans le ciel,  
et s'assit sur la main droite du père;  
et il viendra encore, avec la gloire,  
pour juger les vivants et les morts;  
à qui royaume n'aura aucune extrémité.

Et je crois en l'ordinateur de secours saint le seigneur, et le donateur de la vie,  
qui procède du père et du fils;  
qui avec le père et le fils ensemble  
est adoré et adoré;  
qui a parlé par les prophètes.

Et je crois une église catholique et apostolique sainte;  
Je reconnais un baptême pour la remise des péchés;  
et je recherche la résurrection des morts,  
et la vie du monde à venir.

Amen.

# Catechism of the Catholic Church Reference – Faithfulness



## CCC #871

"The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through Baptism, have been constituted as the people of God; for this reason, since they have become sharers in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal office in their own manner, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each one."

## Scriptural References to Faithfulness



### 1 John 1.9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



### Ephesians 2.8

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."



### Proverbs 3.5

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."



### 1 Samuel 12.24

"Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you."



### Proverbs 3.3

"Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart."



### John 3.16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

## Quotes on Faithfulness



“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth- in a word, to know himself- so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.”

~ Pope John Paul II, Fides Et Ratio: On the Relationship Between Faith and Reason: Encyclical Letter of John Paul II



“We are called upon not to be successful, but to be faithful.”

~ Mother Teresa



“By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into unity within ourselves, whereas we had been scattered abroad in multiplicity.”

~ St. Augustine



“You can trust us to stick to you through thick and thin – to the bitter end. And you can trust us to keep any secret of yours – closer than you yourself keep it. But you cannot trust us to let you face trouble alone, and go off without a word. We are your friends, Frodo. Anyway: there it is. We know most of what Gandalf has told you. We know a good deal about the ring. We are horribly afraid—but we are coming with you; or following you like hounds.”

~ J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

# Prayer Table Ideas



## Catholic Symbols:

- o Green Cloth
- o Bible
- o Light
- o Crucifix
- o Rosary



**7 Grandfather Teachings:** *Minaadendamowin* – RESPECT: To honour all creation is to have respect. All of creation should be treated with respect. You must give respect if you wish to be respected. The Buffalo is a symbol of creation and faithfulness. It is a reminder to treat all of creation with respect.



## Symbols:

- o **Noah's Ark** – A bible story reference of faith.
- o **Rainbow** – To symbolize God's promise, and a reminder to have faith and trust in Him.
- o **Dove** – Traditional symbol of faith and the Holy Spirit.
- o **Family Portrait** – Family feeds faith! We can all be models of faithfulness, by supporting one's faith journey. A strong faith foundation can begin in the home.
- o **Paper Doll Chain** – To symbolize that we are all connected and linked through our faith journeys.
- o **Apostles' Creed** – Proclamation of faith prayer.
- o **Books** – Any book that discusses or presents the topic of 'Faithfulness'.
- o **Image of a Church** – To symbolize a place of worship that exemplifies the gift of faith.
- o **Image of Saints or Apostles** – Universal models of faithfulness.
- o **Statue of Jesus** – "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord".
- o **Mirror** – To symbolize that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Faithfulness is a characteristic of God's nature.
- o **Picture Frame** – An empty frame waiting to be filled with a class photo. Symbolizes new beginnings, new commitments, a faithful community uniting as one.