Call to Awareness

Leader: God is our strength and our song
People: God has become our salvation
Leader: Where shall we look when doubt assails us?
People: To the one whose freedom yields the truths of our lives.
Leader: What shall we say to those who think our faith is foolish?
People: God’s steadfast love endures forever; God’s freedom is beyond measure.

Prayer of Invocation

For the gifts you bestow, Holy One, we gather in thanksgiving.
We open our hearts to your enduring justice.
We open our minds to your breathtaking liberty.
Whenever we falter, steady us,
whenever we fail, lift us:
for we seek to more fully embody your reign of peace
and to make our world more just and loving.
In Jesus’ name we strive
and in his grace we thrive. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

As a community of believers, Holy One, we open ourselves to your restorative presence.
We are surrounded by beauty, yet we often fail to wonder.
We are symbols of hope, yet we often succumb to despair.
We are blessed beyond measure, yet we often allow greed to shape our generosity.
We are uncommonly free, yet we often bind ourselves to yesterday’s failures.
We are gifted and graced as a people of faith, yet we often fail to let our light shine.
We are loved beyond measure, yet we often fail to pass on your love unconditionally.

In these moments of shared silence, encourage us to lay down our burdens, release our fears, forgive our failures, reclaim our hopes, and align ourselves with your deep wisdom.

Sustained silence for personal reflection
Assurance of Grace

We are the light of the world, by the power of God’s grace.
Our freedom is a gift: receive it fully;
Our purpose is justice: do it rightly;
Our hope is peace: pursue it faithfully;
Our calling is life: live it well.
God is faithful in all things and so it is.

Common Prayer

Our Father-Mother,
who lives in and beyond all of creation,
may your name be made holy.
May your commonwealth thrive,
may your justice be done,
may your loving compassion reign in every season.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors;
in every trial strengthen us, in the midst of evil deliver us.
For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

We are one with God and one another.
Blessed with abundance and without want,
let us give from the fullness of our hearts and the strength of our hope.
In Jesus’ name may our generosity overflow through this offering.

Prayer of Commitment

For gifts given and received, O God, we offer thanks and praise.
May we share our abundance with all who have need;
may we share our hope in like measure. Amen

Commissioning and Benediction

Having rested in God’s embrace,
go out and comfort the restless.
Having been comforted by God’s grace,
out to embrace the weary.
Having been renewed by the Gospel,
go out and be Good News to the world.

We are one and we are many;
for we are sustained by the love of God,
the grace of Jesus, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
**God’s Freedom is Beyond Measure** was written by the Reverend Dr. June C. Goudey, pastor, United Church of Christ in Simi Valley, CA.

The United Church of Christ in Simi Valley, CA is a progressive, inclusive, and prophetic congregation that welcomes people without regard to doctrinal beliefs, race, nationality, ability, economic status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender orientation. In July 2007, the congregation voted to become a sanctuary congregation in the New Sanctuary Movement. Since August 2007, despite weekly Sunday morning protests, the church and its allied supporters have provided 24/7 coverage in a former parsonage to Liliana Sanctuario and her family. Along with her legalized husband she has three children, ages 1, 5, and 8. Liliana and her husband own their own home in a nearby city and he works two jobs to support his family and pay their mortgage. For more information, go to www.uccsimi.org or www.newsanctuariymovement.org