

Liturgy of Awakening

The idea for the service was taken from: <http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/liturgies/awaken.htm>

Adaptation to our needs was done by Lenora Furey

Setting the mood:

Start in very subdued lighting – enough to allow people to get to their places.

When the Liturgy begins, the lights fade completely.

Silence – just long enough to begin to feel uncomfortable?

Sounds of wind and waves gradually emerge into the silence ... Readers should be sensitive to the mood – drawing people into the story and into reflection...

You will require the following readers:

Reader 1	Reader 2	Reader 3
First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading
Gospel	Reflection	Leader

You can have the same person do more than one part, but try to have Readers 1, 2, and 3 as different voices.

Music:

If you cannot find music of wind and waves, try to get music with just nature sounds to play at the start. Do **not** start with a song – it should be started in silence with these “nature” sounds coming into play as the readers begin.

I have suggested that you end the service with either “Companions on the Journey” or “We are sisters on the Journey”. You have already been given the music for “Companions on the Journey” and the notes for “We are sisters on the journey” is included with the service. The “sisters” song is simply a chant that is quite easy to sing – just get someone that knows how to read the music to do it with you. If you have a choir in your church, ask them to sing it with you. It is a really nice (and appropriate) song.

Opening/ Penitential Responses

- Reader 1: In the beginning ...
In the beginning the earth was a formless void...
Darkness covered the face of the deep
And the Divine Breath of God moved over the waters...
- Reader 1: When God had created the earth,
A stream would rise from the earth
and water the whole face of the ground...
Then God created the human from the dust of the earth
and breathed life into its nostrils
and so it became a living being
- Reader 2: God creates a human life when He breathes His Divine breath into a
creature made of the earth...
And the human asks, "Who am I?"
And I ask ... Who am I?
- Reader 1: The man and the woman ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree –
and they became ashamed.
They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden –
and they hid themselves from Him.
And the Lord God called out to them – Where are you?
- Reader 2: I eat the fruit of the Tree of knowledge of right and wrong –
And I become ashamed.
And the Lord God calls out to me – Where are you?
And I ask – Where am I?
- Reader 1: The people left the garden –
and entered the wasteland –
God sought them –
and found them when they were most lost –
and called to them – Come back to Me ...
- Reader 2: I am lost – and need to be found.
And the Lord God calls to me –
Come back to Me...
- Reader 1: But the People of God were stubborn of heart.
They challenged God
They defied God
They ignored God
They forgot God
But God did not forget His people –
and in the fullness of time...
- Reader 2: The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us –
But the world, though it had its being through Him, did not know Him.

(Turn a spotlight on the cross)

Reader 3: In the spring-time of last year, we gathered on the threshold of Holy Week and received palm...
We saw and heard the story of how far God was prepared to go in love for us...
We witnessed again the events of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem –
The Last Supper –
His Passion –
His death –
His resurrection –
We beheld His pain and His glory –
We knew the depths of love that inspired God's sacrifice of his own Son –
And yet we have lived as if we did not...

First Reading: Joel 2: 12-18
Psalm 50
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 20 - 6: 2
Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Reflection: U Turns

League Prayer: (All say together)

We humbly pray you, O God our Father, to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Bless our beloved country, our homes and families. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to give light to our minds and strength to our wills that we may know and fulfill your great law of charity. Teach us to share with others at home and abroad, the good things you have given us. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessions of our patroness, our Lady of Good Counsel.
Amen.

Dismissal Rite

Reader 1: We are going on a Journey –
a Pilgrimage –
but to where...

All: A Journey – to God
A Journey – to freedom
A Journey – to heaven
A Pilgrimage of Faith.

Reader 2: And where do we start?

All: We go back to our beginnings –
To remember what we were when God created us –
creatures of the earth.
And to remember what we become because God loves us.

Reader 1: To remember that you are dust? – and unto dust you shall return?

All: But to remember also the Good News
that God has opened the way back to heaven for us –
if we choose to follow it.

Closing Song: Companions on the Journey
or
We are Sisters on a Journey

U Turns

When life's journey is full of excitement and friendship, all roads seem to lead to joy.
Whatever we try works. Every decision produces great consequences.
But journeys can also move across bumpy roads and through bad weather.

This doesn't mean the journey's over.

It just means we might be making some adjustments in what we're doing and where we're going.

Our lives are a combination of things we can't do anything about, along with things we can.
That's why God gives us the power to choose.
And on our life's routing, we will pass through many good and bad emotional weather conditions.

As life-travellers, we are never out of options
We can stop and wait right where we are.
Or we can turn back to something more familiar.
Or we can move on to the next thing.

Lord, it's been the U-Turns I've been doing lately that are keeping my life on the right track.
I've decided that my friends mean more to me than any new, risky adventure.
I'm just taking some time to reconnect with the friends I've found from past adventures.

A few of those best friends have told me recently that they've also made a few U-Turns in their lives too.

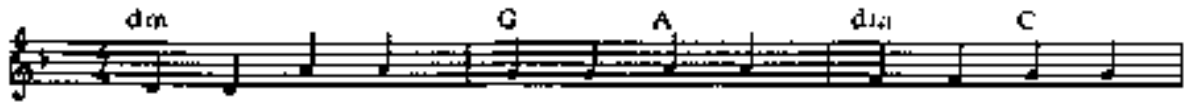
It's so awesome to realize that we don't have to go very far to find what we are looking for.

And, Lord, wherever I've turned, you have been here with me.

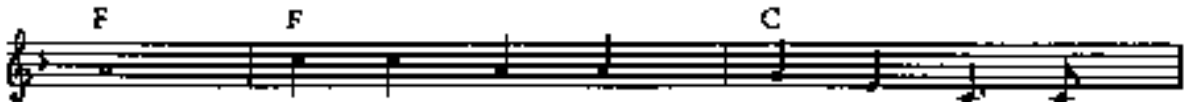
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We Are Sisters On A Journey

Marlena Fontenary, 1981



We are sis- ters on a jour- ney, sin- ging now as



one. Shi- ning through the dar- kest night the



heal- ing has be- gun, be- gun, the heal- ing has be- gun.

Verses:

We are sisters on a journey,
singing in the sun,
remembering the ancient ones,
the women and the wisdom,
the women and the wisdom.

We are sisters on a journey
standing at the door,
remembering what passed long ago.
Let's turn the key once more.
Let's turn the key once more.

We are sisters on a journey
watching life unfold,
sharing warmth of heart and hands,
the knowledge of the old,
the knowledge of the old.