



The Order for Worship

Prelude

Mission Moment Show a 2-3 minute PSA educational announcements found at <https://www.recoverymonth.gov/promote/public-service-announcements>

Greeting Explanation of National Drug and Alcohol Addiction Recovery Month from toolkit found at www.recoverymonth.gov and United Methodist positions found in Social Principle Paragraph 162 L and United Methodist Resolution 3042.

*Unison Call to Worship

God of infinite love and understanding, we come today reminded of our human frailty which causes us to stumble over the obstacles and difficulties of life. We reflect today upon the people in our midst and in the world suffering pain, disappointment, and cruelty, and in their effort to dispel it, have numbed their pain with addiction. We know that you hold each of us dear to your heart. You grieve even when we suffer and you tenderly draw the suffering addict to your love. Only You can provide the unconditional assurance to the addict that they are not alone, and give them courage and faith for all that is to come. Strengthen those who care for and treat them and guide those who search for solutions to treatment. For we pray this in the name of the One who sets us free from slavery to the past and makes all things new, Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn *"There Is A Balm in Gilead"* #375 (UMH)

Telling the Story *Searching for Faith, The Journey*

*Ask a person in recovery to share a 5-7 minute story of their journey.
Ask a liturgist to share one of the stories of recovery on www.recoverymonth.gov.*

A Reading *The Unpsalm 23*

The Unpsalm 23 by Lynn Anderson, Heartlight Magazine, May 23, 2001 at http://www.heartlight.org/articles/200105/20010523_un-psalm.html

Prayers for the Addicted *(Please be in silent prayer and lift up to God the persons in your life who are suffering from addiction or are in recovery. Lift up the entire world's community of addicted persons and those in recovery.)*

Scripture Psalm 23

Telling the Story *Finding Faith, Finding Myself*

Ask a family member or friend of someone who is or had an addiction to share a 5-7 minute story of their experience. Another option: Have a liturgist read a story from the National Association of Children of Alcoholics website www.nacoa.org.

Prayers for those who Care for or Assist the Addicted (*Please be in silent prayer and lift up to God the persons in your life who have assisted with people who suffer from addiction or are in recovery. Lift up the families, caregivers, researchers, advocates and counselors of the addicted and recovering.*)

Scripture

Romans 8:31-39

Telling the Story Recovery Through Faith; Hope, Help and Healing

A special preacher may offer words of hope, help and healing tying in stories shared above. Utilize United Methodist positions found in Social Principle Paragraph 162 L and United Methodist Resolution 3042. (UMC 2016 Book of Discipline or Book of Resolutions)

Prayer of Intercession and Healing

God of mercy, we bless you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who ministered to all who came to Him. Give your strength to our Brothers and Sisters, your children, who are bound by the chains of addiction. Enfold them in your love and restore to each of them the freedom, healing and peace that only You can provide. Look with compassion on all those who have lost their health and freedom. Strengthen them in the work of recovery and help them to find treatment to resist the bodily craving and emotional temptation of addiction. To those who care, work or advocate for them, grant patient understanding, wisdom and a love that perseveres.

***Hymn**

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

#560 (UMH)

Benediction

The Serenity Prayer

Reinhold Niebuhr

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next. Amen.

September is National Drug and Alcohol Addiction Recovery Month. Today we pay special attention to the benefits of treatment, healing, and recovery from substance abuse disorders year round and dispel the stigma and discriminations of people affected with substance abuse disorders. This year’s theme, “Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities” emphasizes the benefits of life after an individual enters recovery. In 2014, about 21.5 million Americans ages 12 and older (8.1%) were classified with a substance use disorder in the past year. Of those, 2.6 million had problems with both alcohol and drugs, 4.5 million had problems with drugs but not alcohol, and 14.4 million had problems with alcohol only. according to the SAMHSA’s 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, making now the time to act and help anyone who needs addiction services to achieve recovery.