



4-21-14 Search Committee of Trinity Episcopal Church

Opening Prayer

O Faithful God, as your people, we cherish our memories and our history as a sacred inheritance. Guide us in this time of transition with your wisdom and knowledge. Strengthen our hearts to say goodbye to what is past and to face the future without fear. Open our hearts to know your goodness in new ways. Bring us together as one people in your Holy Spirit. Help us to stay faithful to your call, to stand up as a community of faith in this place, to pursue justice and peace for the poor and oppressed, to pray and care for the sick, the lonely and at risk, and by the power of the Holy Spirit to follow the Gospel call "Be not afraid." Amen.

Reflection Uncovering Your Church's Hidden Spirit

In writing about communal discernment in the church, Tilden Edwards acknowledges the ongoing nature of this practice by using the language of "sensing" rather than "knowing" to describe the act of discernment. Even though God wants to be made known, "we are dealing with the partially hidden, mysterious, ever dynamic life of God's Spirit in our midst."

Edwards acknowledges that this work can be both frustrating and exciting and "may be maddening to people who want a clear, defined, finished picture of reality." Edwards goes on to explain:

Congregations, like individuals, find an awesome, intimate Mystery at the heart of their being. To be in living, ongoing touch with this gracious Mystery, one needs a willingness to live while probing an expectant darkness, trusting that enough light will be given for what we need to understand and do at a given time... God will not give up on us, but in our freedom we can give up on God as we miss or refuse the endless openings of the Spirit we are offered day by day.

Foreword by Tilden Edwards in *Uncovering Your Church's Hidden Spirit* by Celia Allison Hahn. Alban Institute, 2001, p. viii

Part II—when our work is done

At the Close of Day

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, * you that stand by night in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; * the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

The following may be said together

Lord, you now have set your servant free * to go in peace as you have promised; For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, * whom you have prepared for all the world to see; A Light to enlighten the nations, * and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

The Lord's Prayer, traditional

The Collect

O LORD, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen.*