**COMMISSIONING LITANY**

**Based on I Thessalonians 5:16-18; 23-24**

**Leader:** Rejoice always,...

**Congregation:** ...pray continually...

**SERVE participants:** ...give thanks in all circumstances...

**All:** ...for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

***[SERVE participants hold out their hands.]***

**Leader:** Holy God, as we send these people out this week, we ask you to go with them.

**Congregation:** When they are excited, go with them.

When they are afraid, go with them.

When they are confident, go with them.

When they are unsure, go with them.

**SERVE:** Equip us for the week ahead.
Give us hands to do your work,
mouths to speak your truth,
and hearts open to your Spirit’s work within and among us.

**Congregation:** Empower them to be ambassadors for your kingdom;

To be light in dark places and salt in a spoiling world.

**Leader:** Jesus, call them to serve you with their whole heart, mind, soul and strength.

**Congregation:** Give them courage to testify about who you are, Jesus,

and to bring your good news to people who long to hear it.

**SERVE:** Watch over us and keep us safe.
We want all that we do this week to bring glory to you.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, stir up gratitude in them this week.

**Congregation:** Help them as they learn how to truly give thanks in all circumstances.
Use the scripture they study and the speaker they hear to deepen and strengthen their faith.

**SERVE:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
Help us to pay attention to what you are up to

Open our eyes to see you at work!
Cultivate in us habits of service and gratitude that

stay with us long after this week is over.

 ***[CONGREGATION extends arms toward SERVE participants]***

**Leader/Congregation:**  “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.
May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

**SERVE:** AMEN!