Rite for Welcoming Sanctuary Congregations

Created by St. Peter’s Church, New York, NY

Dear friends: United with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are joined in God’s mission for the life of the world. We are called to that mission in our daily lives and in the ministries we share as the church of God.

Today it is our privilege to become a Welcoming Sanctuary Congregation

Profession of Faith

I ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**We renounce them.**

Together with all the saints, let us confess the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,**

 **the Father, the Almighty,**

 **maker of heaven and earth,** **of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,** **the only Son of God,**

 **eternally begotten of the Father,**

 **God from God, Light from Light,** **true God from true God,**

 **begotten, not made,** **of one Being with the Father.**

 **Through him all things were made.**

 **For us and for our salvation**

 **he came down from heaven;**

 **was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

 **and became truly human.**

 **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

 **he suffered death and was buried.**

 **On the third day he rose again**

 **in accordance with the Scriptures;**

 **he ascended into heaven**

 **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

 **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

 **and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

 **who proceeds from the Father,**

 **who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

 **who has spoken through the prophets.**

 **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

 **We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

 **We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

 **and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Affirmation and Commitment

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you recognize Christ’s authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, we will.**

As a community of faith, you have voted to be a Welcoming Sanctuary that

* provides a safe space for those fleeing persecution;
* responds to raids, detentions, deportations and the criminalization of immigrants and refugees;
* contests individual cases of deportation;
* advocates for an end to mass detention;
* amplifies immigrant voices;
* envisions what a welcoming church, city and world can be; and
* practices, as a prophetic action, the radical hospitality rooted in the ancient traditions of our faith.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, are you ready to commit this congregation to this ministry?

**With the help to God, we are.**

Through the action of this congregation on [date] and by these affirmations, [name of congregation] has declared this ministry to be Sanctuary.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.  **Amen.**