



Congregational Blessing by Evangelist Lester Lay
Central Community of Christ
July 24, 2011

God our eternal father, it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ that I come before you now with these my brothers and sisters that we might be presented before your throne for a blessing, that we might be able to receive, according to your emesis the power that is available through your Holy Spirit to enable us to live out the life that has been taught to us by your Son and by the instructions that have come to us through the many, many generations.

As we consider together now the foundations on which our lives are built and this congregation has looked upon themselves and have discovered those foundations on which this congregation has built, may they find the courage and the capability and the wisdom that is necessary that they can build further upon those foundations to bring forth a congregation that is an expression of your love, of your power, of your purpose. May this building and those who share within in it be, as it were, a city on a hill, a place where people can look to and see and understand that the Spirit of God goes forth from this place. And because it goes forth from this place there is light in this community and this community then is able to enjoy those elements of love, hope, joy and peace that are so integral, so important in bringing about the purposes of your Son, to bringing forth your kingdom on this world.

I pray that as they share together in worship they shall have the sense of the presence of your Spirit. They shall be aware of the guidance and direction that brings them to those places of worship and the experiences of worship in which they begin to more fully understand their relationship to you and one another and to the community in which they live, and to the world in which they live.

May they come to understand how much you desire for your children to have all the magnificent blessings that are forthcoming as your kingdom becomes a reality and Zion begins to find expression in our lives and we become that kind of people who handle our lives single to the purposes of your Son. As it has often been expressed to us, that we might become more fully aware that the most important thing that can happen in our lives is to fulfill the mission of Christ in us and around us. So I would pray that through those who are appointed by you and by these of this congregation to be their leaders that there shall come that guidance that will allow that kind of instruction to take place, the kind inspiration to take place and that kind of capability to be developed in which we are able to be your servants in the fullest sense of the word. As we live out the commandments and we reach out to those around us as we give expression of your love and acceptance of those who we will meet in our neighborhoods, our grocery stores, and our places of business, driving down the street wherever we might be that there may be an awareness within us of those around us, that these people are your children regardless of their station in life and you have great desire for each and every one to enjoy all the benefits of your kingdom.

So we come as a congregation voicing to you the words of our savior as he taught us to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," to this end we commit ourselves and establish now on this day a covenant with you that we shall seek our utmost to be those people who can accomplish this in this place.

Thus, I present them before you now for blessing that they shall indeed be your children, they shall be your people and you shall be their God. Amen.