

Leader: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

Leader: It is the beginning of a new school year, and God is a God of new beginnings and new creations. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, new life, blessed it and called it good.

People: We give thanks for a new year and for new beginnings. We give thanks that you call us good.

Leader: In the beginning, the heavens shone forth a star when our Savior was born. In the beginning of his ministry, the heavens opened up and called him God's beloved.

People: We give thanks that you know our pathways and what it means to be human. We give thanks that you call us your beloved children.

Leader: O God of new beginnings, new life, and new journeys, you sent Abraham and Sarah into a new land; you led Moses, Aaron and Miriam out of Egypt and into liberation; you led your Son our Savior to earth, to the cross, and into resurrection. Walk with us, we pray, as we enter into a new year, a new path, new opportunities.

Pastor to the faculty and staff (*please rise*): Be with all of the faculty and staff as they begin a new year. Help them prepare and have the energy to teach and guide and direct our children in the year ahead. You have called them for "such a time as this." May they know your blessings and peace.

Pastor to the students of all ages (*please rise*): Lord, be with our students, the children, the youth and adults as they return to school. Help them go to school with excitement for time with old friends and making new friends. Help them come with eagerness to learn and grow. Help them to go and grow with their skills for listening and sitting still. Help prepare them for the future and to face the future unafraid, and let them know that Jesus is with them in school also. And when there are times that they feel anxious and afraid, may they call on you to help calm their fears and fill them with your power and love. May our children be the example of Christ to others and lead others to make wise decisions also. All these things we ask in Christ' Holy Name.

AMEN.

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AMEN.

Back to School Blessing



“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

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