

**A Litany
for
All Nations Heritage Week**

L = Leader

P = People

- L** In our world, bent under the weight of sin,
Christ gathers a new community.
- P** Satan and his evil forces
seek whom they may confuse and swallow;
but Jesus builds his church,
his Spirit guides,
and grace abounds.
- L** The church is the fellowship of those
who confess Jesus as Lord.
- P** She is the Bride of Christ,
his chosen partner,
loved by Jesus and loving him:
delighting in his presence,
seeking him in prayer,
silent before the mystery of his love.
- L** Our new life in Christ
is celebrated and nourished
in the fellowship of congregations
- P** where God's name is praised,
his Word proclaimed,
his way taught;
where sins are confessed,
prayers and gifts are offered,
and sacraments are celebrated.
- L** The Spirit empowers each member
to take part in the ministry of all,
- P** so that hurts are healed
and all may rejoice
in the life and growth of the fellowship.

- L** The church is a gathering
of forgiven sinners,
called to be holy,
dedicated to service.
- P** Saved by the patient grace of God,
we deal patiently with others.
Knowing our own weakness and failures,
we bring good news to all sinners
with understanding of their condition,
and with hope in God.
- L** We grieve that the church
which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope,
and spans all time, place, race, and language
has become a broken communion in a broken world.
- P** When we struggle for the purity of the church
and for the righteousness God demands,
we pray for saintly courage.
- L** When our pride or blindness blocks
the unity of God's household,
we seek forgiveness.
- P** We marvel that the Lord gathers the broken pieces
to do his work,
and that he blesses us still
with joy, new members,
and surprising evidences of unity.
- ALL** We commit ourselves to seeking and expressing
the oneness of all who follow Jesus.

(From *Our World Belongs to God*, Articles 38-43)