**NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE** – Commissioning Service

**Gathering of God’s servants to worship**

**Leader**: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**People**: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

**Leader**: God calls us into His presence not as slaves or subjects but as sons and daughters, made in His likeness, with His breath in our lungs and His Word engraved on our hearts.

**People**: We gather here before You, O Lord, because You first called us. You call us not to perform sacrifices, but to remember the sacrifice that You performed for us in Christ Jesus, that we might live as children of God, and offer ourselves ceaselessly in deeds of gratitude and praise.

**Song of Praise**

**God’s Greeting to His Servants**

**Pastor**: My dear children, I love you. Everything that you are is from ME! Your ability to walk, talk, dance, laugh and breathe comes from Me. Your willingness to serve pleases Me very much. My grace and peace be with you, my servants.

**People**: AMEN!

**Song**

**Understanding Where our Sin Comes From**

**Leader**: But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:4-6)

**Song**

**Understanding that We Must Praise God for What He has Done for Us**

**Leader**: Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life. I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. (Psalm 146:1-2)

**Message**

**Song of Response**

**Commissioning Litany for Missions Participants**
(Note: If you do not wish to use the whole service, you may use this commissioning litany only)

**Leader**: While walking on the road one day, a discussion took place between the disciples of Jesus. They had been having an argument about who was the greatest. (Mark (:14)

**Participants**: The power of sin is still strong. It makes all of us preoccupied with ourselves.

**Leader**: When Jesus asked the disciples what they had been discussing, they were silent. (Mark 9:33-34)

**Participants**: Who of us would be eager to tell the Lord how often we’re thinking only of ourselves?

**Leader**: Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very least, and the servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)

**Participants**: Lord, we hear Your call to be a servant of all, but this is such a radical demand. How shall we do this?

**Leader**: Jesus said, “You know that those who are regarded as ruler of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10: 42 -45)

**Participants**: As He has sacrificed for us, so we would sacrifice for others. As He has served, so we would serve.

**Leader**: The needs of the world are many. With empty stomachs, no shelter over their heads, lack of work and the means to maintain a healthy life, people are looking for hope amidst their hopelessness.

**Participants**: Since we are the body of Christ we must do as He would do. We will befriend the stranger, feel the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide shelter for the homeless.

**People**: As you serve, you will learn to know yourself, others, and Christ better. You will experience the liberation of being a slave of others. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:3-4)

**Participants**: We accept this call and give ourselves to becoming truly great as your servants of Christ and of one another.

**Congregational Prayer**

**Offering**

**God’s Blessing for His Departing Servants**

**Pastor**: Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. (Eph. 6:7,8)

**People**: AMEN

**Doxology**