



LIVING THE MISSION PRAYER

AWAKEN RISK BLESS

DWELLING IN A HYMN TEXT

PURPOSE

This practice opens us up to the voice of God and each other in community. This practice is not about analyzing a particular hymn text. Dwelling in a Hymn Text is about allowing the words of hymns to speak to our hearts and minds as an expression of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We especially encounter the Spirit by listening deeply to one another.

SUGGESTED STEPS

1. Pre-select a hymn text. (See *Community of Christ Sings*).
2. Read the hymn twice allowing time for reflection between readings. Invite participants to consider the following questions:
 - a. Is there a word, phrase, or image that is speaking to your life experience in this moment?
 - b. How might the Spirit be inviting you to respond?
3. Invite people into group sharing around the questions provided above.
4. End your time together with a prayer of gratitude.

TIPS FOR THE PROCESS

Be patient. Take time for being with and deepening relationships with one another. Listen to, affirm, and encourage one another. In some cases, it might be helpful to have people form groups of two or three and encourage opportunities to get to know others.

Be open and allow moments of silence for the reading to transform our understanding and our way of being and doing. Do not let this become an intellectual exercise which will limit the transformative impact of this practice. If someone wishes to remain silent, that is acceptable.