

Litany of Recognition and Honor for Father's Day

(adapted from a resource by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell)

Leader: On this day we recognize our fathers, stepfathers, and father figures -all those who have nurtured and guided us in our lives.

PEOPLE: **We thank YOU, O GOD, for those who have been fathers to us, after YOUR own Father's Heart.**

Leader: We honor our grandfathers, our uncles and brothers -all those who have demonstrated love and care to us in our lives.

PEOPLE: **We thank YOU, O GOD, for those who have been like parents to us, in the manner of YOUR Perfect Parenthood.**

Leader: We appreciate our teachers, leaders and pastors; but we especially honor those who have extended fatherly tenderness and love in our lives, in our past and present.

PEOPLE: **We thank YOU, O GOD, for those who have fulfilled the needs that fathering seeks to provide.**

Leader: Loving GOD,

YOU have been both Mother and Father to us. But today, we call out to YOU by the name of "Abba" -remembering how Jesus called out to YOU while on earth, recognizing that YOU are closer to us than our earthly parents.

PEOPLE: **YOUR Love and Care for us are felt in the ways we are loved and cared for by others. So, we thank YOU for all the male figures in our lives who have shared YOUR Love with us.**

Leader: We ask that YOUR Spirit would guide and nurture new fathers and fathers-to-be.

PEOPLE: **We seek YOUR Forgiveness for fathers who have fallen short. We pray to embody models of fatherhood that build-up, and do not belittle or demean.**

Leader: YOU are our Ever-Loving Parent and Father of us all. Grant YOUR Wisdom to all fathers and fatherly figures, to love their children as YOU have loved YOURS.

PEOPLE: **We thank YOUR, O GOD, for fatherhood and motherhood -for the blessing of parents in our lives.**

Leader: Abba-Father,

We pray with those who are mourning the loss of fathers today, and for those whose fathers were absent or abusive. Ease their pain on this day, Gracious and Holy Sustainer. May they know YOUR Embrace, and that YOU are more than Father or Mother to us.

PEOPLE: **YOU are the All-Loving, All-Caring Parent, Creator of Heaven and Earth -the ONE who knows the number of the very hairs on our heads.**

Leader: So, we thank YOU, O GOD, that YOU are always with us and will never leave us or forsake us.

ALL: ***We thank YOU for this day, and ask that YOU bless all of YOUR children with YOUR Love -just as a wonderful father loves their child; AMEN!***