**BLESSING FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY AND VOTING MEMBERS**

**A Reading from Ephesians**

“I pray that God, out of the riches of divine glory, will strengthen you inwardly with power through the working of the Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, so that you, being rooted and grounded in love, will be able to grasp fully the breadth, length, height and depth of Christ’s love and, with all God’s holy ones, experience this love that surpasses all understanding, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

To God—whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine— to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end! Amen.”

*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by Priests for Equality*

Let us pray.

Eternal and Almighty God,

You root and ground us in love. Enable us in our ministry and life together through the work of the Holy Spirit. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will. Grant us curiosity and compassion in our community, and continue to guide us in our work beyond our imaginations to grasp the extensive reach of Christ’s love. Through your breath,

**Renew our strength**

Provide your blessing on those gathering for the Synod Assembly and help us all to work together in ways that provide love and nourishment for the whole body. Empower us for the journey ahead so we may engage the challenges and opportunities for our communities and this Synod with joy and hope.

Through your breath,

**Renew our strength**

Breathe on us and strength us with love and life for our communities, the world, and all of creation. Let this Synod Assembly be a time of empowerment - to confront and confess the difficult work we are called into, to nourish our faith, and to be sent renewed for such a time as this.

Today, we give thanks for those who will be sent from this congregation to serve as voting members to the Metro D.C. Synod Assembly on June 1st.

**Bless *(insert names of voting members)* as they carry with them our prayers and blessings for the Metro D.C. Synod. In the moments of worship, fellowship and plenary, give them wisdom and courage to listen and to dream, to lament and to hope. May the insights and experiences they have during this gathering empower us for our shared mission together.**

In all this we pray. **Amen.**