Litany: A Call to Restore, Rebuild, Renew

Leader: As we join together hand in hand, heart by heart, we cry out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel. We are all connected by one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God of all.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: When I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned for days; and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: O Lord, let thy ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants who delight to fear thy name; and give success to thy servant today.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: We are concerned, we are committed, we are cautious and we have the courage to renew, to rebuild and to restore.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: We consider the sheep gate, which is symbolic for the lamb of God. We consider the fish gate. We are God's disciples. We consider the valley gate a place of humility.*

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(Continued) (Continued)

Leader: For His anger is but for a moment. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: We consider the water gate; it represents the word of God. The word of God will forever stand. As we continue to rebuild, again we consider the sheep gate, the Alpha and the Omega, our beginning and our ending of all rebuilding.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: Like Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah, our lives have been changed. From the east gate the place of great anticipation, to the fountain gate the place where the holy spirit flows within us, let us be internally and externally restored across the United States of America and Puerto Rico.

People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Leader: Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, from this time forth and forevermore!

* Nehemiah 1, 3, 8:10; Psalm 121, 30; Isaiah 40

This litany was written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, who serves American Baptist Home Mission Societies as associate director of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries.

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