

### **What to know for the Sunday you give the welcome:**

- Check in with the pastor & worship leaders in the sacristy 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.
- Sit in the front row, courtyard side.
- During the “Gathering” music (which is 1 verse of a hymn played on the organ), come up near the lectern (courtyard side behind the altar railing)
- After the “Gathering” music ends, begin your words of welcome with “The Lord be with you. [And also with you]” before reading your words of welcome statement.

### **What to know about the words of welcome:**

- You can use one of the samples below
- You can write your own
- Be sure to modify your statement in the 8:30 a.m. service to omit references those watching via the livestream (we do not broadcast the 8:30 a.m. service)

If you write your own statement, here are the elements that should be included :

- Self-Introduction
- A brief word of welcome.
- A call out to the diverse welcome we offer ( for example: “No matter where you come from, where you go after this, what you believe, who you love, your immigration status, or any other thing, it doesn't matter because you are welcome here.”)
- A brief word about how God loves them.
- A brief word about us loving them and/or welcoming them.

The statement should be no more than two minutes When you read it, speak as if you are directly addressing the congregation, both in person and on livestream. The Words of Welcome should be delivered in a loud, clear, very sincere voice, on most Sundays by a member of the laity. It is best if it sounds like you are speaking in your own voice.

### **Sample Words of Welcome:**

SAMPLE A:

"The Lord Be with You (And also with you). Welcome to North this morning! It's a joy to see all of you. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am so grateful to welcome you. Whether you are in the sanctuary or on livestream, we are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. No matter where you come from, where you go after this, what you believe, who you love, your immigration status, or any other thing, it doesn't matter because you are welcome here. The God we serve just longs to have a closer relationship with you. So, we are really glad you are here today to worship."

SAMPLE B:

The Lord be with you....

Welcome to North this morning! It is a joy to see all of you. I am [your name] , I am with [committee/team/class/group name] here at North, and I am so grateful to welcome you. Whether you are in the sanctuary or on livestream, we are glad you are worshipping with us this morning.

We welcome all regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic or marital status, physical or mental ability, economic status, political affiliation, faith history, education, and all other ways in which we are human.

We believe that all have received God's love and grace. We seek to transform our church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love. We celebrate the diversity of North Church. We are glad you are joining us for worship.

SAMPLE C:

The Lord be with you....

Welcome! I am [your name] , I am with [committee/team/class/group name] here at North. Whether you are in the sanctuary or on livestream, we are glad you are worshipping with us this morning.

If you are searching, come search with us. If you have questions and doubts, we do too. We are all trying to get through this thing called Life. You are welcome to join us for the journey as we seek a deeper faith, a higher hope, and a greater love [in God/in Christ/in the Spirit].

SAMPLE D:

The Lord be with you....Good morning and welcome to North United Methodist Church! I am [your name] , I am with [committee/team/class/group name]. Whether you are in the sanctuary or on livestream, we are grateful you have chosen to worship with us. [Describe why you are part of North in 1-2 sentences] I hope you will find the love of God that I have found in this place. Thank you for joining us this morning.