

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING for BUILDING DEDICATION

February 20, 2011

LET US PRAY.

**Oh God, we lift up grateful hearts
For all who have gathered to celebrate this day
of new beginnings.**

We give thanks for our supporters on this long journey:

- For First Trinity Lutheran who provided a home for us and for Thrive DC;
- For the Potomac Association and Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC, the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, the Downtown BID, Penn Quarter, and the Martin Luther King Library; and
- For the many friends who have cheered us to the finish.

We praise the creativity and diligence of the people whose handiwork surrounds us:

- The first consultants who showed us how to translate our hopes into reality;
- The developers who believed that our partnership was a worthy investment of their time and money;
- The building architects of this handsome and innovative structure;
- Our church architects – so very close to our hearts -- who have invested many months far beyond their compensation to shepherd our stunningly beautiful new home to completion; and
- The construction supervisors; the cement and concrete workers; the electricians; the mill workers and masons; the painters and plumbers; the makers of our sanctuary furnishings; and the organ builders, still at work.

We lift up our closest companions on this journey,

Our beloved First Church community.

We offer deep gratitude to them, and for them:

- For John Mack, whose dream many years ago set us on course for this day;
- For those who gave countless hours over eight years to site development, applying their expertise and wisdom to complex decisions about design, theological symbolism, law and finance;
- For the lay leaders – our moderators, members of Council and commissions -- whose courage in the face of disappointments kept us together and growing;
- For those who gave generously to operations and social mission, organized service opportunities, provided a warm touch for members in times of loss, provided beautiful music, helped in the office, and smoothed relationships tested by difficult circumstances;
- For those who taught our children, and for our children who have taught us; and
- For the lay and ordained ministers, and our dedicated staff, who have offered care and counsel on the way, and kept us focused on your Word.

**Holy Spirit, You have made us stronger,
We know each other better, and
We are ready to do your will in the world.**

Amen.