

Litany for Blessing of the Backpacks
First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena
August 19, 2018

One: Holy God, the time has come for school to begin. We gather here today in thanksgiving for the gift of education and the freedom to explore new ideas.

All: We give you thanks for the many people who make it possible for students to go to school: teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, grandparents, coaches, custodians, bus drivers, crossing guards, cafeteria workers, librarians, school nurses, counselors, volunteers, and more. We ask that you bless these helpers and give them the wisdom to inspire each learner with energy, creativity, compassion and love. May their work be a blessing to all.

One: Bless now these backpacks and other symbols of the new year. Even more importantly, bless those who carry them, that with hearts enlightened by your Holy Spirit they may grow in knowledge and grace, to worship and serve you from generation to generation. As they meet new challenges, new opportunities, new schedules and new friends, give them strength, patience and courage. We dedicate these backpacks and briefcases, our work and ourselves to your glory, O Lord of life and love.

All: Bless, O God, each one gathered here today, and may we remember that we never stop learning and growing. Empower us, dear God, to become all you have created us to be. Help us to remember that your creation in us continues. Let your grace and love fall on us all like gentle breezes, and give us peace for the journey ahead.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

