

## **Liturgy for Backpack Blessing 2017**

*Adapted freely from a Backpack Blessing created by  
a United Methodist clergywoman who blogs under the pseudonym,  
"The Vicar of Hogsmead."*

Today, before the school bells ring, we invite all students of all ages and teachers who will be returning to school to come forward for a blessing. Those of you who have your hearts full of hopes, uncertainties and dreams for this new year, come forward, along with those who have also brought their new supplies and backpacks today.

*[Students and Teachers come forward.]*

Students, the Apostle Paul encourages us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God – what is good, acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2b). When Jesus was a child, he went with his parents to Jerusalem. He stayed in the temple, listening to and asking questions of the teachers there. Will you do your best to listen and learn from the teachers in your school this year?

***Students: We will with God's help!***

The Apostle Paul also encourages us to share our gifts with others. Teachers, will you do your best to offer your gift for teaching with enthusiasm and joy this year?

***Teachers: We will with God's help!***

The Book of Proverbs tells us to trust in the Lord with all our heart and not to rely just on what we think we know. Will you trust God and look for signs of God's presence as you go through your school day?

***Students and Teachers: We will with God's help!***

For all the good things God has provided for us, let us join in praise and thanksgiving. For pens, pencils, crayons and markers,

***All: Thanks be to God!***

For notebooks, paper and folders, calculators and student planners,

***All: Thanks be to God!***

For these special students and teachers: in preschool, elementary, junior high or middle school, in senior high school, college or vocational school; for all their different talents and gifts; and for their insights and commitment to learning,

***All: Thanks be to God!***

As you prepare to go back to school this week and to send your children back to school, you can bring to God your fears, wonderings and uncertainties about what this new year will bring. Will you invite God to walk with you as you encounter each new day?

***Parents, Students and Teachers: We will with God's help!***

Will we all pray for those who prepare for school without backpacks to fill and those throughout the world who have only a dream of being a student some day? Will we pray for them, share what you have with them, and offer kind and encouraging words?

***All: We will with God's help.***

***All: We thank you, God, for the teachers and aids, administrators and staff of all our schools, for resources and school supplies that help our children and students of all ages learn. We ask you to bless all of those who work with young people inside and outside of our schools, to bless the children of this extended community, and people of all ages who seek to learn and to grow. Amen.***