

**Labyrinth Dedication and Blessing**  
**St. Paul's Church in Columbus, Indiana**  
**(Written by John Vance, provided by John Ridder [www.paxworks.com](http://www.paxworks.com))**



Pentecost 2011

*A brief address is offered regarding labyrinths and their use.*

*The officiant begins:*

Peace be to this space and to all who enter here.

officiant: You will show me the path of life;

people: *in your hand there is fullness of joy.*

officiant: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in;

people: *from this time forth for evermore.*

*The officiant continues:*

Almighty God, we thank you for making us in your image, to share in the ordering of the world, and have put into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service; and you are please to accept these gifts. Let us be blessed by your presence as we set apart this labyrinth to your glory, in memory of The Rev. John W. Ridder, and for the benefit of all who will find it a source of strength, healing, and peace.

*A person appointed continues:*

Jesus, our good Companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends for quiet and refreshment: Be present with your servants in this place to which we come for fellowship and recreation, and make of it, we pray, a place of serenity and peace. Amen. (BOS p. 153)

*Various appointed persons continue, the people answering:*

God of love, grace, and power, to all who come to walk this path:

*Welcome them to the center of your Being.*

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Grant to those who seek your eternal Presence the grace to find and be found by you.  
*Guide, guard, and sustain them, O Lord.*

Give to all who seek deeper meaning the confidence to dwell in the changelessness of your Mystery.  
*Bless them with the knowledge of your will and the wisdom of your Spirit.*

Fill those who are plagued by questions and doubt with the faith to trust in your loving embrace.  
*Help them to persevere with hearts open to your truth.*

Comfort and bring to wholeness those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit.  
*Grant them courage, strength, and hope in their troubles.*

Let your children run, sing, dance, and play.  
*And let them teach us their joy in your creation.*

Lead restless souls to find their rest in you, O Lord.  
*Send your Peace upon them.*

*A person appointed continues:*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray you, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God. Amen. (Quiet Confidence BCP p. 832 #59)

*The officiant continues:*

Now bless this labyrinth, O Lord, and sanctify (+) it as holy ground. Drive away dark spirits of anger, resentment, arrogance, fear, distraction, and self-service; let us here know only the Spirits of openness, wisdom, courage, wholeness, joy, and peace.

*people: For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.*

*officiant: The peace of our Lord be always with you.*

*people: And also with you!*

*officiant: Let us walk in the peace of our Lord, alleluia, alleluia!*

*people: Thanks be God, alleluia, alleluia!*