

# Bowling Green League of Bicyclists

## *The Blessing of the Bicycles*

*As a way of acknowledging the inherent goodness of God's gifts of life and health and the humble but elegant bicycle, we are conducting this Blessing of the Bicycles for the Bowling Green cycling community. This event is open to all regardless of religious affiliation, race, creed, color, sexual orientation, fat or thin tires, and brand of bike. We welcome unicyclists and Unitarians. As pray over the Schwinns, Treks, and Cannondales, we do so as a community of God's people, seeking God's blessing and protection for all who ride.*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Dear Lord, be with us today to bless these our bikes, let not our hubs spew forth their gears, protect and shield our tires from flats, let our spokes remain steadfast, save our thighs from unquenchable fire on the hills of Kentucky, and though we are not worthy, in thy mercy protect us from undue headwinds, stray dogs, lose gravel, and inattentive motorists. **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING (Ezekiel 1:1, 15b-21)**

<sup>1</sup>In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God... <sup>15</sup>I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl; and the four had the same form, their construction being something like a wheel within a wheel. <sup>17</sup> When they moved, they moved in any of the four directions without veering as they moved. <sup>18</sup> Their rims were tall and awesome, for the rims of all four were full of eyes all around. <sup>19</sup> When the living creatures moved, the wheels moved beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. <sup>20</sup> Wherever the spirit would go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. <sup>21</sup> When they moved, the others moved; when they stopped, the others stopped; and when they rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them; for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Present in a world groaning under the excesses of consumption, we acknowledge the inherent goodness of human powered transportation and give thanks for the simple beauty of the bicycle.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community filled with children, we pray for those learning to ride and for those who help them learn safe practices. Keep them smart, safe, and visible on their neighborhood roads.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community filled with strife and anger, we pray for the victims of road rage, and bike theft. And we ask for the strength to forgive mean people, and to be set free from the prisons of our own anger.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a world of work, we pray for those who build, repair and clean our bikes and those who rely on bicycles to earn their living. Bless those who choose to not drive to work and those for whom driving isn't an option.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community of beautiful diversity, we ask your protection and blessing on all who ride; Pedi cabbies, weekend warriors, athletes, homeless folks, students, children, eco-warriors, bike co-op anarchists, messengers, and all the others who take to the streets, bike paths, parks, farm roads, and rolling hills of our communities. Keep us safe as we ride.

God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Present in a community of cyclists, we pray for all those have been injured or killed in cycling accidents. We remember especially our colleagues and friends, Phillip Hatchett and Don Davis, may they find rest eternal in your heavenly kingdom.

God of life **Hear our prayer. AMEN**

## BLESSING OF THE BICYCLES

**God, bless these our bikes. Let all who ride be like flashes of lightning. Pour out your protection on our helmets. Take our handlebars and steer us ever true. Bless our wheels that move upon your good Creation. Anoint our brakes that we may know our limits. Fix our seat that whenever we roam, we might always return safely. Let our lights shine, front and rear. Guide us to help our neighbor with a thrown chain, flat, or simply bonked along the road. Lord God, send down your Spirit with a blessing upon these bikes, that fortified by the might of your heavenly protection, these bikes may bring joy, help, and aid to all who use of them. We stand before you representing many cultures, many beliefs, and many traditions. We approach you together in the name of all those faithful. We worship you, both now and ever. Amen.**

*The priest then blesses the riders and bikes.*

*May God bless you and keep you safe on your bike. May you encounter the risen Lord in your travels, in the freedom of the open road, in the fellowship of other bikers and in each person you meet. May the Lord be with you at home and on the road, and with you on your journeys.*

*May God's mercy, grace and love shine upon you, now and forever. Amen.*

Let us pray together:

**May the road rise up in front of me, may the sun shine down on me, may the rain fall behind me, and may the wind follow beside me. May God guard my travels, for the Lord knows the road ahead of me. Keep me safe, Lord, through swirling turns and rolling hills. Let the eagle guide me to the mountaintops, let the moonlight guide me through the night, let the air of spring breathe life into my soul, to begin each new journey and adventure, out on the open road. Amen.**

*Adapted from various sources, especially Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN*