**Welcoming God**

ASSURANCE 9.10.9.9 with Refrain ("Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" - Page 369)

Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
When the disciples just urged them away.
Children are welcome at Jesus' knee:
God's own examples for ministry.
Welcoming God, you open the Way;
Even the smallest worship and pray,
Singing with faith and serving you well,
Your life to know and good news to tell.

Women are welcome, as are the men;
Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.
Partners as prophets, ministers, too:
No more divided — made one in you.
Welcoming God, you open the way;
Those once divided join now to pray,
Serving at Table, preaching your Word,
So that your love for all will be heard.

Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
Eating with Jesus and being made new:
Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, you stand at the door,
Welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be

Filled with the joy of your jubilee.

So may we welcome into our pew
All who in Jesus are being made new —
All those who seek him, wanting to know,
Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.

Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
As someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
May we all welcome you in your church.

Biblical References: Mark 10:13-16; Acts 2:17; Galatians 3:28; Luke 15; Luke 19:1-10; Leviticus 25; Luke 4:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 John 4:7-12; Matthew 10:40

Tune: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873 ("Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!")

Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Used with permission.