

# MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

As your people have gathered in your presence throughout the ages, Holy God, we gather today to give you thanks, praise your name, and seek your guidance. Bless us in this time. Amen.

### PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- God's gifts put people's best dreams to shame. Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- ❖ The greater perfection a soul aspires after, the more dependent it is upon divine grace. Brother Lawrence

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: We gather together to ask God for blessing in this time and place. We praise God's holy name! We lift our voices, we humble our hearts and we know again that we are God's.

All: We are God's people! We sing praises that we are together today as one!

PRAISE SONG: Make Me an Instrument (music at end of bulletin)

#### **OUR CONFESSION:**

All: Gracious Lord, sometimes it seems we can never be as righteous and holy as you call us to be. Yet we know that your mercy and forgiveness are necessary and sufficient for us. Other times, we are sad to say, we have too quickly counted ourselves as among the righteous, without seeing ourselves as you see us. When we try to consider our thoughts and actions with your eyes, we are humbled and overwhelmed by the grace you give. You see our flaws and wrong intentions, and nudge us again and again to right living. Help us, O God. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Leaders: The cross of Christ reminds us that all is forgiven; his resurrection promises that our lives may be made fresh and clean as we start again to live in your ways. Today, God invites each one of us, to begin afresh and live lives worthy of the Gospel. Today, the Holy Spirit empowers us to walk again the ways of Jesus, the way of Good News, of grace and love.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Let Justice Roll (music at end of bulletin)

THE GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

Jesus' ministry has sometimes been described as preaching, teaching, and healing. Here Luke includes all three, beginning with teaching and healing. He ends with Jesus' preaching or proclamation on blessings and woes related to experiences in life.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,

for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

**MESSAGE:** "Blessed?" Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: When the Poor Ones (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

## THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Affirm life in a world that embraces death. Live in hope in a world weighed down with despair. Be the church in a world alienated from the God who created us and will recreate us in the Resurrection.

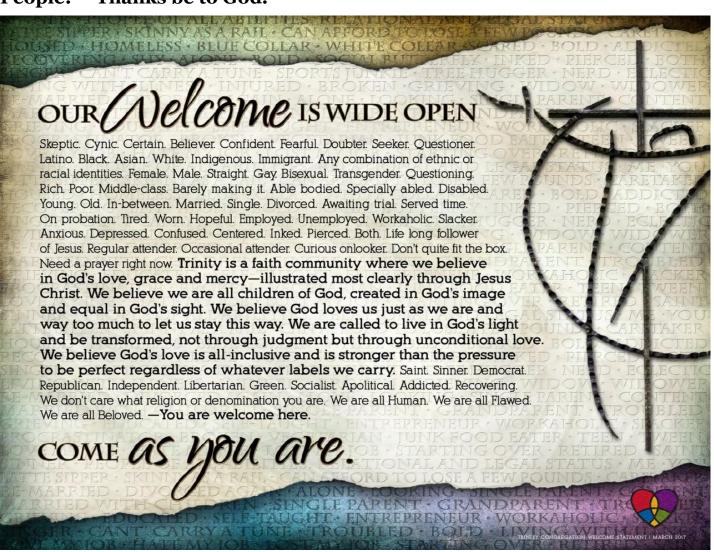
ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Ubuntu (music at end of bulletin)

# THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.







#### When the Poor Ones

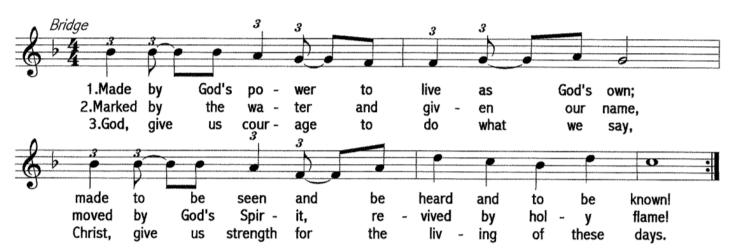






Verses (echo song leader)

- 1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,
- 2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
- 3. ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring, ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us
  - ... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us



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