

Call to Worship

As we come to worship, we put our trust in God who calls us to live a new reality. God takes the small, the insignificant, the hidden, to transform the world. We hear:

The reign of heaven is like:

a tiny mustard seed that carries inside it the gift life.

The reign of heaven is like:

a tiny portion of yeast that makes the loaves of bread rise.

The reign of heaven is like:

a tiny pearl of great price

that we would give all our “stuff” to have.

Come, all who carry the seeds of life and love inside of you.

Come, all who have the potential to transform the world.

Come, all who long for God’s enduring promise.

The reign of God is at work in us!

Invocation

Holy One,

you call us to be and become your reign

already hidden in our world—

in tiny, transforming possibilities;

in beauty that calls us to surrender all;

in complicated choices that call for wisdom.

Reveal yourself here in this moment

And heighten our senses that we may find you

And join you in building this kingdom of love, and hope, and peace.

In the name of the One who calls us to seek,

Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life.

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home.

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. This day we pray for all the nations affected by COVID-19, we pray for Lebanon as the country struggles financially, we pray for refugees and asylum seekers.

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick especially Lloyd Mart and Ruth Herz.

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time.

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light especially this day we remember:

Jane Koland, mother of Brad Koland; Phyllis Streng, sister of Carol Leaders;
Don Ulbricht, brother of Ruth Blomster.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer
these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

Go forth in wisdom, in hope, in courage
With hearts open to recognize the signs of the reign of God in our midst,
and courage to create more space for grace in our lives and our world.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The liturgy was adapted from work by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for
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