

### **Gathering Music:**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

Grant that I may pass through  
the coming year with a faithful heart.  
There will be much to test me and  
make weak my strength before the year ends.  
In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am  
ashamed.  
There will be errors in the mind  
and great inaccuracies of judgment...  
In seeking the light,  
I shall again and again find myself  
walking in the darkness.  
I shall mistake my light for Your light  
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make.  
Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.  
May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to vanity, to sin.  
Though my days be marked  
with failures, stumblings, fallings,  
let my spirit be free  
so that You may take it  
and redeem my moments  
in all the ways my needs reveal.  
Give me the quiet assurance  
of Your Love and Presence.  
Grant that I may pass through  
the coming year with a faithful heart.  
-Howard Thurman

### **Reflective Reading / Message:**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.  
Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you  
falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they  
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Reflection:**

- Brian / Jennifer / Serene / Megan

**Breakout Room Reflections:****Music:****Participatory Prayers:** (prayers on paper)

As we begin to move for our time together, who may we pray for this day who is suffering in anyway...

Let us walk together

As we begin to move from our time together, who may we pray for this day who has died, and those who are grieving their passing...

Let us walk together

As we begin to move forward from our time together, who are the neighbors, communities, countries. God's creation and critters that we may pray for this day...

Let us walk together

As we begin to move forward from our time together, who, what or where else would you like us to pray for this day...

Let us walk together

As we begin to move forward from our time, what are the blessings that we would like to give thanks for...

Let us walk together

- Brian N. Prior

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always though

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.  
-Thomas Merton

**Gratitude:**

- Participants (offering whatever they wish)
  
- Ann and Fran

**Blessing:**

- Presenters and BP

Blessed be the longing that brought you here and quickens your soul with wonder.  
May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.  
May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease to discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.  
May the forms of your belonging - in love, creativity, and friendship-be equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.  
May the one you long for long for you.  
May your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire. May a secret providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling. May your mind inhabit your life with the sureness with which your body inhabits the world.  
May your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage. May you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.  
May you know the urgency with which the Eternal longs for you.  
- John O'Donohue  
Adapted by Samuel Lowe

**Sending Prayer:**

Sender     Go now to love and serve your neighbor.  
People     Amen! We go in the name of justice and peace.

Sender     Go now; let your eyes see, your hearts care and your tongue speak.  
People     Amen! We go with courage and in truth.

Sender     Here there is wonder, astonishment, and more. They are gifts. Together we have experienced them. Take them             with you. Give them to everyone you meet.  
People     Amen! We have been blessed, we will go forth as a blessing.

**Sending Music:**

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When we are unsure about what we believe,  
we truly stand naked before God,  
stripped of those dogmas that we wear  
like denominational clothing to give us  
a sense of security.

The key to the seeker's quest is not in finding just  
the right piece of holy real estate on which to stand,

but rather in so preparing his or her awareness that  
any space he or she occupies can become thin  
through faith. -Steven Charleston,  
The Four Vision Quests of Jesus

I walk by faith, but I do not walk with my eyes closed. Faith does not mean I am blind to the world around me. In fact, just the reverse. Faith makes me even more aware of reality. It opens my eyes to hunger, poverty, injustice and prejudice. It offers me a vision of the beauty of creation and demands that I be held accountable for preserving that vision. I see God alive and active all around me. I am a witness to the living truth of a love so clear I cannot look away. Walk by faith and you walk with eyes wide open both to what is without and to what is within. (From Cloud Walking: A Spiritual Diary, Oklahoma City, OK: Red Moon Publications, 2013.)