

Liturgy for Hunger and Homelessness Sunday

November 19, 2017

Call to Worship

Leader: All God's people gather together—

People: To worship and praise our Living God!

Leader: The strong and the weak;

People: The housed and the homeless;

Leader: The fed and the hungry;

People: The healthy and the sick;

Leader: The citizen and the immigrant;

People: The wealthy and the poor;

Leader: All God's people gather together—

People: To worship and praise our Living God!

Or

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let us make praise every day!

People: Let us sing praises to our God without stopping!

Leader: We will not rely solely on fellow human beings—

People: For like us their plans will not last forever.

Leader: Rather we will find joy in trusting in our God.

People: Our hope will be in our God alone.

Leader: For our God is faithful and just;

People: Our God feeds the hungry;

Leader: Our God frees the oppressed;

People: Our God lifts us the weak;

Leader: Our God cares for the stranger;

People: Our God provides for the ones in greatest need.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Praise the Lord!

(based on Psalm 146)

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 58:6-12

Psalm 146

Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we admit our failure to model your compassion for the ones in need. We did not house the homeless; feed the hungry; welcome the stranger; or comfort the sick and imprisoned. We put self before neighbor by striving for our own security and benefit. We ignored your presence among the suffering by seeking first our own gain. Forgive us, Lord. Open our eyes and our hearts to see and sense our neighbors in need. Take our lives and place them in service among those who suffer daily. Use us, Lord, as vessels of your mercy and compassion. Amen.

Or

Reconciling God, we confess our sin and the sin of this world that form great divisions between the haves and the have nots; the housed and the homeless; the well fed and the hungry; the rich and the poor. For our own actions and inactions which contributed to these divisions we ask your mercy. Forgive us, Lord, and make us new. Send your reconciling love into our lives and communities to heal divisions and restore relationships. Compel us to work daily for a world made new by your redeeming love. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you give freely from your endless abundance. We thank you for your many and varied gifts to us and to our world. As we offer our gifts to you, we pray that they will further your good work of restoring and renewing all of your beloved creation. May they bring welcome and relief, hope and promise, compassion and care to our hurting world. Amen.

Or

Ever-Giving God, we bring before you these offerings along with our sincere gratitude for the abundance of good gifts we receive from you. We place them in your care so that they may be used to build up lives and communities that are joyous, fulfilling and enriching. We ask that you use us too to do your good work; may we give freely from our lives so that all may know the goodness you desire for all people. Amen.

For more information on the Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness—visit our website at

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