

## 01-29-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Too often we read the Beatitudes as passive statements or promises of future rewards, but they are an active proclamation of God's reign amid human misery, a prophetic reversal of the status quo, a call to build a just and humane society.”

- Joel Bengbeng



1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ✠ Matthew 5:1-12

### Questions for Reflection —

- How are you living into the values of the Beatitudes? In what ways do the Beatitudes call you to live further into your life of discipleship? What challenges you about the kingdom values expressed in the Beatitudes? How does reflecting on the Beatitudes cause you to look at your everyday life in a new way and/or from a different perspective?
  
- How do the Beatitudes offer you hope as you encounter various difficulties in your life? What are some of the struggles you presently face? What would be your own beatitude as you deal with those struggles? What is the blessing you need? What gives you the most encouragement for your life journey right now?
  
- What people in the wider community are in need of God's blessing? Who are those whose needs are being ignored, dismissed, and/or harmed by various public policies? What does it look like for us as a congregation to live as God's blessing, especially for people who are marginalized, in the community around us? How can we embody peace, justice, mercy, and righteousness in all that we say and do through our programs and ministries?

### Daily Household Prayer (Payer for a New Heart)

Thou who art over us, Thou who art one of us, Thou who art:

Give me a pure heart, that I may see thee; a humble heart, that I may hear thee; a heart of love, that I may serve thee; a heart of faith, that I may abide in thee. Amen.