

10-15-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

"[The] ministry of all Christians in Christ's name and spirit is both a gift and a task. The gift is God's unmerited grace; the task is unstinting service."

- *United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016, ¶129*

"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

- *Dan Schutte*



Philippians 4:1-9 † Matthew 22:1-14

Questions for Reflection —

- How/when have you experienced God's invitation in your life? What has enabled you to recognize God's invitation(s) for you? Have you ever ignored and/or refused an invitation from God? If so, what interfered with your ability to accept that invitation? To what do you think God is presently inviting you? What will help to open your heart to accept that invitation?

- With what attitudes and behaviors do you need to be clothed in order to be a follower of Jesus in an active living faith? What attitudes, behaviors, and/or activities of yours presently are at variance with a life of Christian discipleship? What do you need to choose and what do you need to avoid in order to deepen your relationship with God and be who God created you to be? What new life are you ready to undertake in order to further God's reign of justice and compassion in the here and now?

- What cares and concerns of life are presently demanding your attention? On what would you like to be able to set your mind instead? What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord even in the face of your cares and concerns? What would it look like for you to turn your worries and fears over to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving? What do you need in order to experience the peace of God which surpasses understanding?

Daily Household Prayer

God of love, source of mercy and compassion, weave your dream for the world into the fabric of our lives. Open our eyes to your vision: a new reign of justice and compassion that will renew the earth. Transform our lives, so that we may accomplish your purpose. Help us to renew our commitment to be your hands and feet in the world. Surround us with your love, fill us with your grace, and strengthen us for your service. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to respond to the call of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.