

03-16-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“For Jesus, God’s passionate dream, compassionate desire, and bold determination is to gather God’s human children closer and closer in God’s embrace and love. That mission and commitment is at the center of Jesus’ work. Like a mother hen, God seeks to draw, embrace, include, and welcome God’s children into the family of humanity that God has intended from the dawn of Eden itself.”

Michael B. Curry



Luke 13:31-35

Questions for Reflection —

- When have you known yourself enfolded beneath God's wings? How have you sensed God’s loving care and protection? In what aspects of your life are you presently longing to know that care and protection? What needs and vulnerabilities do you bring before God? What people in what situations in our communities might presently feel vulnerable and unprotected? How can we as a congregation offer God's grace and compassion to those who are being pushed to the margins of society? What would it mean for us to provide sanctuary for others in our broken world?

- What is your personal commitment to and role in God’s mission of welcome and inclusion that embraces people across the diversity of humanity? Who might feel disconnected and excluded from our congregation? How might they be gathered in? What does it mean for us to care for the city and community around us? How might our congregation better serve God’s mission and live into God’s passionate dream that embraces all?

- In what local places do you see oppression and injustice impeding the manifestation of God’s kingdom values? What do you see in the world around you that causes you to lament? What would it look like for you to promote God’s kingdom values in your places of lament? Over what situations and places in the world does Jesus presently weep? If Jesus were to speak prophetically to those situations and places what do you think he would say? What would it look like for each of us individually and all of us together as a congregation to participate in dismantling systems and structures that are oppressive and harmful?

Daily Household Prayer

O merciful God, in compassion for your sinful children you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. Grant us grace to feel and to lament our share of the evil that made it necessary for him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance won by Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.