07-13-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

"Those who follow Jesus are to take on the role of neighbor to others, especially those in need and in desperate circumstances."

Jeannine K. Brown

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Psalm 82 + Luke 10 25-37

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean for you to be a neighbor? How do you identify who your neighbors are? Is there a way in which your definition could be more expansive and inclusive? What does it look like for you to be in loving relationship with all of God's children, especially those with whom you do not feel a natural affinity? How might you cultivate deeper relationships of caring across boundaries of difference?
- ➤ How might we as a congregation seek to identify and understand who among our neighbors face desperate circumstances presently? How can we act more directly in situations of injustice and oppression for the sake of offering God's mercy and healing love? In what concrete, practical ways might we as neighbors take action with empathy and compassion for those who are marginalized and overlooked in our society? What risks might we need to take for the sake of our neighbors?
- What are you personally willing to risk and what sacrifices are you willing to make for the sake of meeting the needs of others? How do you react when meeting the needs of others necessitates a disruption of your own plans? What will open your eyes to the needs of those whom you encounter as you go about the activities of your daily life? What will help you pay more attention to opportunities for making God's merciful presence known to someone in need?

Daily Household Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for being present in our lives and in our times of worship. Speak love to our hearts and wisdom to our minds, that we might grow in your knowledge of love and that our lives might bear the fruit of your knowledge and grace. Amen.