11-15-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

"The kingdom of heaven…is about what the followers of Christ do with the treasure that Jesus has given us while we await Christ's action in the world. It requires being awake to who God is, being alert to what God is doing in the world, and being ready to act even we don't have precise instructions."

Chanequa Walker-Barnes

Matthew 25:14-30

Questions for Reflection —

- How has God uniquely gifted you? With what resources—tangible and intangible—has God entrusted you? What does it mean for you to be faithful with those resources and gifts? In what way(s) might you be more faithful? What will help you further cultivate and grow your God-given gifts? How might you encourage someone else to live into their gifts?

- What are some ways you have used your God-given abilities over the years? How are you presently using your God-given gifts? Are there any ways in which you been holding back in utilizing your gifts to the fullest? When or how have you been tempted to bury your gifts? What do you need in order to live into the fullest potential of who God created you to be?

- What further opportunities for service might God be opening for you in your current season of life? What spiritual practices help you notice and pay attention to the new things God is doing in your life and in our world? What risk(s) might God be inviting you to take in order to pursue new opportunities for service? What will help you take a next step with faithful confidence, knowing that God calls, equips, and accompanies?

Daily Household Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for receiving us with love and calling us into Your service. When we compare ourselves with others, help us recognize the gifts already present in our lives. When we are afraid, meet us with mercy and give us courage for the next step. When we are weary, grant us rest and companions who will help us carry the load. Make our congregation a place where people are encouraged, gifts are nurtured, and love becomes visible in ordinary acts of care. Lead us into the joy of serving You together. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.