

COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY

February 4, 2018

MEDITATION THOUGHT: “As Christ’s body, lovingly and patiently bear the weight of criticism from those who hesitate to respond to the divine vision of human worth and equality in Christ. This burden and blessing is yours for divine purposes.” (Doctrine and Covenants 165:6b)

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN – CCS 77 – *“Gather Your Children”*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 147:1, 3, 5, 11

***“Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting
He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
... but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.”***

*HYMN – CCS 80 - *“O Lord, Grace Our Communion”*

*INVOCATION

*RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR PEACE

(Light the peace candle.)

Dear God,

We confess to times of insensitivity, ignorance, judgment, indifference, hatred, and greed. Help us tear down the walls that separate us from one another. Lord, let us see you in the faces of our brothers and sisters. Let us hear the cries of the frightened.

Living on every continent are those who are oppressed, hungry, and heavy laden. As we merge in your love, help us become a people of compassion. Free us from our own limitations that we might free others. Renew in us your Spirit, that we might be faithful to each other in your love.

Together we can build your community, in our hearts, with our minds, words, and deeds. May our hands join, our minds unite, and our hearts beat as one.

This is our prayer for peace. We lay it at your feet that it may be acceptable and we all might be healed in your love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(adapted from Sheryl Holstein)

PRAYERFUL RESPONSE – CCS 192 – “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” (sung twice)

DISCIPLES’ GENEROUS RESPONSE

Offertory Thoughts

Blessing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Receiving of Our Tithes and Offerings

FOCUS MOMENT: **Sacrament of Administration** (Chair placed as part of worship center)

Any person who is sick or faces spiritual or emotional challenges may ask for a special prayer of blessing. During this sacrament, ministers of the church lay their hands on the head of the person and anoint the person with a drop of consecrated oil. The oil symbolizes the love of God. The ministers then offer a prayer asking for God’s blessing in the person’s unique situation.

This sacramental ministry is founded in the scriptures. (Read two or three of the following: James 5:14–15, Luke 4:40, Acts 28:8–9, 4 Nephi 1:6–7, Mosiah 1:97–98, Doctrine and Covenants 163:10a). This ministry is a gift from our compassionate God.

Although this sacrament often occurs in private, there are times when the prayers are appropriate within the comfort of one’s congregational family, where the congregants silently add their own prayerful support even without knowing the specifics of the need. This sacrament is available to all regardless of membership. If any desire administration this morning, they are invited to come forward at this time or to make their request following the service. Let us spend a few moments in prayerful silence.

(Ask two elders to stand at the chair to be available should anyone desire to come forward for prayers. The prayers can be given quietly so only the one in need can hear the words. The rest of the congregants pray silently from their seats.)

HYMN - CCS 585 – “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands” (Verse One only)

COMMUNION MESSAGE

HYMN OF PREPARATION – CCS 187 - “Soften My Heart” (sung twice)

BLESSING AND SERVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*CLOSING HYMN – CCS 574 – “Touch Me, Lord, with Thy Spirit Eternal”

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*RECESSIONAL