

**2019 MAINE FAITH-BASED ADVOCACY DAYS  
OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

- One: May our time together be a comfort and a confrontation.  
All: **May we here find peace in this time of tumult;**  
One: May we here invite tumult into lives of peace.  
All: **May we here find calm in this time of restlessness;**  
One: May we here allow restlessness to evolve into action.  
All: **Let this be the place we consider what we've never considered;**  
One: May our time together bring dreams of new ways of being in the world.  
All: **Come, let us worship together.**

**\*Hymn 121 "We'll Build A Land" (in *Singing the Living Tradition* hymnal)**

**A Litany to Serve**

- Voice 1: For such a time as this we have been called from the streets and the churches to this place to love and serve.  
Voice 2: In such a time as this we have heard the cries of the hungry, the working poor and the homeless.  
All: **There are many who need God's love. There are many who need our love.**  
Voice 1: In every place the powers and principalities are at work.  
Voice 2: We affirm that God is in the midst, healing, challenging, comforting, supporting, sustaining and loving.  
Voice 1: In such a time as this God has blessed us with gifts and talents to serve those in need.  
All: **God works with us. God works through us.**

**"We Cannot Merely Pray"**

- Voice 3: We cannot merely pray to God to end war, for the world was made in such a way that we must find our own path of peace within ourselves and with our neighbor.  
Voice 4: We cannot merely pray to God to root out prejudice, for we already have eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.  
Voice 3: We cannot merely pray to God to end starvation, for we already have the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.  
Voice 4: We cannot merely pray to God to end despair, for we already have the power to clear away poverty and give hope, if we would only use our power justly.  
Voice 3: We cannot merely pray to God to end disease, for we already have great minds with which to search out cures and healings, if we would only use them constructively.  
Voice 4: Therefore, we pray instead for strength, determination, and will power to *do*, instead of merely pray, to *become* instead of merely to wish, that our world may be safe and that all lives may be blessed.  
All: **Amen**

**Hymn (congregation remains seated) 1060 "As We Sing of Hope and Joy" (in *Singing the Journey* hymnal)**

**A Prayer to End Hunger**

- One: God of Righteous Bounty, we are moved by your grace to work for justice for hungry people. We know that you hear the prayer of the mother in Machias whose child is crying for food. We know that you hear the prayer of the father in Farmington who is trying to make ends meet and feed his family. Be a balm to them and give them strength. We pray that you will give us the conviction to answer your call to serve and to speak out for hungry people. We pray for our elected leaders, that they will hear the cries of hungry people and have the courage, vision, and wisdom to help us create a world where all are fed. Thank you, God, for helping us turn our faith into action. Thank you that when we speak out for hungry people, the miracle of the loaves and fishes happens again and again. We believe that you are moving in our time to end hunger, and we are grateful that you include us as a part of this great liberation.

All: **Amen**

### **A Prayer for the Well-Being of Immigrants**

**One:** O God, as Naomi and Ruth journeyed from one land to another seeking a home, we ask your blessing upon all who are immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in this world. You promised your people a land flowing with milk and honey; so inspire us to desire the accomplishment of your will that we may work for the settlement of those who seek a home in a place of peace, protection, and nurture, flowing with welcome, opportunity, blessing, and hope.

**All: Amen**

### **A Prayer to Dismantle Racism**

**One:** Dear God, in our efforts to dismantle racism, we understand that we struggle not merely against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities – those institutions and systems that keep racism alive by perpetuating the lie that some members of the family are inferior and others superior. Give us the grace and strength to rid ourselves of all that oppresses some while providing privilege to others. Heal your family, God, and make us one with You.

**All: Amen**

**Hymn** (*congregation remains seated*) 348 “**Guide My Feet**” (in *Singing the Living Tradition* hymnal)

### **A Prayer for Access to Health Care**

**One:** Eternal God, we praise you for giving us life and calling us into community to care for each other. We acknowledge that we have failed to care for every member of our human family and have not ensured that all may receive the health care they need for the life that you intend, most especially those whose lives have been impacted by substance use disorder. We mourn those whose lives have been lost to overdose and ask that you strengthen us to use our hearts and hands, voices and vision to help ensure that all persons have the health care they need.

**All: Amen**

### **A Prayer for Our Earth**

**One:** All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect creation and beauty. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature.

**All: Amen**

**\*Hymn “For Everyone Born” verses 1, 3 and 5** (see handout)

### **\*Benediction**

**One:** May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships

**All: So that we may live deep within our hearts.**

**One:** May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, exploitation and racism

**All: So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.**

**One:** May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war

**All: So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.**

**One:** And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world

**All: So that we can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.**

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\*Please rise, as you are able, in body or spirit