

Step by Step with Jesus:

A Journey Toward More Abundant Life for All

Opening Our Hands

Invocation

Jesus Christ, we continue to remember your time on earth. We remember how you touched and healed all manner of people. Be with us now and open our hands to touch all who hunger. Walk with us during this Lenten Journey and help us to be changed and to bring change in the world.

Confession

You know us, Lord. It's easy to say the words and feel the emotion, but not so easy to put the words into action. The idea of actually touching a homeless neighbor is off-putting. The idea of building community, of building solutions together is much harder than swooping in and throwing easy answers around. The act of really praying with our neighbors is awkward. Help us, Lord, to unclench our hands.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be



wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Prayer

Leader: Creator God, give us hands eager create community among all of your people.

People: Walk with us, Lord, and show us the way.

Leader: Jesus the Christ, help us to join hands with every person who hungers – whether for food or for company or for peace.

People: Walk with us, Lord, and show us the way.

Leader: Holy Spirit, give us a new blueprint.

Help us pray together for change in ourselves and in our communities.

People: Walk with us, Lord, and show us the way.



A time to be still

You are invited into a time of silence.

Bring color to what was black and white.

Walk with Jesus through the Labyrinth of your hand.

Consider how you might pray in a new way with God's help.

(When "walking" a paper labyrinth, trace the way to the middle, pause in prayer, and then trace the way out.)

A blessing

May God bless our hands.

May they touch our neighbors in community.

May they build solutions together.

May they join with others in prayer for change.