

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in August, 2023

Leader Christianity is for everyone—there are no foreigners. All are called. Jesus extended hospitality to strangers. Can we do less?

Opening Prayer

All God of mercy and justice, we depend on you for the will to give of ourselves even to those outside our communities, even to those outside our culture. May our welcoming reflect your universal call to discipleship. We ask this through Jesus who is the Way, Truth and Life. Amen.

Word of God Matthew 15:21-28

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew *(The reading is on the reverse side.
Pause for silent reflection after the reading.)*

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's.
1. How do you describe hospitality? To whom is it extended?
2. Give examples of great faith from your life contacts.

Response (Taken from Matthew 15:21-28)

Side one “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David.”

Side 2 May the Canaanite woman's prayer for mercy be ours.

Side 1 “Woman, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish.”

Side 2 When our prayers for help seem remote, may Jesus' response echo within us.

Side 1 “The woman's daughter was healed from that hour.”

Side 2 Increase our faith and trust in your mercy, Lord.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All God of welcoming, we thank you for grace and mercy as we struggle to live as your disciples. Increase our faith so we are healed of narrowness and fear. We pray through Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
A Canaanite woman of that district came and called out,
 “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!
 My daughter is tormented by a demon.”
But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her.

Jesus disciples came and asked him,
 “Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.”
He said in reply,
 “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
 “Lord, help me.”
He said in reply,
 “It is not right to take the food of the children
 and throw it to the dogs.”
She said, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps
 that fall from the tale of their masters.”

Then Jesus said to her in reply,
 “O woman, great is your faith!
 Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.