

Worship:

Reading from the Old Testament (NRSV): Richard H. Rojas-Banuchi

Psalm 56:2-4

O Most High, ³ when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.

⁴In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?

Prayers of the people:

Elona Street-Stewart

Leader: Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.

Lord God,

because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,
we hold to his word and share his plea:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where nations budget for war,

while Christ says, "Put up your sword":

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where countries waste food and covet fashion,

while Christ says, "I was hungry... I was thirsty...":

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE .

Leader: Where powerful governments

claim their policies are heaven blessed,

while scripture states

that God helps the powerless:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where Christians seek the kingdom

in the shape of their own church,

as if Christ had come to build

and not to break barriers:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where women who speak up for their dignity
are treated with scorn or contempt:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where men try hard to be tough,
because they're afraid to be tender:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where we, obsessed with being adults,
forget to become like children:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where our prayers falter,
our faith weakens,
our light grows dim:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Where Jesus Christ calls us:

All: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: Lord God,
you have declared that your kingdom is among us.
Open our ears to hear it,
our hands to serve it,
our hearts to hold it.
This we pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen¹

Reading from the New Testament (NRSV):

Sue Krummel

Matthew 10:16-22

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how

¹ Wild Goose Worship Group Publication, 1999, pp.16-17

you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

Reflections: “Suffering and Trust”

Adel Malek