

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We learn from our peers. Our peers learn from us.

ALL: Frenemies. Besties. Lab partners and teammates.

One: We learn from our peers. Our peers learn from us.

ALL: The ones no one else will talk to.

The ones everyone wants to talk to.

The quiet ones. The hurting ones.

The snobby ones. The cruel ones.

One: We learn from our peers. Our peers learn from us.

ALL: The ones you can say anything to.

The ones you say nothing to.

The ones who seem to have it all together.

The ones who are falling apart.

One: We learn from our peers. Our peers learn from us.

ALL: The healthy ones. The broken ones.

The ones who have figured out

how to be comfortable in their own skin.

One: We learn from our peers. Our peers learn from us.

ALL: Those trying to change.

Those headed down a hard path.

Those we'd rather not even notice.

One: You have gifted us with peers, O God.

Some are easy to love. Some not so much.

Remind us of our connection to others

as we begin to worship You.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes...

it is easier to hang out with people who are just like us
to look the other way and pretend we have not seen
to discount others without ever first getting to know them.
But that is not God's plan for us.
So let's get real. And let's be honest.
Let's tell the truth,
so that we can begin to live differently.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Relationships are hard, God.
They take time. And energy.
And thoughtfulness that sometimes we just don't have.
And yet You call us to be in them.
Not just with You. But with others, too.
So reshape us when we've ignored or discounted our peers:

when we have looked the other way or pretended not to see
when we've said too much or not said enough
when we've labeled someone rather than asking what they'd like to be called
when we've kept secrets that needed to be shared
and spilled ones that were supposed to be kept
when our busyness has kept us from being present.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we screw up, God doesn't say, "What a loser."
When we don't get it right, God doesn't turn God's back on us.
Instead, when we don't get it right,
God stretches out God's arms and says, "come closer."
"I love you."
"Let's try this again."
Know that God loves you and will never let you go.

PASSING THE PEACE

One: People of God, let us share the peace of Christ.
Peace be with you!

ALL: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE

Job 2:11-13 and Job 16:20-22

Now when Job's three friends
heard of all these troubles that had come upon him,
each of them set out from his home—
Eliphaz the Temanite,
Bildad the Shuhite,
and Zophar the Naamathite.
They met together to go and console and comfort him.

When they saw him from a distance,
they did not recognize him,
and they raised their voices and wept aloud;
they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads.

They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights,
and no one spoke a word to him,
for they saw that his suffering was very great.

JOB 16:20-22

My friends scorn me;
my eye pours out tears to God,
that God would maintain the right of a mortal with God,
as one does for a neighbor.
For when a few years have come,
I shall go the way from which I shall not return.

The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.