LITURGY
BASED ON PSALM 40
HUMAN RELATIONS DAY
GATHERING PRAYER
Creator of beloved community,
Thank you for gathering us together on this Human Relations Day.
Open our ears to the instructions of your prophets.
Open our eyes to needs of your people.
Open our hearts to one another in Christian love.
In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 40)
One: We gather today with a new song in our mouth.
All: A song of freedom and relationship.
One: We gather today with feet set on solid rock.
All: A rock of justice and peace.
One: We gather today to praise God for wondrous deeds.
All: We delight to do God’s will, with God’s law within our hearts.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS
Merciful God, so often we walk past those who are poor or sick. We get caught up in our own privileged lives and ignore your commands to love our neighbor. Forgive us for allowing injustice to become a normal part of our landscape.
Move us to be in right relationship with you and with your people.
(hold silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
One: Friends, you are rich with abundant gifts from a God of second chances.
In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.
People: In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.

BENEDICTION
Go from here, led by God, into the margins of society,
Filled with a Spirit of hope and relationship with all people, Crossing boundaries and repairing the chasm in the name of Jesus Christ.
1. I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
2. He drew me up from the desolate pit,[a] out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
3. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.
4. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.
5. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.
6. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.[b] Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
7. Then I said, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.[c]”
8. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”
9. I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.
10. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
11. I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.
12. For evils have encompassed me without number; my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me.
13. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
14. Let all those be put to shame and confusion who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt.
15. Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”
16. But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!”
17. As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.