

Human Relations Day: Litany

Leader: In this journey of life, we all start in different places with different experiences of family, of neighborhoods and of opportunity. Today - Human Relations Day – we seek to discover within each other our common identity as image bearers of God our Creator.

People: Open our eyes to see that God made each of us fearfully and wonderfully.

Leader: In our humanity, we recognize that the scars of life can blur the image of the Creator. We recognize that scars can change our course, as obstacles of systematic injustice, poverty and hopelessness sometimes obscure the path.

People: Open the eyes of those who fail to see that God made them fearfully and wonderfully.

Leader: God, forgive our tendency toward putting people in categories. Give us wisdom to see that sometimes the least are not the lost and sometimes the lost are not the least. Rather, all of us are in need of Christ's love and grace.

People: Open our hearts to have compassion for who take paths we do not understand.

Leader: Today we remember those who have never heard or believed there was a way for them. Show us how to be open to the ways we can help to make smooth the path, to lift up the broken and to be beacons of grace and light toward paths of restoration.

People: Open our minds to explore how we, the body of Christ, can make pathways of restoration and hope.

Leader: Forgive us today for those moments we forget that God created our neighbors along this journey and declared them "good." Grant us the courage to look past what is comfortable and to be those who lift up the broken, the cheated and the injured along the way.

All: Creator, help us to use our words and actions to make our lives, our churches, our workplaces and our communities places of grace and hope. Let us reflect back to the world around us the image of our Creator within each of us. Amen.