



Compassion Week 1

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

The Call to Fly

Theme chorus by Bobby Jo Valentine, “Fly”

[music (available in the downloads) begins to underscore]

Leader: Over the next four weeks, we will be exploring Jesus’ identity, and our own, as “changemakers.” We are inspired by The Changemaker Initiative, whose work is helping churches see that the work God is about these days is less about perfecting the church and more about changing the communities we live in. The problems in the world can be so overwhelming that we stop believing we can make a difference. But we can, if we change our own perception of what that looks like. We will discover that each one of us is called and equipped to make change. And this, my friends, is our true asset in the world. We, the people of the Body of Christ, have so much to give. We will reimagine together.

[sung]

In my dreams I can fly
and I soar
and my feet touch the sky
and it seems I can go anywhere if I try
and the world's not so dark
when the clouds make it white
If there's no hope
tell me why
in my dreams I can fly

This first week, we will affirm the starting point: changemaking starts with compassion. Jesus tells his disciples, "Take a look." As people of faith who want to make a difference, we must start with compassion: with connection, with seeing and "suffering with." The source of this deep compassion, and the source of strength to be a part of the change, is God's love.

[sung]
In our dreams we can fly
and we soar
and our feet touch the sky
and it seems we can go anywhere if we try
and the world's not so dark
when the clouds make it white
If there's no hope
tell us why
in our dreams we can fly

The world is changing. We see it everywhere. We feel it in our bones.
It seems to happen so much faster now than it used to.

The world is changing.

And also, the world needs to change. Children are hungry. Systems are unjust.
People are afraid. There are people on the streets who won't make it a day longer.

The world needs to change.

It is God's desire that the world would change and become more like a holy
commonwealth of just peace in which all have what they need.

And we are the changemakers.

We are called to work alongside the Holy Spirit.

We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

May we be changed by this time of worship!

We Sing

"On Eagles Wings"
"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" #581

PROCLAIMING

A Story about Compassion

Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)

Reader: A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”

Children’s Time

“Be a Changemaker” by Al Start (chorus only - in your downloads)

[music is played and sung by choir or congregation as the children come up]

**We can be a changemaker,
change the world.
Make a better place for everyone!
Changemaker!**

**Just one small change
can make a difference every day
make a difference every day!**

[Video 1 of Eagles]

The Word in Music

“Servant Song” v1-3

Lectio Divina

Mark 6:30-44 (CEB)

[on weeks 2, 3, and 4 the scripts include this scripture from various biblical translations; alternatively, you may want to have someone retell it in their own words... see the small group study guide for suggestions about this kind of preparation]

Leader: Each week, we will read the scripture of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. It may seem strange to hear the same scripture four weeks in a row. But we will have the opportunity to consider what portion of it speaks to us most clearly each week. This is an ancient Christian tradition called “lectio divina” of repeating readings in order to understand more fully. The “versions” of this story will change week-to-week.

Reader: The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, “This is an isolated place, and it’s already late in the day. Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat for themselves.”

He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

But they said to him, “Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months’ pay and give it to them to eat?”

He said to them, “How much bread do you have? Take a look.” After checking, they said, “Five loaves of bread and two fish.”

He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Everyone ate until they were full. They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. About five thousand had eaten.

The Word Proclaimed

“Compassion” by Rev. Amy Beth

Post Message Song

“Lord I Want to Be a Christian” #402

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Testimony to Changemaking

Offertory

Doxology

“Let Us Be Makers” v 3

[sung to the tune of “Blessed Assurance”]

**Praise to the Maker, the One who gives breath.
Praise to Christ Jesus, who reigns over death.
Praise to the Spirit, our strength and our friend.
Three-in-One present, world without end.**

Communion

Great Thanksgiving

Our Lord be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts, friends.
We lift them up now.
Let us give thanks to the Changemaking One.
We lift up our praises, God, Spirit and Son!

[piano underscoring may continue]

[spoken]

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere, to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image,
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we delight in your name and join their unending hymn:

"Let Us Be Makers" v 4

[sung to the tune of "Blessed Assurance"]

**Holy are you, God, with power and might.
Heaven and earth fill with glory and light.
Sing we hosanna, we come in your name.
Sing we hosanna, the saints sing the same.**

[spoken]

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him, we find our purpose,
seeking to serve his purposes in our lives.
Your Spirit anointed him to bring change for those who needed it most:
to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of your wonder-filled acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves for changemaking as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, seal our connection with Christ,
our connection with each other,
and our connection to all the world through our ministry
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

[bread is broken and cup is poured as the congregation sings]

"Let Us Be Makers" v 5

[sung to the tune of "Blessed Assurance"]

**Praise to the Maker, the One who gives breath.
Praise to Christ Jesus, who reigns over death.
Praise to the Spirit, our strength and our friend.
Three-in-One present, world without end.**

Communion Hymn

"A Place at the Table" #3149

GOING OUT IN THE WORLD

Changemaker Blessing

[this first Sunday, pass out laminated versions of this blessing for people to take home with them; keep copies on hand for visitors throughout the series]

Blessed are the changemakers.
Blessed are you who are not asleep
to the world's pain and suffering.
Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.
Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones,
that this is not how things are meant to be.
Blessed are you for not believing the lie that
this is how they will always remain.
Blessed are you who know that things can change,
who long for things to change.

Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change
that is justice and mercy for all.
Blessed are you who know that God has always employed the faithful acts
of ordinary people to heal and change this world.
Blessed are you who know that change begins today,
change begins with us,
and that we are blessed to be the changemakers.
Let the people say... **Amen!**

Song for Soaring

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" 1 & 4

Dismissal

Now go into the world,
risking something big for something good.
Know that compassion is fueled by God's love
that is never absent or in short supply.
And know that your passion will emerge from the nest
when the time is right... and fly!

Postlude

"Sing a New Song"