

Hymn Reading: Receiving Christ's Invitation—A Missional Practice

Missional practices: cultivating new understandings, ways of being, and living Christ's mission.

Purpose: to be awake to Christ's invitation by recognizing Christ's invitation in a story of scripture from the four Gospels and in reading a hymn that calls us to compassionate ministry. This practice is inspired by the fact that we, Community of Christ, have many new hymns in *Community of Christ Sings* that challenge us to offer compassionate ministries.

Steps:

1. Become aware of the presence of God and awake to Christ's invitation. Take a moment to be calm and centered.
2. Choose and read a text from the four Gospels in the spirit of prayer, seeking to be closer to the Living Christ.
3. Choose and read a hymn.
4. Invite God's Spirit to open your heart and mind to guide you to a particular aspect of the hymn such as a word, phrase, feeling or image.
5. Take a few moments to reflect on what you sense God may be bringing into your awareness.
6. Consider one of these question:
 - How can I be more compassionate towards myself, loved ones, or a neighbor?
 - Is there a need for compassion that only I can meet?
 - What new ways am I seeing or responding to Christ's invitation?
7. Offer a prayer of gratitude and be ready to share your compassion in ministry.

Tips for the Process:

- Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to draw closer to the Living Christ by remembering his ever being present and his invitation to share life with him.
- Be aware of hymns sung in congregational worship that you may want to choose.
- Do not rush—take time. There may be days when you follow each step. Other days, you may want to stay only with one or two steps. There is no particular length—less or longer than 10 minutes is fine.
- The key is simplicity and not being constrained by each step.
- Find and follow a pattern that works for you.
- Consider beginning your day with the Mission Prayer.