*Liturgy for Worship Centering on the prophet Micah*

*A God who is never angry in response to human sin would be a God who does not care, who lacks compassion who is willing to turn away from the creation and ignore its pain.* ~ Daniel Simundson, “Micah”

**Call To Worship**

*Adapted from the Hymn, “Come! Live in the Light!” GtG #749*

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

**We are called to be the light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

**We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.**

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of the great day when all will be one!

**God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brother united in love.**

**Hymn 373 (GTG) O for a World**

**Call to Confession**

Out of the depths we cry to God, in our suffering and in our pain. And, it is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God’s mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing.

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, hear our prayer:

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;

For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;

For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;

For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;

We pray for the courage to admit our fault,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the reassurance that your grace awaits us.

Through Christ we pray. Amen

Assurance Of Forgiveness Micah 5:4-5 (NRSV)

The prophet Micah spoke of God’s salvation coming from a small town called Bethlehem.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,

                       in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

           And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

                       to the ends of the earth;

           and he shall be the one of peace.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Prayer for Illumination

As we hear words of judgment and hope, we pray, Holy Spirit, that you would teach us what we need to know. May we not be overcome by what is harsh or complacent by what is soothing so that we may live rightly before you. Amen.

Scripture Micah 6:1-8

Message

**Call to Offering Micah 6:6-8 (NIV)**

With what shall we come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall we come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Doxology

**Prayer of Dedication with Micah 6:6-8**

**Lord, we haven’t brought you thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of olive oil. We have not even brought you the first fruits of labor but we what we feel is comfortable for us to give. While the offerings we do bring are intended to honor you and increase justice and mercy in the world, we also offer you our lives. We declare that we will act more justly, offer mercy more freely, and humble ourselves before you. Amen.**

**Hymn 749 (GTG) Come! Live in the Light!**

**Prayers of the People**

Holy God, you reveal yourself in so many ways, especially in Jesus Christ, your Son. We gather up the prayers of this community for the church, the world, and all in need, confident that you know our deepest thoughts and will refresh our spirits. We pray in the name of the One who transforms principalities and powers and renews the heavens and the earth, Christ our Lord.

**Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For the church. We pray for our sisters and brothers all over the world. Wherever the church is found, wherever your people are living into your call of justice and kindness, walking humbly with you, empower its witness to strengthen and stretch the vision and actions of your people until we mirror the One whose name we claim as the church, Jesus Christ.

**Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For an end to violence, oppression, racism, and injustice: we pray for all who call out as prophets, declaring it is time and past time to dismantle broken systems that oppress, to speak up when a sister or brother is harmed, to not stand idly by while injustice continues. Lead your people from complicity to compassion, from resignation to restitution, from avoidance to action.

**Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For our leaders, local and national, take away selfish pride, greed, and willful ignorance and give them ears to hear the cries of the people, eyes to see what is happening in their midst, minds to discern what is good and right, and hearts to serve those who most need them.

**Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

We pray for those we hold dear and those who have asked for our prayers. We pray for everyone who is in any need, for the lonely, for all filled with anxiety and fear, for our elders in nursing homes or otherwise isolated ,for those who cannot find work and those whose work puts them in harms way for the benefit of others, and for all those we would name before you now....

**Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

For our own lives, stir us to extend ourselves beyond what we thought was possible. Embolden us to faithful service that does not shrink back in fear or self-preservation. Let us remember the faithful who have gone before us and all those who have lived and died fighting for a better world for all your children. As your light has shone through them, may it guide us now.

**Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.**

**﻿The Lord's Prayer**

**Charge and Benediction**

Adapted from the Hymn, “For Everyone Born” GtG #769

For everyone born, a place at the table.

**For everyone born, clean water and bread.**

For everyone born, a place at the table.

**For everyone born, revising the roles and dividing the power.**

For everyone born, a place at the table.

**For everyone born, to live without fear, to work, to speak out, the right to be free.**

**God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace! Amen.**

The liturgy for this service was put together by Beth Patton and Ann Gibbs with resources from Beth Merrill Neel (Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession) and Michelle Henrichs (Assurance of Forgiveness, Prayer of Illumination, Call to Offering, and Prayer of Dedication). The depiction of the prophet (top) is from the artist Ibrahem Usama. The prayers of the people is adapted from the Prayers of Intercession for the fourth Sunday in Advent, *Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year C,* volume 1.