

Parish Meeting Prayers

Introduction

For use in May, 2019

Leader Jesus has taught us how to glorify God - by loving one another. Whenever we encounter hateful acts or words, we know and believe that a response of love is the answer.

Opening Prayer

All God of love, we turn to the message of Jesus for how to respond to the conflicts we encounter. You have taught us through his life, death and resurrection that loving one another is the way. Inspire us always through your Spirit. Amen.

Word of God John 13:31-33A, 34-35

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John *The reading is on the reverse side.*

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. When you hear or read negative, hate-filled words or actions, how do you respond?
2. Describe a loving response you have experienced to unloving or divisive words or actions.

Response (taken from John 13: 34-35)

Side 1 "I give you a new commandment: love one another."

Side 2 This new commandment from Jesus deserves repetition, especially when truly needed.

Side 1 "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

Side 2 Jesus, we thank you for loving us. We pledge our loving responses to others.

Side 1 "This is how all will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Side 2 This check on true discipleship is startling. If we are not loving, are we at that time not disciples of Jesus?

Petitions Individuals add intentions here.

Closing Prayer

All Thank you, Jesus our resurrected Lord, for teaching us how to respond to experiences of hate and fear that we hear and read too often. Help us to spread love - concretely and often. We pray in the Spirit of Jesus, given to us with love. Amen.

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

When Judas had left them, Jesus said,

 “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.
If God is glorified in him,
 God will also glorify him in himself,
 and God will glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.
This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
 if you have love for one another.”