

Special Parish
Forum on the
Statement of
Lament and
Commitment
to Action

November 17, 2021



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Special Parish Forum on the Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action

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Statement of Lament & Commitment to Action

As people of faith in community at Saint Mark's Cathedral, we acknowledge our sins and our failure as Church, and as individuals, both past and present, to respect the dignity of every

Overview

- Why a Statement?
- How did the Statement come to us?

What are we doing tonight?

- “To conclude is not in the nature of the enterprise.”

-The Rev. John Ames in Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Mark 9:2-8 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

What are we
doing
tonight?

*No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that
they hold future promise.*

-Attributed to Archbishop Óscar Arnulfo Romero



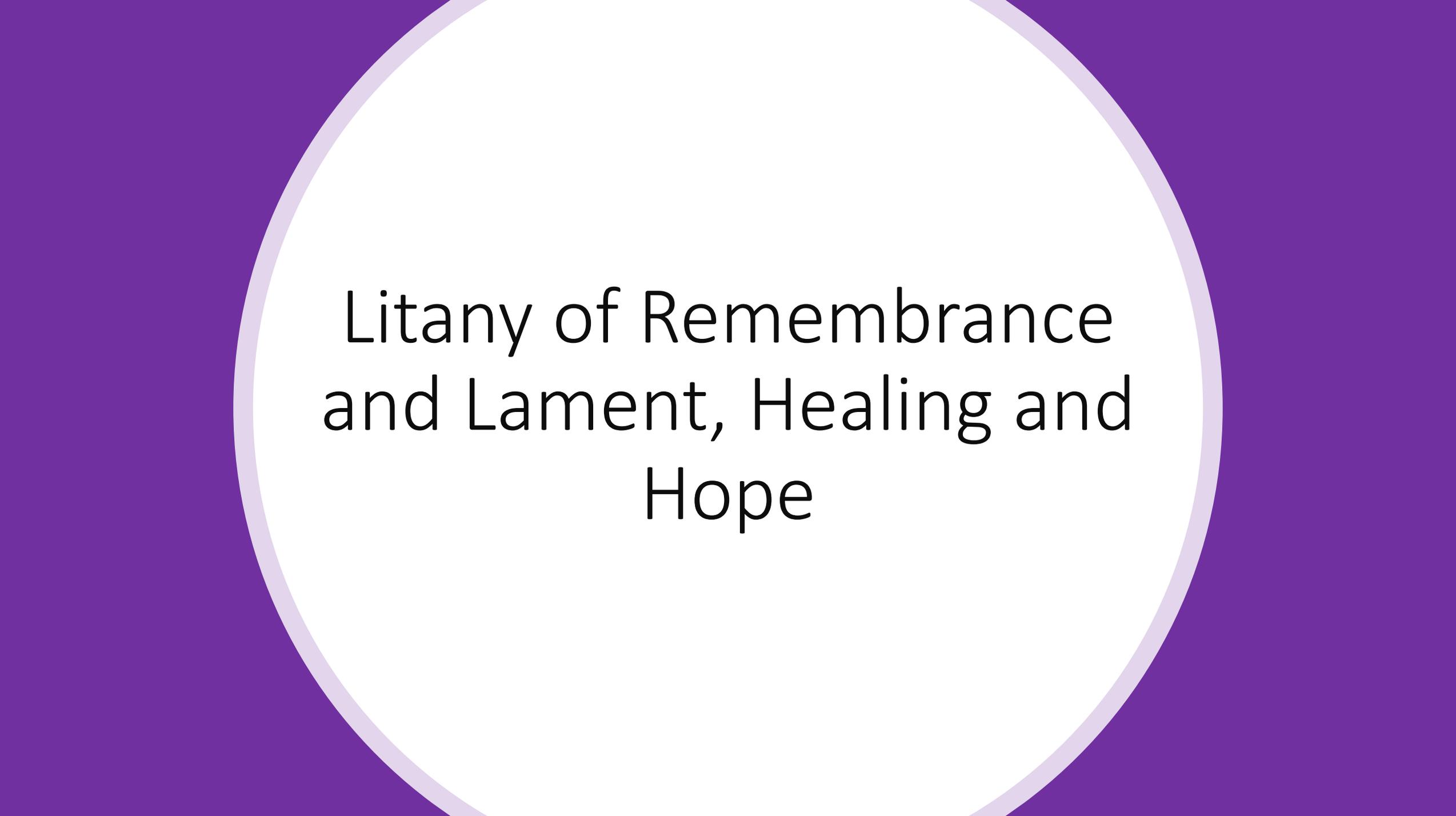
Mark 14: 32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba,[a] Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”



Lamentation must lead to Action and Liberation

Yet it is not as easy as 1-2-3



Litany of Remembrance
and Lament, Healing and
Hope



Breakout Groups

- What is your initial response/reaction to the lamentations in the statement?
- Where are you in these lamentations? / Where do you find Saint Mark's in these lamentations?
- What might the Holy Spirit be revealing to you and Saint Mark's in these lamentations?

Do not be daunted by the
enormity of the world's grief.

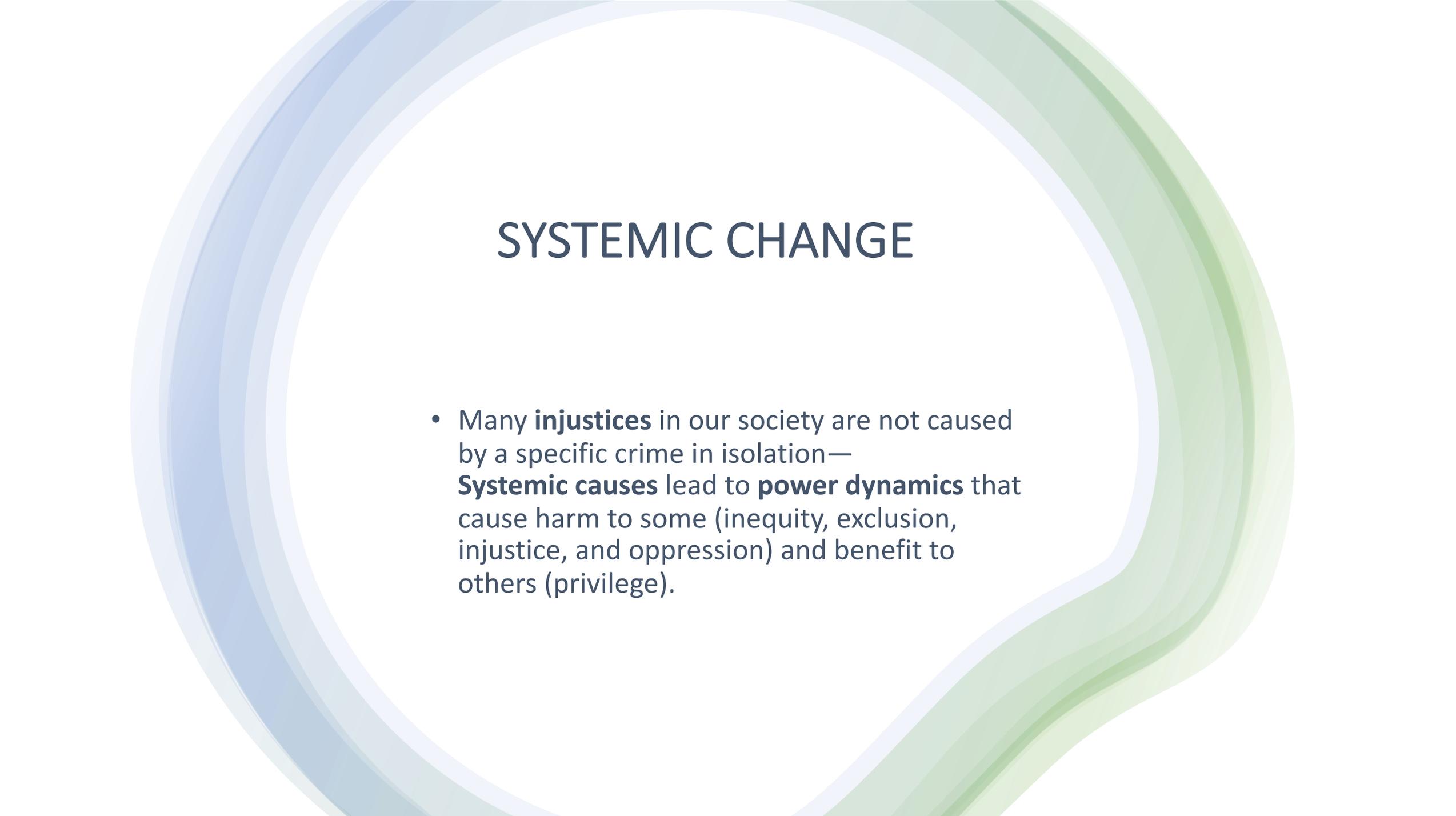
Do justly now, love mercy now,
walk humbly now.

*You are not obligated to
complete the work, but neither
are you free to abandon it.*



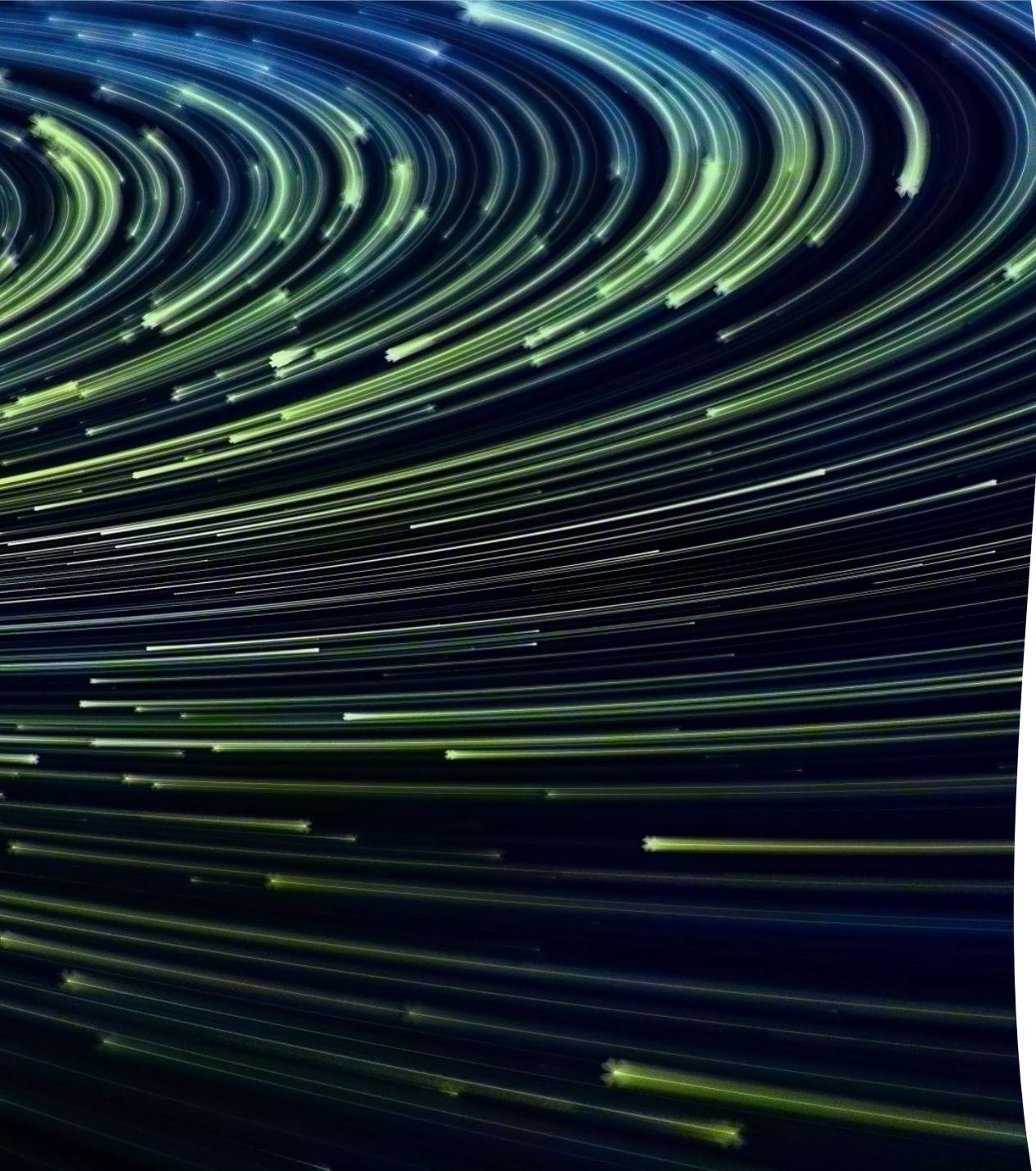
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- Where human dignity and relationships are violated by harm and injustice, restorative justice upholds **human dignity**, builds **relationships**, seeks **healing**, promotes **accountability**, and enables **transformation** within individuals, communities, and social systems.



SYSTEMIC CHANGE

- Many **injustices** in our society are not caused by a specific crime in isolation—**Systemic causes** lead to **power dynamics** that cause harm to some (inequity, exclusion, injustice, and oppression) and benefit to others (privilege).



We Commit to Action...

We will strive to go deeper in faith

We will strive to listen...

We will grow and learn...

We will strive to lift up truth...

We Commit to Action

We will reject White Nationalism...

We will love our neighbors by standing against bullying, attacks, and hate speech...

We will welcome the stranger...

We will expose and oppose racial injustice...

We will work to end misogyny and objectification...

We will fight for climate justice...

We will engage with our best values...

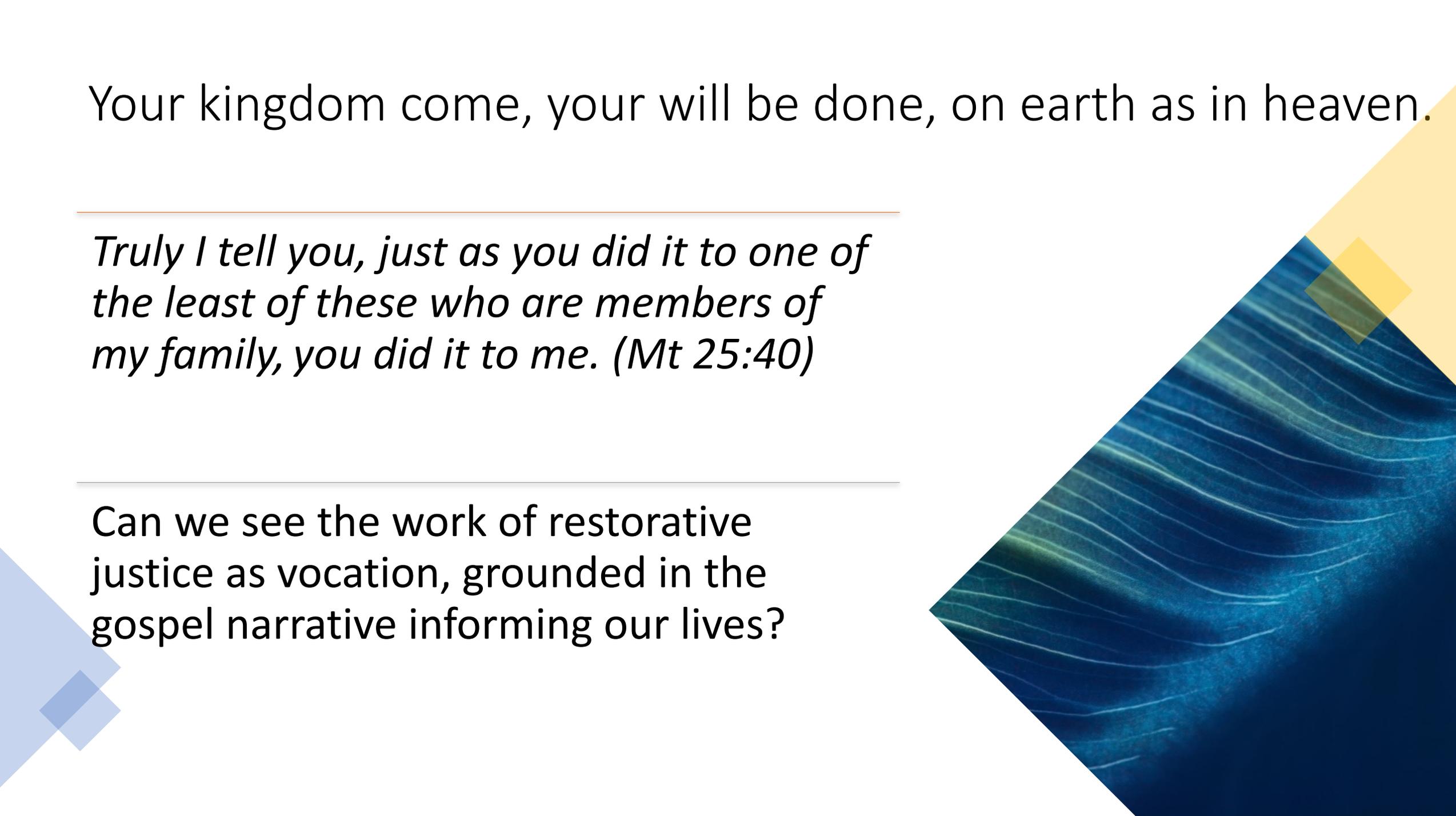
We will work to make our commitment to diversity and inclusion a visible reality...

Your kingdom come, your will be done...

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Mt 25:40)

Can we see the work of restorative justice as vocation, grounded in the gospel narrative informing our lives?



Commitment to Action

Homelessness and Hunger ministries

Racial Justice & Healing

Immigration Justice & Sanctuary

Global Justice (e.g., Cristosal, Santa Marta Center, Mideast Peace, etc.)

Affiliated Partners in Ministry (e.g., Faith Action Network, Casa Latina, NWIRP, Church Council)

Exploring the meaning, purpose and value of reparations

Intersectional work to address inequities and systemic power dynamics (e.g., patriarchy, misogyny)



Breakout Groups

- What is necessary for this work to be transformative for us?
- How can you discern this as vocational work?
- What does it look like to take the long view in this effort?

Next Steps:
Where is your
heart stirring?

Three questions for you
to consider