

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, as you have sent Jesus to be for us light and truth, send now your Spirit upon us to grant us grace and strength to follow in his footsteps this day. Amen.

¹My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism... ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. James 2:1,9 NIV

¹My friends, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, you must never treat people in different ways according to their outward appearance... ⁹But if you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker. James 2:1,9 GNT

²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,
³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"

⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

To show partiality is not good. *Proverbs 28:21*

Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.
Leviticus 19:15

So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.
Malachi 2:9

I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

Acts 10:34-35

The rich and poor meet together:
The Lord is the Maker of them all.
Proverbs 22:2 KJV

Favoritism is an indication of a heart that at best, is in need of spiritual help and at worst, lacks grace and empathy.

OUR HUMAN CONDITION

I don't really like the poor. They are not always clean. I stay away from sick people. They smell bad. I don't understand people whose customs, cultures, and ways of thinking are different from mine. They make me feel uncomfortable. I don't want to socialize or go to church with them. People with handicaps make me feel awkward. Actually, what I enjoy most is the company of people who are just like myself.

Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom He promised to those who love him?" James 2:5
ESV

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18-19NKJV

Mark 11:15-17

These (*foreigners who joined themselves to the Lord*) I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; **for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.** Isaiah 56:7 ESV

**IS PMC A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL PEOPLES?**

You Are the Seed (UMH 583)

**You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.**

**You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where'er you go.**

Refrain:

**Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.**

**Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead I arose;**

**“Lo, I’ ll be with you forever,
till the end of the world.”**

**You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
through valleys and pastures of peace.**

**You are the friends that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.**

**You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign.**

Refrain:

**Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.**

**Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead I arose;**

**“Lo, I’ ll be with you forever,
till the end of the world.”**

**You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.**

**There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.**

Refrain:

**Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.**

**Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead I arose;**

**“Lo, I’ ll be with you forever,
till the end of the world.”**