



“YOU SHALL ALSO LOVE THE
SOJOURNER, FOR YOU WERE
SOJOURNERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT.”

- Deuteronomy 10:19

Concluding Liturgy for Neighbor to Neighbor Teams

At the conclusion of the formal relationship with your new neighbor, we encourage you to host a small, intimate liturgy for the members of the Neighbor to Neighbor team, giving thanks for this opportunity, reflecting on the gifts and the challenges, as well as praying about the possibility of sponsoring another family.

This is generally an opportunity for the Neighbor to Neighbor team; your new neighbors should not be invited except in rare circumstances. A separate concluding event could occur with the new neighbor where stories, food, and fellowship are shared.

Opening Prayer:

God of grace, we give thanks for the arrival of the _____ family to our country. We're mindful of the countless individuals who still seek freedom, liberty, and possibilities.

We give thanks for the people on our Neighbor to Neighbor team and all who helped make this possible. As we conclude this phase of our work, we pray for your continued blessing upon the _____ family and all of us.

May we continue to be instruments of your peace. Amen.



First Reading

Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,[a]

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes, the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

5 Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

6 And you will be called priests of the LORD,
you will be named ministers of our God.
You will feed on the wealth of nations,
and in their riches you will boast.

7 Instead of your shame
you will receive a double portion,
and instead of disgrace
you will rejoice in your inheritance.
And so you will inherit a double portion in your
land,
and everlasting joy will be yours.

8 "For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
In my faithfulness I will reward my people
and make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants will be known among the
nations
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed."

10 I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.



Gospel

Luke 10: 25-37

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.[a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Reflections

We invite you to share with one another how these readings speak to your experiences of Neighbor to Neighbor and walking alongside the _____ family



Prayers of the People

For each member of the Neighbor to Neighbor team, all the volunteers and clergy who made this ministry possible, we give you thanks for them and for the blessing they've been to our common life.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

For immigrants everywhere – those who are welcomed and those who remain on the margins of society. Be close to them, O God, through our collective love.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

For the Episcopal Church and Christians everywhere to take seriously the call of welcome and hospitality.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

For the Neighbor to Neighbor program that you may continue to bless our shared efforts.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

For our country – that we may enact laws that love justice, do mercy, and allow all of us to walk humbly with one another and with you, our good God.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

For each of us, as we transition into a new phase of our relationship with the ___ family. May you comfort us in our sadness, remind us of the joy, and inspire continued faithfulness in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We pray especially for the ___ family. Bless them as they continue their new beginning here in the United States. Pour out abundant mercy and blessings upon them.

Lord in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray?

(You are invited to name out loud or silently your own petitions).



Closing Prayer

God of abundant mercy, we give you thanks for the Neighbor to Neighbor program, and all who make this ministry possible. As we begin a new chapter in our relationship with the ____ family, we pray for each person who has helped shape this program. We pray for your continued blessings upon each of us. May we know that Love is the force that created the Universe, sustains this beautiful creation, and calls us back to faithfulness when we wander astray. Bless us in our comings and our goings – but above all – may our hearts continue to break at the same things that break your heart.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let the church say, **AMEN!**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!