



HOSPITALITY.....for ALL!

SUGGESTED SETTINGS:

- A fresh pineapple (sign of hospitality/welcoming), lit candle (to be light to others), and small bowl of salt (symbolizing the salt of the earth).
- Statue of the Sacred Heart (hands outstretched to welcome all).
- Picture of the Statue of Liberty (welcoming ALL to the United States).

LEADER:

“Relationship is at the heart of Francis and Clare. Francis did not set out to found a religious order, but simply to live a life in accord with the Gospel.... Through knowing Brother Jesus he came to recognize himself and all of creation as belonging to God’s family. Franciscan life is about discovering oneself and then sharing with others this relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ. Franciscan community is the primary place where this relationship is experienced and expressed. Franciscan hospitality is about welcoming others – young and old, rich and poor, believer and non-believer – as brothers and sisters.”

(Franciscan.org.UK)

SONG: All Are Welcome – Marty Haugen (YouTube)

Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell, how heart learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of God shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a home where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word,
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome all are welcome all are welcome in this place.

READER 1: Exodus 23:9 & Leviticus 19:33

You must not oppose the stranger; you know how a stranger feels, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

When foreigners live with you in your land, do not mistreat them. You shall treat the foreigner who lives with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love them as yourself; for you too were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord, am your God. (Leviticus 19:33)

PAUSE:

When were you a stranger?
How did you feel?

READER 2: Hebrews 13: 1-2

Continue to love each other like brothers and sisters, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are badly treated, since you are in the one body.

PAUSE:

Who are today's strangers in your life?...who are the unexpected "angels?"
What challenges do you take from this reading from Hebrews?
What actions can you take to better hospitality in today's world?

SONG: You, the Christ – Ian Callahan (YouTube) – could only find one selection sung by "the Carmelite Sisters." Song could also be read by the group, but is better sung!

Stranger, standing at my door, you disturb me at night;
You have needs I can't ignore, you have eyes that speak your plight.
Do I know you, nameless face, battered woman, detainee,
Hungry youth or sickness case, jobless parent, refugee-
Do I know you, nameless face?

You are stranger in speech and dress, you have children at your side,
You are like one of us – you have begged away your pride.
If you pass across my screen I might switch you out of sight,
Worlds away you might have been, yet you stand here in the night.
Do I know you, nameless face?

I am fearful of your claim, yet I cannot turn away,
Stranger with the foreign name, are you angel come to stay?
You are messenger and guest, you the Christ I can't ignore,
You my own compassion's test, stranger standing at my door.
You, the Christ I can't ignore. You, the Christ I can't ignore.

READER 3: Matthew 25: 35-45 (Read entire passage from a bible or.... this short adaptation.)

Jesus told us at the end of our earthly life we will be judged based on how we treat the most vulnerable among us.

.....For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

.....Lord, when did we see you a stranger and welcome you?

.....Truly, I tell you. Whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me.

PAUSE:

A core value of Franciscans..... and compassion compels us to stand with and embrace others in their suffering. How do you do that?

SHARE with your group:

LITANY of SHARED COMMITMENT:

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the source of all light and life, despite our differences,

All: together we believe in the holiness of life.

Leader: While we come from our different life experiences and professions, and heritage,

All: together we recognize our common humanity.

Leader: Together we offer a common prayer that all who are uprooted by economic necessity, famine, war, and strife

All: may be protected from harm and find assistance in caring ways.

Leader: Together we share a common commitment that the stranger, the foreigner, and those in need are to be honored and welcomed with love,

All: despite our own personal, social, financial and political commitments.

Leader: We are differently hued as the rainbow;

All: yet our collective beauty is the beauty of the Holy One.

Leader: We are birthed under skies nearby and far away,
All: but the same sun rises and sets upon us all.

Leader: We have been the pilgrim and the stranger,
All: and know the necessity of compassion and justice.

Leader: And so we join our hands and lift our voices,
All: that together we may be a holy people in a holy world – walking in love,
providing welcome, ensuring protection, and working for peace. So be it!

SONG: Siyahamba – Traditional South African (YouTube)

Lines of the song are repetitive. Song is upbeat! Suggested
selections: USC Thornton Choir or ND Folk Choir

Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nye-ni kwen-khos,
We are marching in the light of God