

**OPENING OF SSND SOLIDARITY SUMMER
ORDER OF SERVICE**

Song – God of Abraham by Bernadette Farrell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwG4rRaed0M>

God of Abraham, lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into fruitfulness, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Mary be with us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into trusting you, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Sarah be with us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Through our laughter and labor,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Jesus Christ, lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into your new creation,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Moses and Aaron,
lead us to your kingdom.
Out of slavery, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of all living people,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into unity, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Miriam, lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into songs of hope, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of ev'ry race lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
In diversity, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Naomi, lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into love and care, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of women of all time,
lead us to your kingdom.
Out of history, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Israel, lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
To the promised land, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of humankind lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into harmony, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

God of Samuel, lead us,
lead us to your kingdom.
Into listening, lead us,
lead us together, lead us to freedom.

Lead us now and forever,
lead us to your kingdom.
Give us now a new future.
Lead us together, lead us to freedom now.

[God of Abraham](#) by Bernadette Farrell, published by OCP,
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Scripture Reading – James 3: 13-18

Commitment to Change Our Hearts

“My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.” *Pope Francis*

“We recognize that, as individuals and as congregation, we participate in social sin. We are called to acknowledge our contribution to injustices in the world...God’s grace enables us to counteract these tendencies and to foster within ourselves and in society an attitude of humility and sharing in order to bring about a more just and humane world.” *YAS GD22*

SUNG REFRAIN:

Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be.

Change our minds this time, your life will make us free.

We are the people your call set apart. God, this time change our hearts.

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.” *Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” *Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be.

Change our minds this time, your life will make us free.

We are the people your call set apart. God, this time change our hearts.

“In carrying out Christ’s mission to bring all to oneness...we experience and accept the paschal mystery in our lives. We recall with confidence the words of Mother Theresa: ‘All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain, but then, their roots are the sturdier and their flowering the lovelier.’” *YAS, C5*

Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be.

Change our minds this time, your life will make us free.

We are the people your call set apart. God, this time change our hearts.

“Struggle is never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.” *Correta Scott King.*

“The beauty of anti-racism is that you don’t have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself.” – *Ijeoma Oluo*

Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be.

Change our minds this time, your life will make us free.

We are the people your call set apart. God, this time change our hearts.

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin.....People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.” *Nelson Mandela*

“Love cannot wait!” *Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger*

Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be.

Change our minds this time, your life will make us free.

We are the people your call set apart. God, this time change our hearts.

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A Prayer of Response to Mary’s Magnificat

My soul seeks to magnify the Lord as *my spirit rejoices in God my Savior*,
for the Almighty has done good things and
though change feels slow and is sometimes hard to find,
I know that it comes. I know that it happens.

With Mary I wait for what has been promised.
I wait for tables to be turned and power to shift.
For a scattering of the proud and a tumbling of the mighty.
I wait for new life and a new world.

For those treated as social outcasts just for being who they are
or because of events outside their control,
I pray for God’s loving presence to be as real to them
as it was to Mary when she proclaimed
the Lord has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

To the *Mighty One who has done great things*
I pray for an open heart and unblocked ears
that I may hear the voices of the poor and oppressed
and act to share their struggle for justice.

For those who have experienced violence,
or been forced to flee their homes,
I pray for God’s mercy which Mary promised
is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

For those who experience racial hatred
and suffer the bigotry of the narrow minded,
I pray that they might know that *God has shown the strength of his arm*
and the proud will be *scattered in the conceit of their heart.*

For those suffering under the oppression of tyrants and dictators,
I pray they may take comfort in knowing justice is coming

*for God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.*

For the poor and hungry,
I pray they may experience what it means
to be *filled with good things*
while *the rich are sent away empty*.

To the one who *helped his servant Israel,*
in remembrance of his mercy,
I pray with longing that all may have the joy of the Magnificat
as its promise is fulfilled with God among us.
And I pray for the wisdom and courage in my own life to help make that happen.

Monica Scheifele, Mennonite Central Committee
<https://mccottawaoffice.wordpress.com/2017/12/19/a-prayer-of-response-to-marys-magnificat/>

BLESSING OF COMPASSION, Adapted from Joyce Rupp

Touching the forehead

May I approach all other beings with Christ-like compassion, observing them with kindness.
May I let go of all harsh judgments.

Touching the ears

May I be aware of the suffering of those around me, and of all those in the cosmos. May my ears be open to hear their cries of distress.

Touching the mouth

May I have the courage and wisdom to speak up for those who are wronged,
to be a voice for those who suffer from racism.

Touching the hands

May I be ready to give when someone needs to receive my gifts.
May I be open to receive from others when I am in need.

Touching the heart

May I give my heart and soul to personal and communal reflection, transformation, and action
to address racial bias and systemic racism.

While touching the heart, we conclude this prayer singing:

**Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be.
Change our minds this time, your life will make us free.
We are the people your call set apart. God, this time change our hearts.**

Closing

My Dear Sisters, Associates and Ministry Partners,
I commend you to the Holy Spirit,
Through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary
And I entrust you forever into her blessed hands... Hands that reached out in compassion and in justice-making.

Our thanks to our Sisters, Joyce Kolbet, Brenda TeVogt, Mara Frundt, Therese Marie Merth, Rosea Brown, and Mary Kay Ash, for providing this service.

Join us Monday evening for the first session of Summer of Solidarity. Information to join the session and to receive the written materials are in the recent email.

