

**July 12**

**OPENING SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 16:2-12 (NRSV)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So, Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning, you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."'

## **\*Call to Worship**

One: Jesus, thank you for being present with us as we begin this time of worship.

**ALL: Some of us are carrying burdens that are too heavy for us to bear, burdens of mood disorders, thought disorders, anxiety, and addiction. Some of us are suffering right now, Lord.**

One: Thank you for bearing witness to our pain, for easing our suffering, and helping us carry our burdens. Thank you for being a source of support, empathy, compassion, and hope.

**ALL: Please help us to be a community that is yoked with you, joining in the sacred work of having empathy and compassion for each other.**

One: May this time of worship be a time of rest and rejuvenation, and a reminder of our sacred call to truly see and support each other and our communities.

**ALL: In your holy name we pray, Amen.**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**God of Justice, you have shown us what is right: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. Forgive all the life in our nation that falls short of what you require. Forgive the poverty of the body, mind, and spirit that still exists among us. Forgive all the broken lives and the broken hearts that are not tended. Forgive us as individuals and as a nation for not being big enough, broad-minded enough, hopeful enough, or loving enough to create a just society. Forgive us and help us, so that our life as a nation and the contribution we make to the life of the world, may honor you and do justice to your demands, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**