OPENING SCRIPTURE Isaiah 56:1-8 (MSG) Nancy Goethe

"Guard my common good:
Do what's right and do it in the right way,
For salvation is just around the corner,
my setting-things-right is about to go into action.
How fortunate are you who enter into these things,
you men and women who embrace them,
Who keep Sabbath and don't defile it,
who watch your step and don't do anything evil!
Make sure no outsider who now follows God
ever has occasion to say, 'God put me in second-class.
I don't really belong.'
And make sure no physically mutilated person
is ever made to think, 'I'm damaged goods.
I don't really belong.'"

"To the mutilated who keep my Sabbaths
and choose what delights me
and keep a firm grip on my covenant,
I'll provide them an honored place
in my family and within my city,
even more honored than that of sons and daughters.
I'll confer permanent honors on them
that will never be revoked.

"And as for the outsiders who now follow me,
working for me, loving my name,
and wanting to be my servants—
All who keep Sabbath and don't defile it,
holding fast to my covenant—
I'll bring them to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
They'll be welcome to worship the same as the 'insiders,'
to bring burnt offerings and sacrifices to my altar.
Oh yes, my house of worship
will be known as a house of prayer for all people."
The Decree of the Master, God himself,
who gathers in the exiles of Israel:
"I will gather others also,
gather them in with those already gathered."

***Call to Worship**

One: Come, all who labor and are heavy-laden.

Many: And God will give you rest.

One: Take God's yoke upon you,

Many: For the Lord is gentle and lowly in heart.

One: Come, and find peace in your souls,

All: For the yoke of the Lord is easy, and the burden is light.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lover of the unlovable, we are captives of the world. Recapture our loyalties, not by defeating our will but by drawing it to yours. Seize our spirits, not by forcing us into your grasp, but by freeing our hearts to follow .

Adore us, love us, desire and seek us. our ears strain for the sound of you, our eyes for the sight of you; our hearts tremble in anticipation of your presence. Come into our midst, and make us your captives. AMEN