



## Wednesday Prayer

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Servant leaders

**On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”**

**Luke 17:11-19**

This past week, I was blessed to attend a day-long retreat of LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services staff – folks who work every day with young people who have often been pushed to the margins. It’s often too easy to go about our lives not really seeing this part of our society while others are deeply engaged in the work of healing justice. These servant leaders – outreach workers, case managers, overnight house staff and many more – provide the deep healing work and long-term support structures for young people who may have experienced exploitation or other traumas that led them here. These leaders truly see these young people, hear their individual stories, and engage with them on the road of finding their path forward.

In this Gospel lesson, Jesus is approached by ten lepers who have been pushed to the margins of society. They seem to know their place as they keep their distance, calling out to Jesus from afar. They are the marginalized, isolated and pushed out so as not to be seen. Jesus sees and hears them, not just in the physical sense, but also as worthy of his love and care. He sends them on the road toward healing, giving them agency to be a part of their healing process. I think of the times I’ve wanted to just fix another’s problem, which feels good for me, but doesn’t give the other person opportunity to act on their own behalf and feel worthy of their own healing.

When the one leper returns to praise Jesus for his healing power, Jesus gives the power back saying, “Your faith has made you well.” This brings me back to the servant leaders who work with young people who have been marginalized and pushed out. When one comes back, sometimes years later, to say thanks for all the support provided, it is often with great praise and a sense of pride in how far they’ve come.

**Jesus, servant leader, you show us the way. Help us to follow in your word, extending your love and care to those in our midst, engaging on the road together. Amen.**