

**INTRODUCTION:** In our post-Easter series, we will be reflecting on what it means to be Jesus' witnesses in the world (Acts 1:8). Each one of us occupies very particular places and, because of that, we each have our own unique opportunities to offer love and service to those we interact with. We have a "Jerusalem," a place where God has called us to be present and attentive to what He is doing and to join Him in that work. We are, in some sense, all missionaries; we are all witnesses of God's good news for the world in and through Jesus.

**CENTERING:** Take a moment to center yourself for communion with God.

**READING:** Genesis 1; Colossians 1:15-20

**REFLECTING ON SERMON & SCRIPTURE:**

- David Bell made these statements from surveys conducted with Christians:
  - "I can clearly see how the work that I am doing is serving God or a higher purpose."
  - "The work that I am doing is NOT as important as the work of a pastor or priest."Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Why or why not?
- Do you see your work as something that is good in the image of God or as a curse? What has led to your perspective? Is it what it has always been or has it changed? What changed that perspective?
- The following are six arenas of God's work:
  - Redemptive work
  - Creative work
  - Providential work
  - Justice work
  - Compassionate work
  - Revelatory workWhere does your work fit in and why? How does that make you feel?
- How might seeing your work as having intrinsic value impact the way you understand yourself as God's witness?
  - How does your work contribute to God's mission of loving reconciliation in one of these areas?
  - Reconciliation of God with the creation
  - Reconciliation of God with created beings
  - Reconciliation between created beings
  - Reconciliation within created beings
  - Reconciliation between created beings and the creation
- Where/how does your work demonstrate the reality of one of these evidences of God's kingdom mission coming on earth as it is in heaven?
  - Spiritual awakening and redemption to God
  - Care for creation
  - Justice for the poor, marginalized, and oppressed
  - Healing of the body, mind, soul, and spirit
  - Peace and Reconciliation among peoples and nations (the ends of "-isms")
  - Authentic Community and Relationships

**BEING A WITNESS:**

- Reflect on the following words from Tim Keller, author of *Every Good Endeavor*.
  - *“Work is our design and our dignity; it is also a way to serve God through creativity, particularly in the creation of culture.”* Imagine how you can create and influence culture at your work.
  - *“To be a Christian in business, then, means much more than just being honest or not sleeping with your coworkers. It even means more than personal evangelism or holding a Bible study at the office. Rather, it means thinking out the implications of the gospel worldview and God's purposes for your whole work life—and for the whole of the organization under your influence.”* Spend time thinking and praying about God's purposes for your work life.

**PRAYING:**

From the Book of Common Prayer: *Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*