**FOLLOWING A COMMUNITY WALK IN RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS:**

**A COMMISSIONING**

**Theme: A Common Vision**

**This Liturgy can be adapted to use within the church setting if you so wish.**

**It’s Good Friday and once again many of us will not be able to worship in our buildings. If we are able to do so, it will be at limited capacity. Have you ever wondered what the first Good Friday looked like? Who was being crucified? And why? Today we are called to see Good Friday through different lens. Where in our communities are crucifixions happening? Who are the victims? (Silence)**

 Here we are back where we started. But something has changed.

 It’s still *Good Friday* and our awareness of the injustice of Jesus’ crucifixion remains. His suffering and death remain the context of our walk to the

**(Name a place)**

Our sadness in remembering the deaths of our brothers, our sisters, our neighbours, our friends remain. As does our sense of loss, anger and frustration.

 Much is the same from when we began our walk.

 But something has changed.

We are different.

 We came to this walk as individuals. We return as community.

We came from different faith traditions or no faith tradition.

 Some of us have attended worship services to remember the death of Jesus of Nazareth.

 Some of us had a leisurely breakfast planning to join the walk this afternoon.

 Some of us just happened to be walking by (**Name a Place**) or the (**Place**)and decided to see what was happening.

 Different. But now the same.

 There is a common sense of loss: homeless men and women have needlessly died on our streets and in our parks.

 Addicted men, women and youth have unintentionally died from drug overdoses, often adulterated to kill.

 When neighbours die we are diminished. We grieve.

 Now there is a common pain.

 Now there is a common vision:

These needless deaths must end.

 Homelessness must end.

 The tragedy of addiction must be addressed.

We return from our walk as one people.

 We return with a vision of a new day dawning.

 Good Friday is the prelude to Easter.

 Death is not the final word.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision… a common song… a common story.

 Words of a song come to mind.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a common message,
justice and dignity must come to all.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing with healing like a stream.

**Commissioning**

As a memorial of the deaths of our neighbours, we invite you to take a stone as a memorial to those who have died.

Leader Our community has been diminished by the loss of neighbours due to homelessness and drug overdose.

**People We will remember them.**

Leader A new covenant of commitment to work for justice and dignity for all is needed.

**People We are a people with a common vision and a common hope.**

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a common message,
justice and dignity must come to all.