**Abandoned - but not forgotten.**

**This Worship Service is adapted from a Kairos Service used in Barrie 2019. You are invited to adapt this Worship Service to your context.**

*Name places within your community where the homeless can be found, or where someone was lost to Homelessness ……*

God of many names, you never give up on us.

**You continue to break into our hardened hearts and lives persisting with a sense of justice.**

God, who loves the world, you hold each life torn by pain, sorrow, or hatred within your aching heart. We cry out for wholeness, for ourselves, communities, and for our world.

May your healing presence transform the hidden places of our lives where we hold pain in the secret depths.

**May your loving presence be a comforting reality**

**for all those who find themselves in despair, lost and alone.**

May your transforming presence create generosity in place of greed, harmony in place of hatred, and everlasting justice where there is evil.

O God, who loves the world and all it’s peoples, we bring before you from the silence of our aching hearts, those people and places that are in need your healing, loving, transforming presence. (silence)

***For those people who are oppressed and exploited.***

***For those denied their freedom and dignity by systems and authorities.***

***For those who labour long and hard hours and are barely able to feed and clothe themselves and their families.***

***For those forced to sell their bodies to survive.***

***For those women and men who live lives of quiet anguish at the hands of those with power over them.***

O God, who loves the world, this is your world

and we claim your power and your presence

to make it whole. Amen.

**OPENING**

Scattering seeds on varied soil

A sower plants with faith.

**Hands open, gifts offered:**

**This is how we salt the earth.**

Patience in seeking that which was lost,

A woman sweeps with hope.

**Hands open, gifts offered:**

**This is how we salt the earth.**

Binding a roadside stranger’s wounds

A man responds in love

**Hands open, gifts offered:**

**This is how we salt the earth.**

Living a vision of justice and mercy

Christ invites others to follow.

**Hands open, gifts offered:**

**This is how we salt the earth.**

**A Prayer of Protest**

Since our mothers and fathers cried out,

since you heard their cries and noticed,

since we left the brick production of Egypt,

since you foiled the production schedules of Pharaoh,

we have known your name,

we have sensed your passion,

we have treasured your vision of justice.

And now we turn to you again,

whose precious name we know.

We turn to you because there are

still impossible production schedules,

still exploitative systems,

still cries of pain at injustice,

still cheap labour that yields misery.

**We turn to you in impatience and exasperation, wondering, “How long?” before you answer**

**our pleading question,**

**hear our petition,**

**since you are not a labour boss and do not set wages.**

**We bid you, stir up those who can change things;**

**do your stirring in the jaded halls of government;**

**do your stirring in the cynical offices of the corporations; do your stirring amid the voting public too anxious to care;**

**do your stirring in the church that thinks too much about purity and not enough about wages.**

**Move, as you moved in ancient Egyptian days.**

**Move the waters and the flocks and the herds toward new statutes and regulations,**

**new equity and good health care,**

**new dignity that cannot be given on the cheap.**

We have known now long since,

that you reject cheap grace;

even as we now know that you reject cheap labour.

You, God of justice, dignity and equity,

keep the promises you bodied in Jesus,

that the poor may be first-class members of society,

that the needy may have good care and respect,

that the poor earth may rejoice in well-being,

that we may all come to Sabbath rest together,

the owner and the worker,

the leisure class and the labour class,

all at peace in dignity and justice,

not on the cheap, but good measure,

pressed down,

running over… forgiven.