

## Closing Prayer

Directions: As you look to the front of the room, if you are on the right side of the room, please pray together the portions of the prayer listed as right. If you are on the left side of the room, please pray together the portions of the prayer listed as left.

**Leader: Jesus Is *in* the World Not *of* It (Heinri Nouwen)**

### **Right**

The Beatitudes offer us a self-portrait of Jesus. At first it might seem to be a most unappealing portrait - who wants to be poor, mourning and persecuted?

### **Left**

Who can be truly gentle, merciful, pure in heart, a peacemaker, and always concerned about justice? Where is the realism here? Don't we have to survive in this world and use the ways of the world to do so?

### **Right**

Jesus shows us the way to be *in* the world without being *of* it. When we model our lives on his, a new world will open up for us. The Kingdom of Heaven will be ours, and the earth will be our inheritance.

**Left** (see Matthew 5:3-10).

We will be comforted and have our fill; mercy will be shown to us. Yes, we will be recognized as God's children and truly see God, not just in an afterlife, but here and now.

### **All**

That is the reward of modeling our lives on the life of Jesus.

**Leader:** And now we pray

### **Right**

Good and gracious God as we continue to reflect on the beautiful beatitudes Jesus continues to teach us, help us always in putting on the mind of Christ and grow in our relationship with you,

### **Left**

Father Son and Holy Spirit, help us to look within and identify those areas most in need of your healing touch. Help us to look at the knots we have tied within our heartstrings.

**Right**

Please untie the knots that are in our minds, our hearts and our lives. Remove the have nots, the cannots and the do nots;

**Left**

Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots that find a home in our hearts. Release us from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct our lives.

**Right**

And most of all, Dear God, please remove all of the am nots that we have allowed to hold us back, especially the thoughts that we are not good enough.

**All**

Jesus, Son of God, You came to bring life and to proclaim the kingdom of God. Help us to recognize the many ways we, too, can be messengers of the Good News.

**Leader:**

We pray always with love and gratitude in our hearts. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen