**1) ACCESS Spiritual Power: Consciously connect with the indwelling God to rediscover our belovedness, our God-given power, and our place within God’s evolving universe.**

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. In what ways do you most easily, regularly, or powerfully connect with God?
2. Does your current spiritual practice lead you to rediscovering your belovedness, your God-given power, and your place within God’s evolving universe? If not, what has helped you in these areas?
3. Do you find that you access spiritual power more easily in solitude or community? Indoors or outdoors? In silence/wordlessness or through engagement with something (words/objects/people, etc.) outside yourself?
4. Experiment with practices that are less familiar or comfortable for you. What do you discover?

**Personal:** We acknowledge and name the destructive powers we experience in our lives, and seek the God of love, whose life-giving power is **accessible** through our embodied experience in creation**.**

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. What are the destructive powers you experience in your life?
2. How, specifically, do they impact you and/or those you love?
3. How do you experience the God of love strengthening or sustaining you in the presence of those destructive powers?
4. Visualize the love of God pouring healing balm on all the wounds caused by these destructive powers, as well as on the people/systems that appear to be channels for those destructive powers.

**Interpersonal:** We *acknowledge* the ways we isolate ourselves and objectify others, and instead **access** the power of love by awakening to God’s indwelling presence in the people and other members of God’s creation we encounter.

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. It can sometimes be difficult to identify ways we isolate ourselves. Consider what concerns or pains you deeply. With whom are you able to share these concerns? Ask yourself why you choose to bear some burdens alone, if you do?
2. It can also be difficult to acknowledge ways we objectify others. When we objectify others, they have no voice so we rarely hear or see them — they become like “objects” providing background or silently doing our bidding. Consider the human (and other living) beings you encounter on a typical day. Imagine them greeting you with a hello and a wave. How might you let their voices and stories be more consistently heard in your life?
3. Experiment with the practice of seeing and hearing all the living beings you encounter each day. (You may wish to focus on one group to start, e.g. people you see on public transportation, or trees you walk by, or people you pass on a sidewalk.)

**Faith Community:** We acknowledge the ways we have allowed our Scriptures and traditions to be misused as weapons against many, and instead **access** the power of the God of love to reclaim the rituals and resources of our faiths to honor human dignity and the integrity of creation.

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. How have you heard of or experienced the resources and practices of your faith tradition being used to harm, exclude or control yourself or others?
2. Name ways you have experienced or witnessed healing, reconciliation or liberation through the very same resources and practices?
3. As active participants in a faith tradition, we bear responsibility for how our faith traditions are expressed and used in the world. Consider how you/your faith community might repent for harm incurred through the specific aspects of our faith tradition named in the previous questions, and reclaim the power of those resources and practices to honor human dignity and the integrity of creation.

**Public Sphere:** We *acknowledge* our collective failures in acting for justice, and instead **access** the power of the indwelling God of love, who works through public efforts to advance human and environmental justice.

**Questions and Practices for Deeper Reflection:**

1. Name the ways your faith community/tradition has acted for justice.
2. Consider the times, places and issues in which your faith community/tradition has remained silent, failed to act, or failed to act powerfully in the face of injustice. Without judgment, reflect on why your faith community/tradition failed to do so. What steps might you take to prepare to act more powerfully in the future?
3. What is the role of prayer in your life? If God works through public efforts to advance human and environmental justice, how can you utilize prayer to empower such efforts? How can prayer help lead you to ways you can more powerfully act in the public sphere? Consider including the public sphere, and your role in the public sphere, more consistently in your prayers.