

Litany of commitment based on John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

[The ONE voice will speak to us in the words of Jesus where indicated by quotation marks. The MANY will speak back to him in our contemporary condition.]

One: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Many: We remember that you told us the commandments were to love God and love neighbor. And your definition of neighbor illustrated someone despised by your own faith community, a Samaritan. Our definition needs to be as generous as yours.

One: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever."

Many: Like the disciples, it would be easier if you were here with us in the flesh, O Christ, but we are grateful for the presence of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Having someone speak for us, stand with us – we understand how important that is.

One: "This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

Many: Having the "Spirit of truth" within us empowers us, emboldens us to live our love generously and faithfully in the world around us and with all our neighbors.

One: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live."

Many: We embrace our life with you, O Christ, and our call to love our neighbor, to be a family of faith together, belonging to each other and caring for each other.

One: "On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Many: As we think about this in relation to farm workers, we offer prayers for them, our neighbors, who pick our fruits and vegetables and labor in the fields and dairies.

One: As Jesus promised an "Advocate" we recognize that we, too, are advocates. We are the presence of Christ in the world to stand with the marginalized in our society, especially our farm worker neighbors.

Many: As they feel the oppression of their vulnerability to exploitation, to pesticide exposure, to deportation fears, to anti-immigrant prejudice, may they also feel the support and strength of the faith community – neighbors

- who take their calling as advocates seriously.

One: May we be the hands and feet and voice of Christ in the world so that everyone, marginalized and excluded, farm worker and politician may know our love for God and neighbor as we live as advocates who project the Spirit of truth.

Many: Empower us, O Holy Spirit, as we live in your world. Amen.