

Creator of all,

You bequeath to each person a full measure of dignity. Every person we meet is your beloved child, bearing your image and presenting the opportunity to *encounter* Christ and to *incarnate* Christ. Swimming in the cosmic sea of sin and blinded to your presence all around, we often allow these occasions to pass us by, ignoring or denying our neighbor's humanity. We simplify ones you have made Beautifully complex. We treat subjects of your love as objects that serve in our fantasies. Send your Holy Spirit into us--let her breathe life into our words--that each time we speak will create not strife, but life. Empower our speech to paint the wonder and awe of all you have made. Fill our minds, moods, and mouths with the language of joy; teach us to name others as you do: **precious**; reveal in us the gift of casual and respectful give and take. Let us hold ourselves lightly and take others seriously. Help us to become the people you intended from the very beginning, a community who does justice, loves mercy, and strolls humbly with you and all humanity in whom you delight. We pray these things in the name of your son, Jesus, who draws us all into one family in your eternal life. Amen.