



# Sister Parish Delegation Devotional

*Danville, California and San Antonio, Guatemala*

October 25–November 3, 2019



To our friends and family at DCC,

This devotional booklet is for daily practice of meditation/prayer/scripture for anyone in the congregation (including us) to use as we visit Guatemala. We plan to use it each day, to think and pray about our trip, and we invite the folks at home, who are hopefully thinking about us, to use it too.

The packet is organized by each day of our trip with Sister Parish from San Antonio Cunen, Quiche. We will be with our 'hermanamiento.' (our sisters and brothers), in Antigua, orient for our visit in Guatemala City, and finish the travel at magnificent Lake Atitlan. Here is a draft plan for our trip.



Sister Parish

**Sister Parish Delegation**

**DCC and San Antonio**

**October 25-November 3, 2019**

**Friday, October 25**

Arrival

Dinner and brief orientation

**Saturday, October 26**

9:00am Orientation I

10:00am House of Memory or Popol Vuh history museum

12:30pm Lunch at Arrin Cuan, any needed errands

2:30pm Current events speaker

5:30pm Reflection

**Sunday October 27**

8:00am Mass at National Cathedral (optional)

9:30am Meet with Sister Parish members from the urban community Tierra Nueva at Kaminal Juyu archeological site (mostly unexcavated ruins, beautiful park)

12:30pm Picnic lunch

2:30pm Central Market and economic understanding exercise, sixth avenue tour

5:00pm Orientation II, Reflection

**Monday October 28 – Travel to Antigua**

8:30am Meeting with Pop Noj (on migration and their work with youth)

10:30am Leave for Tecpan

12:30pm Lunch with San Antonio group in Tecpan

2:00pm Visit Iximche archaeological site with San Antonio

Welcome with San Antonio in Antigua (each group can prepare a cultural presentation)

Grocery shopping

**Tuesday October 29 – Antigua with San Antonio**

7:00am Cook breakfast together (plan a lot of time)

10:00am Tour and lunch at Caoba Organic Farm

2:00pm Meeting with San Antonio – News from our communities (personal, communal, national), tree of life exercise

4:30pm Meet with Aid in Education

**Wednesday October 30 – Antigua with San Antonio**

9:00am Visit Open Windows Foundation educational center (unconfirmed)

11:30am Make lunch together

2:00pm Tour church ruins (either Santo Domingo museums or Las Capuccinas convent)

4:00pm Meeting with San Antonio – Goals and next steps for the relationship

After dinner cultural sharing and goodbyes

**Thursday October 31**

San Antonio group leaves 4am

8:00am Market shopping in Antigua before leaving (30-60 minutes)

9:00am Leave for Lake Atitlan

12:30pm Lunch and talk at IMAP (Meso-American Permaculture Institute)

5:00pm Reflection and dinner

Stay the night in San Lucas Toliman

### **Friday Nov 1**

8:30am Leave for Santiago Atitlan (45 minutes)

9:30am Catch boat in Santiago Atitlan – go to San Pedro

In San Pedro, Bill and Linda's friend Dinora will give us a brief tour of the town and talk about her family's traditions on this day. November 1 and November 2 are big holidays in Guatemala. Families go to the graveyard to leave flowers and candles for their loved ones and clean and decorate the graves.

12:00pm Return to Santiago Atitlan, can visit Peace Park and the church where Father Stanley Rother served

5:00pm Reflection and dinner in San Lucas Toliman

### **Saturday Nov 2**

7:30am Breakfast at Hotel Toliman

9:30am Potential visit to coffee cooperative and campesino rights organization CCDA (unconfirmed since November 2 is also a holiday, they are checking on availability)

1:00pm Lunch

4:00pm Final reflection (could do some in the morning, if people are tired)

6:00pm Dinner

### **Sunday Nov 3**

Departure

*Please join us along the way in daily reflection and prayer. Enjoy!*



## Friday, October 25

### Arrival and Brief Orientation

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**Gathering Song:**                      *Gathered here in the mystery of the hour*  
*Gathered here, in one strong body Gathered here in the struggle and the power Spirit draw near*

“Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, And the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land,  
And the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made,  
and His praise glorified.”

–*Baha’i prayer by Baha ‘U’l-la’h*

“Heavenly Father, we bow our heads and thank You for Your love. Accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will, and write on our hearts these words: ‘Use power to help people.’ For we are given power not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people. Help us remember, Lord. Amen”

–*President George Bush, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1989*

“There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation. There is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolize. There is a failure here that topples all our success... and in the eyes of the hungry there is growing wrath. In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage.

–*John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath*

### **My own thoughts and prayers**

*Use this page to continue your journaling, doodling, imagining...*

## Saturday, October 26

### Orientation and Reflection. Exploring Guatemala City

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- 8:00am Orientation I
- 10:00am House of Memory or Popol Vuh history museum
- 12:30pm Lunch at Arrin Cuan, any needed errands
- 2:30pm Current events speaker

#### Song: This Light of Mine, in Spanish and English

**Esta lucecita, Yo la dejo brillar** (3 times)  
Brillar, Brillar, Brillar

**No la dejes apagar, Yo la dejo brillar** (3 times)  
Brillar, Brillar, Brillar

Brillar, brillar  
Brillar, brillar  
Brillar, brillar  
Brillar

#### *Translation:*

**This little light of mine**, I'm going to let it shine, (x3)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**Don't let it go out**, I'm going to let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

#### **For Reflection before orientation:**

"The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers & cities; but to know someone who thinks & feels with us, & who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden." —Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. We must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces. Here it is love that is the frame we see them in.

When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love.

—*Pope Francis*

**For Sharing in the evening:**

Sharing our favorite bedtime songs – a comfort in a strange new land and a practice for sharing with San Antonio

**Prayer:**

*Gracious God, Trusted Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the darkness of our lives. Help us to empty ourselves with every breath. Make room in us, so that you might take up residence in the very marrow of our bones. Let Justice roll down.*

**My own thoughts and prayers**

## Sunday October 27

### Mass in the National Cathedral

### Life in the City. Preparation for our Hermanimiento

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8:00am Mass at National Cathedral (optional)

9:30am Meet with Sister Parish members from the urban community Tierra Nueva at Kaminal Juyu archeological site (mostly unexcavated ruins, beautiful park)

12:30pm Picnic lunch

2:30pm Central Market and economic understanding exercise, Sixth avenue tour

5:00pm Orientation II, Reflection

Song: *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am Lord)*

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
My hand will save.*

*I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain: Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them,  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.*

*Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*

“The human being, every human being, is God’s beloved creature, made to His image and likeness, endowed with intelligence and will and therefore called to be free and live in community. Moreover, every human being is called by Christ to grow, so as to become a sharer in the divine nature and thus reach full realization in God. This is the source of the immense dignity of the human person.”

–1976 Pastoral Letter, Bishops of Guatemala

“The army alone was not to blame-but also a feudal and oligarchic system, and irresponsible, corrupt civil sectors of Guatemala. For decades the United States favored and aided these oligarchic dictatorships, giving lip service to democracy but in fact pursuing its theories of counterinsurgency and ‘dirty war.’ The United States was really interested only in banana republics, in its ‘backyard’ theory of Central America, not in human rights.”

–Juan Rodil, Guatemalan Interior Minister, 1988

**Reflection:** Mark 8:22–26

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When He had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?”

He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.”

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don’t go into the village.”

**Questions for Reflection**

*What things have you failed to accomplish the first time, and found you could do after going back to try again?*

*Is there anything you have seen more clearly since your eyes have been touched by Guatemala?*

**Rev. Eric’s prayer:**

We hold onto power, we hold onto greed.

We hold on things we don’t really need.

We hold onto hatred, we hold into fear,  
And close ourselves off till we can’t feel you near.

Open our hands, God. Help us let go.  
Open our minds so your justice may flow.

Open us up so your peace can pour through,  
And make our hearts ready, so we can hold YOU. Amen.

**My own thoughts and prayers**

## Monday, October 28

**A day in Antigua, ancient capital of Guatemala flanked by two volcanos, and destroyed by earthquake several times – flower of all Central America for 200 years, each restoration adding more beauty; abandoned as capital of Guatemala in 1775.**

### For waking

Waking up this morning I smile.

Twenty-four brand-new hours are before me.

I vow to live them deeply and learn to look at everything around me with the eyes of compassion.

Thich Nhat Hahn

8:30am Meeting with Pop Noj (on migration and their work with youth)

10:30am Leave for Tecpan

12:30pm Lunch with San Antonio group in Tecpan

2:00pm Visit Iximche archaeological site with San Antonio

4:00 pm Welcome with San Antonio in Antigua (each group can prepare a cultural presentation)

Grocery shopping

### Song: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

*Refrain:*

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness, calling and  
free; Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me  
from placidness, Wind, wind on the sea.

*You moved on the waters, you called to the  
deep,*

*Then you coaxed up the mountains from the  
valleys of sleep;*

*And over the eons you called to each thing:*

*“Awake from your slumbers and rise on  
your wings.” [Refrain]*

*You swept through the desert, you stung with  
the sand.*

*And you goaded your people with a law and  
a land;*

*And when they were blinded with idols and*

*lies,*

*Then you spoke through your prophets to  
open their eyes. [Refrain]*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
Then you whispered in silence when the  
whole world was still;*

*And down in the city you called once again  
When you blew through your people on the  
rush of the wind. [Refrain]*

*You call from tomorrow,  
you break ancient schemes.*

*From the bondage of sorrow all the captives  
dream dreams;*

*Our women see visions,  
our men clear their eyes.*

*With bold new decisions your people arise.  
[Refrain]*

## **Prayer of St Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, Faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy; O divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*–Prayer of St. Francis*

## **A little song practice before San Antonio:**

*Andando junto, celebrando y cantando.*

*Muchos voces, una cancion, 'stamos andando junto.*

*Walking together, celebrating and singing.*

*Many voices, one song, we are walking together.*

## **My own thoughts and prayers**

*Use this page to continue your journaling, doodling, imagining...*

## *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

*Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
We are the old who yearn for you face;  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
Give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we all take the wine and the water,  
Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven, light years away  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever,  
Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

## Tuesday, October 29 — Antigua

**Making meals together. Delegates teach English, community teaches Maya Quiche. Together: teaching kid songs and games [e.g. head, shoulders, knees and toes; Old MacDonald], pin the tail on the donkey, share lullabies  
Lunch with families; DCC reflection; community discussion of points**

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7:00am Cook breakfast together (plan a lot of time)

10:00am Tour and lunch at Caoba Organic Farm

2:00pm Meeting with San Antonio – News from our communities (personal, communal, national), tree of life exercise

4:30pm Meet with Aid in Education

**Song:** *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* – see lyrics previous page

**Reflection:** Luke 10:25–37 “The Good Samaritan”

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest who was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the others side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denariis, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “the one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “go and do likewise.”

**Joint reflection with San Antonio:**

*Has this passage changed for you since your introduction to Guatemala?*

**Song:** *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* – see lyrics above

**Prayer from the heart of the moment Lord’s prayer**

**Meeting with the community:** Questions to explore from our history; prayer booklet; what were their reactions & thoughts to Solar demo; update on community considerations including status of referendum, water project, electricity, migration, replanting hillsides, stove education, impacts and status of mega-projects, impacts of warming on their lives. Questions of each group to the other, status of project proposals—especially building a church, how have the crops been, which of their old customs have they lost? (And are there ways we might re-hook up with them? Example might be wool that once was sheared and woven for local sale – could they weave it for us in the North?) Sharing of bed-time songs, coloring books.

**My own thoughts and prayers**

## Wednesday, October 30

How to be with each other in solidarity, as we work in our communities.

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9:00am Visit Open Windows Foundation educational center (unconfirmed)

11:30am Make lunch together

2:00pm Tour church ruins (either Santo Domingo museums or Las Capuccinas convent)

4:00pm Meeting with San Antonio – Goals and next steps for the relationship

After dinner cultural sharing and goodbyes

**Song with San Antonio:** *You are my Sunshine*

**Possible topic for discussion** with our Sr. Parish:

From *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, as the underground protest began to grow and become more organized, Rigoberta says this about her decision to learn Spanish, “They've always said, ‘Poor Indians, they can't speak’, so, many speak for them. That’s why I decided to learn Spanish.” ..... it would be great to hear what they think about learning Spanish, to process that together, and maybe open a door to joint action.

**Delegate Reflection: Check in:** *How are we doing?*

**How are we doing?**

Then he clasped his hands together, smiled, and said, “This could be a good time!” “There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are torn apart and will suffer greatly.

“Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above water. And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, Least of all ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt.

“The time for the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from you attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

“We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”

—attributed to an unnamed Hopi elder Hopi Nation, Oraibi, Arizona

“Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The sap which courses through trees carries the memories of the red man. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the body heat of the pony, and man, all belong to the same family....

One thing we know. Our God is the same God. This earth is precious to him. Even the white man cannot be exempt from the common destiny.”

–Chief Seattle, 1854

### **Questions for Reflection:**

*How do you think the Quiche Maya see the land? How do you see the land?*

*What are we to do for the land?*

**Song:** *Goodbye Song to Our People:*

#### *The Song of Ruth*

*Wherever you go, I shall go  
Wherever you live, so shall I live  
Your people will be my people  
And your God will be my God too*

*Wherever you die, I shall die  
And there shall I be buried beside you  
We will be together, forever  
And our love will be the gift of our lives*

### **My own thoughts and prayers**

## Thursday, October 31

**We have said farewell to our friends from San Antonio.  
Travel to San Lucas Toliman**

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San Antonio group leaves 4am

8:00am Market shopping in Antigua before leaving (30-60 minutes)

9:00am Leave for Lake Atitlan

12:30pm Lunch and talk at IMAP (Meso-American Permaculture Institute)

5:00pm Reflection and dinner

Stay the night in San Lucas Toliman

### **Thought for going forward:**

“You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour, now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour.

And there are things to be considered...

Where are you living? What are you doing?

What are your relationships? Are you in right relation?

Where is your water? Know your garden.

It is time to speak your Truth. Create your community.

Be good to each other.

And do not look outside yourself for the leader.”

*—attributed to an unnamed Hopi elder Hopi Nation, Oraibi, Arizona*

**Song:** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

*Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy or wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.*

**Refrain:** *O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.*

*You know so well my possessions  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor. [Refrain]*

*You need my hands full of caring, through my labors to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving. [Refrain]*

*You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. [Refrain]*

**Reflection/Discussion:**

*What did we learn reading the books we did?*

*and*

*What does it inform us about our own lives at home?*

**My own thoughts and prayers**

*Use this page to continue your journaling, doodling, imagining...*

# Bring Many Names

Brian Wren, 1989

GOD

11

Gen. 1:27

*Unison*

1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in  
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the  
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the  
 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:  
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,  
 on the move,  
 say - ing no to false - hood and  
 un - kind - ness,  
 cry - ing out for jus - tice,  
 giv - ing all you have:  
 Hail and Ho - san - na,  
 young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,  
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,  
 clos - er yet than breath - ing,  
 ev - er - last - ing home:  
 Hail and Ho - san - na,  
 great, liv - ing God!

*The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.*

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.  
 Carlton Young, 1989

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## Friday, November 1

### To Santiago Atitlan, San Lucas Toliman

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8:30am Leave for Santiago Atitlan (45 minutes)

9:30am Catch boat in Santiago Atitlan – go to San Pedro

In San Pedro, Bill and Linda's friend Dinora will give us a brief tour of the town and talk about her family's traditions on this day. November 1 and November 2 are big holidays in Guatemala. Families go to the graveyard to leave flowers and candles for their loved ones and clean and decorate the graves.

12:00pm Return to Santiago Atitlan, can visit Peace Park and the church where Father Stanley Rother served

5:00pm Reflection and dinner in San Lucas Toliman

*What things have you failed to accomplish the first time, and found you could do after going back to try again?*

**Song:** *Bring Many Names (See previous page)*

**Reflection:** Mark 3: 31-35

Then his mother and brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and my sister and my mother."

**Questions for Reflection:**

*Who did you find to be a brother or sister in San Antonio?*

*What did you give in this visit? What did you get?*

**Prayer:**

Perfecting God,

As we walk further into your light  
and your Word manifests more deeply within us,  
may we come to understand  
that absence is not always enough.

The absence of hate is good,  
but the presence of love perfects what is good

The absence of evil is good,  
but the presence of righteousness perfects what is good.

The absence of violence is good,  
but the presence of peace perfects what is good.

The absence of scarcity is good,  
but the presence of abundance perfects what is good.

The absence of discrimination is good,  
but the presence of justice perfects what is good.

Transform us as only you can, Perfecting God.  
Mold us and make us after your will,  
while we are waiting, yielded and still. Amen.

**My own thoughts and prayers**

## Saturday, November 2

### To Santiago Atitlan, San Lucas Toliman

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#### Travel to Guatemala City

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7:30am Breakfast at Hotel Toliman

9:30am Potential visit to coffee cooperative and campesino rights organization CCDA (unconfirmed since November 2 is also a holiday, they are checking on availability)

1:00pm Lunch

4:00pm Final reflection (could do some in the morning, if people are tired)

6:00pm Dinner

**Reflection:** *What do we carry home with us? How are we changed?*

Consider a statement from Anonymous:

“A Relationship is more important than a project,  
because that is what God wants of us”

Thoughts from Carrie and Bryan

A Song : *Here I am Lord.*

Prayer:

We pray that as we leave this place, our poverty will be lifted up by the spirit with sighs too deep for words, and visions emerging from a glass darkly, to keep us centered in the love we have found, the treasure of memories of smiles and welcoming that will shape our understanding and determination into discernment and action.

We ask these things with the smile of Christ before us, and in his name.

**My own thoughts and prayers**

## Sunday, November 3

### Prepare to leave Guatemala

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*A closing meditation...*

#### **Keeping Quiet**

*by Pablo Neruda*

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the earth,  
let's not speak in any language;  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines;  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

Fisherman in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victories with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.  
Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

*And now our journey is done. (For now.)  
What are your memories, thoughts, dreams, hopes, prayers...?*



**Guatemala Sister Parish Delegation 2019**

Mary Marie Deauclaire  
Bette Felton  
Karen Kawaguchi  
Trish Moosbrugger  
Bob Kovach  
Linda Reeve  
Bill Williams  
Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

**Danville Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

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Danville Congregational Church is an *Open and Affirming* church, welcoming all of God's people – of diverse race, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental and emotional ability.