



# POVERTY

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

First Chinese Baptist Church  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Danny Jack

Children's Time

Patti Kunkel

"Come Into His Presence"

"There Is a Fountain"

Offering & Doxology

"We Are Here to Worship You"

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Bell Choir

"The Upside Down Kingdom: Poverty"

Pastor Steve Thurman

"Amazing Grace"

Benediction

God be with You

## The Blessing of Compassion

In some of my spiritual direction I use this blessing as preparation for contemplation, worship and service.

- Leader: Touch your forehead and say...

**All: "Help me to approach others with Christ-like compassion. Help me Father today to let go of all harsh judgments."**

- Leader: Touch your ears and say...

**ALL: Savior help me be aware of the suffering of those around us. Help me to listen. To hear their concerns and fears."**

- Leader: Touch your mouth and say...

**All: Holy Spirit give me the courage and wisdom to speak for those who are wronged, to be a voice for those who suffer from injustice.**

- Leader: Grasp hands with your neighbor or fold your own in prayer and say...

**All: "Dear Jesus help me to be open to receive from others. Help me to be ready to give when someone needs to receive."**

- Leader: Touch your heart and say...

**All: Father give us strength to stand together as a fellowship under the cross for each other."**

- Leader: Turn to another or bow your head and whisper...

**All: May you brother or sister in Christ always know the shelter of God when you are hurting and in pain. May you trust our Compassionate Savior to protect you and to comfort you. May today's worship bring you peace. Amen**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### Matthew 5:3

It was while reading Thomas a Kempis's Imitation of Christ that John Newton, the author of "Amazing Grace," came to the blessedness of knowing his spiritual poverty. Before that encounter with Jesus, Newton was a skipper on an English slave-trading ship. He thought of himself as "quite a decent chap," thank you. Then the light broke through, and the kingdom of heaven invaded his life. And his hymn is his personal testimony:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.

"A wretch": It is his own self-designation. No one else called him that. No one needed to. In the presence of Jesus Christ, what else would a slave-trader say? He did not have a self-esteem problem. He simply saw how short of the glory of God he had fallen.

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