

Our reading this morning is a vision of the Beloved Community, from the Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, from the anthology *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*:

“I hold a vision of Beloved Community beyond the horizon of my own knowing. In this community of human and nonhuman beings, we live in integrity with each other and the Earth. We work together to nourish and sustain life. We eat well, but do not take more than we need from each other or the Earth. We have diverse, flourishing cultures that cooperate with, respect, and learn from one another without prejudice or hierarchy. We live free from violence or coercion. We celebrate every day, and appreciate the joys of living. We dance and sing. We laugh. ...

We use our minds to the benefit of life, not death. We create art and music. We tell stories. We live in tune with the rhythms of the Earth; the seasons, day and night. We live in tune with each other. We live in tune with the rhythms of our own hearts.”