****

**Call to Worship**

One: The barriers feel tall- between people, communities and nations.

**All: Christ tears down the barriers between us.**

One: The barriers feel wide- between heaven and earth.

**All: Christ tears down the barriers between us.**

One: The barriers feel large- on the long path to peace.

**All: Christ tears down the barriers between us.**

One: Let us worship the God of peace and justice. Amen.

**Opening Prayer**

One: Holy God, sometimes the walls build up in our hearts when we aren’t looking, when we are just going about day-to-day life. Bricks of bitterness, bricks of apathy, bricks of shame. As they start to stack up, we can feel surges of rage and even violence without understanding why. We pray that your Spirit of Christ would disrupt our quiet building with a radical vision for Just Peace. Help us to imagine how we might use the power of your love to break through barriers to peace. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession**

One: God of Just Peace, you sent your Son to preach “peace to those who are far away and peace to those who are near.” Even with his message of Just Peace, we struggle to understand one another, and we love to dole out blame. We justify violence like children in a schoolyard by shouting “they started it.”

**All: Slow our reactions and break through our lies with your truth. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

One: God has promised us that no matter who started it, Christ has already finished it. Christ has united all people with the Spirit of Love, so we may no longer be strangers but friends. Let us live in friendship and peace. Amen.

**Prayer of Preparation**

One: Unifying God, thank you for your vision to break through barriers to build peace. Break though again today, disrupting the status quo with a new message preached from your word. Stir in our hearts, so that there might be healing, wholeness and peace. Amen.

**Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:14-22**

**Benediction**

One: Go now to share the vision of Just Peace, in the name of God who created us to be one community, in the name of Christ who breaks through barriers, and the name of the Spirit who holds us together in the power of God’s love. Amen.