

# **Discovering Our Identity as a Contrast Community in the 21st Century**

**Erin Goheen Glanville**







# **Contrast Communities in Context**

- **Israel as a contrast to the Canaanites**
- **Disciples as a contrast to the Jews**
- **Early church as a contrast to the Roman Empire**
- **What about the contemporary church?**



# Called to be...

- **A community of truth (humility and boldness) in a world of uncertainty**
- **A community that knows God's presence in a secular world**
- **A community of generosity in a world of consumption**
- **A community of 'enough' in a world that fears scarcity**
- **A community of thankfulness in a world of entitlement**
- **A community of care in a world of narcissism**



# Called to be...

- **A community of hope in a world of despair and triumphalism**
- **A community of wisdom in a world of proliferating use-value knowledge**
- **A community of patience in a world of proliferating hurry-sickness**
- **A community that uses language positively in a world of destructive communication**
- **A community of empathy in a world numbed by overexposure**
- **A community of justice in a world of injustice**
- **A community of Sabbath and vocation in a world of workaholicism and laziness**



# Work Liturgy

- **Leader:** Tell us a bit about that places to which you are sent by God Monday to Friday.
- **Individual:**
- **Congregation:** Father we thank you for \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for the work that you have given \_\_\_\_\_. We praise you for the tasks that you have given each of us to do.



# Work Liturgy

- **Leader:** In what ways is Christ honoured in your workplace or home, Monday to Friday? In what ways can He be dishonoured?
- **Individual:**
- **Congregation:** We thank you for the life and goodness that you have brought to \_\_\_\_\_'s places of work. We pray that Christ would be present in that place and present with your servant \_\_\_\_\_. May we all have grace and strength to bear witness to your Lordship in the places you send us.



# Work Liturgy

- **Leader:** What would you like us to pray for you as you live as a sign to Christ's restorative reign?
- **Individual:**
- **Congregation:** Give wisdom to \_\_\_\_\_ and give wisdom to us all so that we can discover how to be signposts to your work in the world.
- **Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and with us all as we serve him this week.



# Work Liturgy

**As each group stands the congregation says:**

Sisters, brothers, we send you in the name of Christ into the places that Christ has for you Monday to Saturday. We pray that Christ would be present in that place. Jesus, may we all have grace and strength to bear witness to your Lordship in the places you send us.



# Called to be...

- **A community of joy in a world dominated by a frantic and hedonistic pursuit of pleasure**
- **A community of cheerful seriousness in a culture of triviality**
- **Deep community in a world of isolation**
- **A community of peace in a world of revenge**
- **A community of...?**