

A Liturgy for our Homes

Dwell with us in this place, O Lord.

Dwell among us in these spaces, in these homes.

Be present at these tables as we eat together.

Be present as we rise in the morning and lie down
at night.

Be present in our work here.

Be present in our play.

May your Spirit inhabit these homes, making of it a
sanctuary where hearts and lives are knit together;

Where bonds of love are strengthened,

Where mercy is learned and practiced...

Grant, O Lord, that our days lived gratefully within these
temporary walls, enjoying these momentary fellowships,
would serve to awaken within us a restless longing for our
Truer home. Incline our hearts ever toward the glories of that
better city, built by you, O God-

A city whose blessings are never-ending, and whose
fellowships are eternally unbroken.

[adapted from *Every Moment Holy*, page. 118]



Neighborhood Walk
#ReclaimtheMundane



*“We become neighbors when we are willing to cross the road
for one another.”*

-Henri Nouwen

Welcome | You have been invited to a mundane place.

A place in which you live, or work, or walk.

It's a place rich with stories—

Of life and of death. Of connection and isolation.

Of love and of disdain.

Today, you are invited to experience the extraordinary grace and goodness of God in this ordinary space; the neighborhood.

This guide is by invitation only, and is offered as a tool to create openness and mindfulness.

Settle in | Turn off your phone and just get comfortable in the community. Find your way of being present - riding a bike, walking around, or sitting somewhere such as a porch or a bench. Try to avoid doing anything but *being in the neighborhood* for a full **10 minutes**.

Take Inventory | Take your time observing the homes, buildings, and the people in the neighborhood. Study the details of mailboxes, yard ornaments, home construction, cars and other buildings. Observe the interactions of the neighbors.

Note the common characteristics of the homes.

What is the “stock” story told in this community? What is that everyone can see and everyone can know about the people/life when they look around?

Dig Deep | As you observe the neighborhood and consider the many particularities, find a home, object, or person that captures your attention.

What about this selection intrigues you?

What story is untold in this neighborhood? Who is it that is unseen?

Take Note | Consider journaling your observations and reflections
What is challenging about this exercise? What was meaningful?
Describe any insights gained (about yourself or your neighborhood)
What is God inviting you to do as a result of your experience today?