

A Litany of Transformation and Reconciliation

The Black Caucus of the Presbytery of the James

Jesus said, "...The mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

It's not how put together we are on the outside that defines us.

It's not how attractive or fancy or impressive or well educated we are – it's the state of our heart that matters.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with new attitudes of love, justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we choose to live as new creations in Christ; the old has gone and the new is here!

We choose to uproot hatred and vengeance.

We choose to let go of any unhealed trauma that would distort our life in Christ.

We choose to discard any internalized shame or guilt.

We choose not to hold on to any harmful or ego-based and judgmental desires.

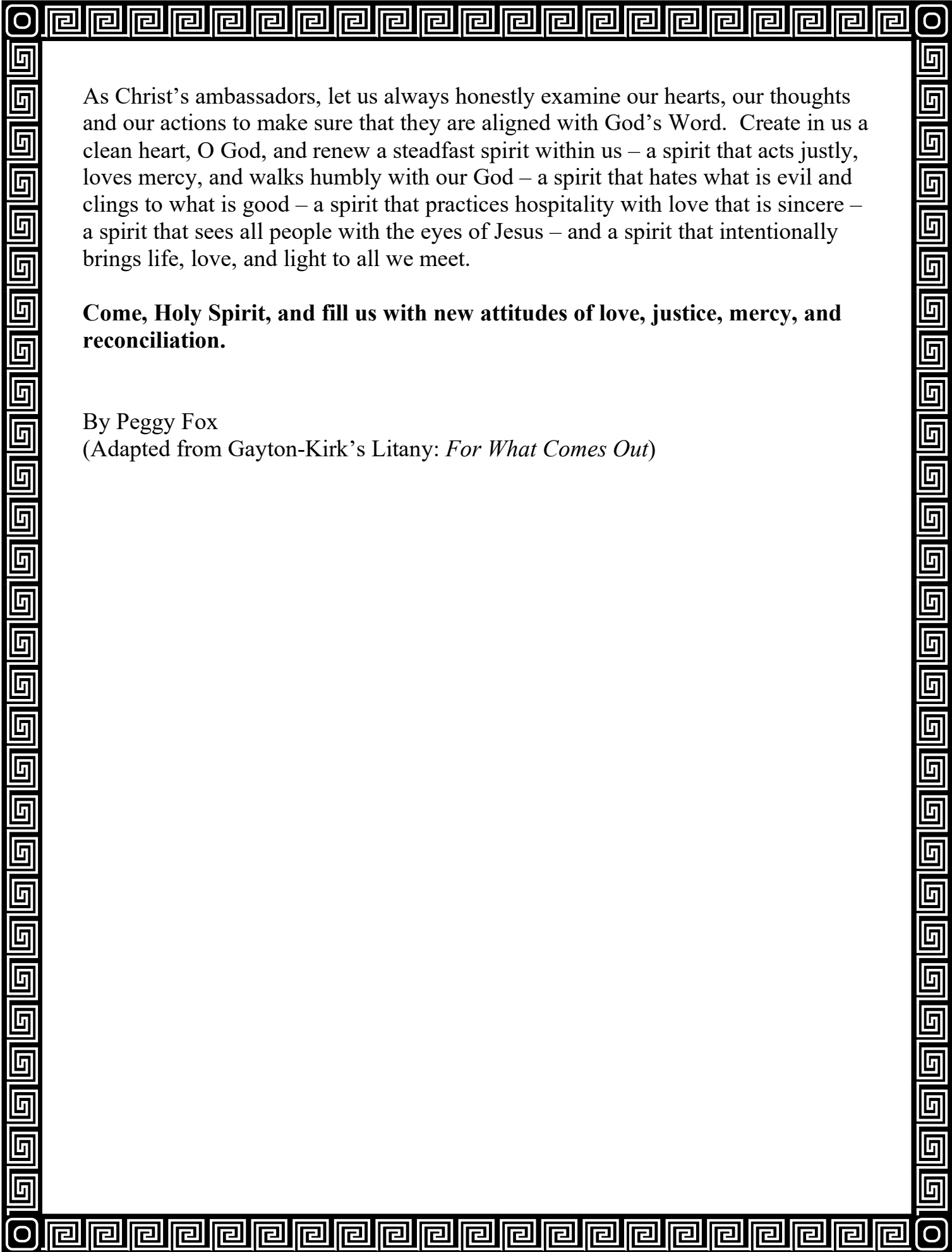
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In view of God's mercy, we choose to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Therefore, we choose to speak love into action; kindness into being; hope into existence; encouragement into joy; and peace and justice into reality.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with new attitudes of love, justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

God, as the body of Christ, we choose to extend love and fellowship to everyone because we are all created in Your image. Thank You for the ministry of reconciliation that lifts our spirits and changes our hearts. Help us to forgive those who need peace and healing, and grant us a clearer understanding of your truth. Give us courage to stand against those who would continue to sow evil. And, may our lives be an example of respect, equality, and dignity to all people everywhere.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with new attitudes of love, justice, mercy, and reconciliation.



As Christ's ambassadors, let us always honestly examine our hearts, our thoughts and our actions to make sure that they are aligned with God's Word. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us – a spirit that acts justly, loves mercy, and walks humbly with our God – a spirit that hates what is evil and clings to what is good – a spirit that practices hospitality with love that is sincere – a spirit that sees all people with the eyes of Jesus – and a spirit that intentionally brings life, love, and light to all we meet.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with new attitudes of love, justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

By Peggy Fox

(Adapted from Gayton-Kirk's Litany: *For What Comes Out*)