**Assembly Prayer – Social Justice**

**Song: Led by Choir – ‘My Plans For You’ by Monica Brown**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Welcome/Introduction**

Today we reflect upon the state of our world. There are people in other countries who have a much harder life than us. We acknowledge that we are blessed with clean water, fair wages and education which is accessible to all. During this assembly, we will take the time to remember and pray for those who are less fortunate.

**Lighting of the Candles**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: reader

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to light candles

We light the college candle as we acknowledge all in our community.

We light our Indigenous candle as we acknowledge the people who walked this land before us.

We light the Year of Grace candle to acknowledge the grace and blessings in our lives.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Opening Prayer**

We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by you. In your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn, in this country and overseas, the rich and the poor. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Reader: The Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-12**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: student to hold Gospel**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because your reward is great in heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel reflection: *Multimedia – The Face of Christ***

**Prayers of the Faithful**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We offer up prayers to God, asking Him for His grace to bring about justice in our world.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We pray today for God’s world. We pray for a world divided unequally between the privileged and the powerless. We pray that God would use people like us to make this world a better place. Lord hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Father God, we pray that You would help us to walk humbly where you walk so that in your name, we become the answer to the prayers of the silent, suffering, struggling ones. Lord hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Loving God, grant us the energy to serve others in your name. Grant us the love to heal despair, the strength to continue in your service and the power to overcome evil. Lord hear us.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Closing Prayer - A Franciscan Benediction**

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war so that we may reach out hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen.

**Song – ‘Go Make a Difference’ by Steve Angrisano**