

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### ORGAN PRELUDE

### PROFESSIONAL HYMN

*“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Praise God! Praise God, O my soul! I will praise God as long as I live, I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in God, Who execute justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. Praise God! Praise God, O my soul!

### INVOCATION

A Missionary

*God our Redeemer, you are “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). You accompany us in moments of blessedness and in periods of brokenness. Yet at times we fail to recognize your presence and choose instead to live in self-centered reliance as though we are in isolation. In turn, we treat others in the same way, especially the most vulnerable. Unlike Ruth and Naomi, we live up to Orpah’s namesake and have turned the “back of our necks” to others. We give into the fear of uncertainty instead of the grace of solidarity. We confess that by expulsion or neglect, we push away “the other” who seeks refuge in our midst, ignoring that you are the Redeemer who offers refuge to all. Free us now from our suffocating isolation, that we may breathe a new your liberating Spirit, the source of all compassion, the strength of all justice. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### HYMN OF PRAISE

“Lift Him Up”

### RESPONSIVE READING

A Missionary

### **THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS**

**LEADER:** Lord God, you are a healer to those who need healing and a comforter to those who need comforting.

**MEMBERS:** *Your name be praised.*

**LEADER:** Strengthen your Church to go out into the world and serve those who need to be delivered from the hardships of this world.

**MEMBERS:** *Strengthen us, O God, to serve our community with zeal and joy.*

**LEADER:** Sustain those who face long illness, bearing them up on the wings of faith and courage;

**MEMBERS:** *Sustain us, and make us whole.*

**LEADER:** Deliver us from laziness and unconcern for the plight of the poor;

**MEMBERS:** *Renew within us a spirit of mission, O God.*

**LEADER:** Fill us with the fire that urges us to be your witnesses through service;

**MEMBERS:** *Come with filling power, O God.*

**UNISON:** *Work through us, your church, your chosen people, to help bring light to this community. We declare healing and restoration to those who are broken and are in need of a touch from the Lord. We declare their restoration because we will be your feet and hands. Hold us accountable. In your name we pray. Amen.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH/GLORIA PATRI

### THE MUSIC MINISTRY

“We Are One In The Spirit”

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Ruth 1: 6-18

A Missionary

### PASTORAL PRAYER/RESPONSE

THE MISSION APPEAL

A Missionary

THE MISSION OFFERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETINGS

PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER/SPEAKER

A Missionary

### HYMN/SONG OF PREPARATION

THE MISSION MESSAGE

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

### INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

RECESSIONAL

MISSIONARY BENEDICTION

# 2016 MISSION

## APPEAL

In a world where communities are being displaced by catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disasters, the Church is called to reclaim the spiritual discipline of solidarity. Christians are summoned to adopt and live out “a theology of accompaniment.” As natural, economic, and political forces disrupt and uproot communities, the Church is called to stand in solidarity with these refugee communities as they seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement and toward a new life of well-being and promise.

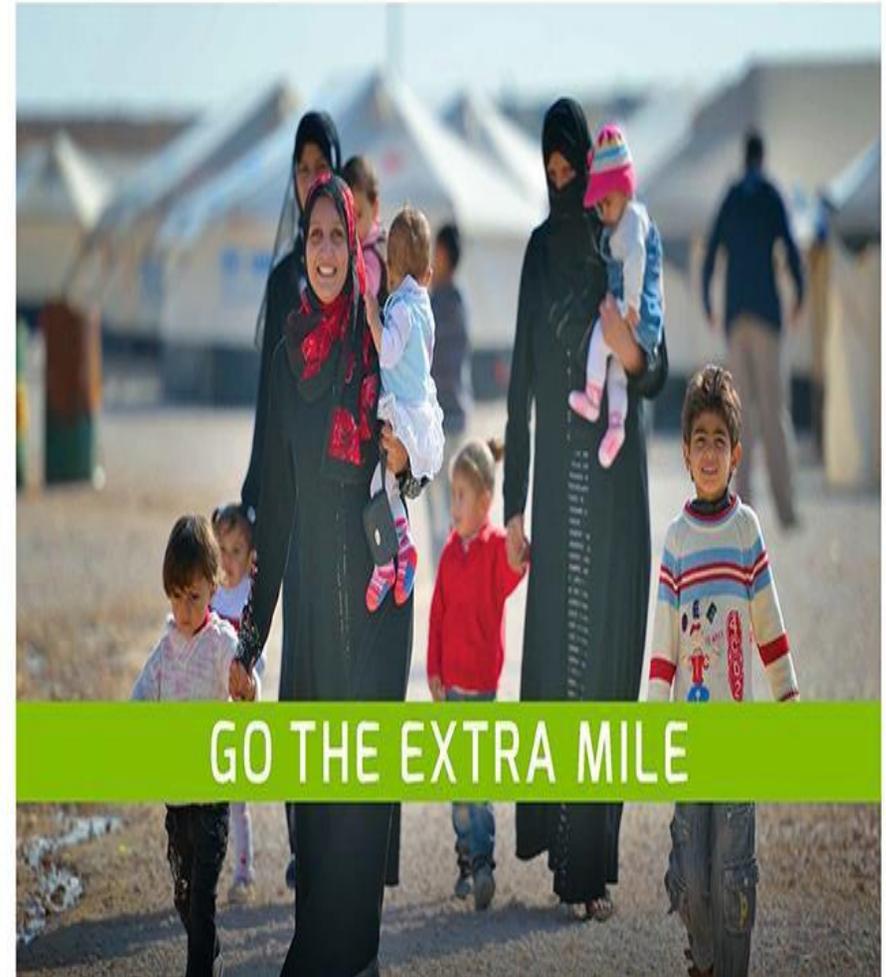
Ruth’s promise to Naomi defines what “solidarity” authentically entails; and it stands as a challenge for Christians to intentionally walk with refugees as they seek to build a new home in a strange land:

*“Where you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. – Ruth 1:16*

Is this not the Gospel? Did not Christ, the Word of God who migrated and “moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14) accompany us in our alienation and displacement? Did we not receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts to be our “advocate” (John 16:7) who “intercedes (for us) with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26)? Will we make Ruth’s promise our own?

***All donations can be made payable and mailed to:***

***Department of Global Missions  
P.O. Box 26770  
Charlotte, N.C. 28221-6770***



*“...For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge...” Ruth 1:16*