

CAMINO COMPANIONS

SESSION 2

19 & 20 November 2023

**HOSPITALITY & BELONGING**



# CAMINO COMPANIONS PRAYER

God of our pilgrimage, you sustain us along our path, wherever it may lead and however long the road. Inspired by St James, and all who have gone before us and will come after us, help us to follow you as our Creator and the source of life itself. Unite us as we seek justice, peace, and truth. In your world and in your church, guide us in our travels together so that we may be transformed and shaped by your divine love, today and forever. Amen.



## Mark 2:13-17

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of\* the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat\* with tax-collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'



***How might this story from Mark's Gospel connect with the theme of hospitality and belonging?***

***Who is the host? Who is the guest?  
Why might that be important?***

***How and why might this passage connect and resonate with:***

- ***You***
- ***St James's***
- ***the world***





Giving and receiving is the economy of our souls. We must give and receive help and love and forgiveness and because the Lord in his mercy created us as fleshy musical instruments, and no matter how hard I try I cannot sing harmony alone. By ourselves we're unreliable narrators. We need the eyes of the other in order to have a halfway accurate view of the world.

- Nadia Bolz-Weber



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***What can this prayer teach us about community?***



*What does belonging feel like?*

*What does it look like?*

*How can we create a culture of belonging at St James's?*

*Why does this matter?*



Two poems with different approaches to belonging and interconnectedness:

- Mary Oliver, 'When I am Among the Trees'
- Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, 'Belonging'

Does one poem speak to you more deeply than the other?  
What might this connection tell you about your experience of and understanding of community, hospitality, and belonging?



"Hospitality, were I to draw it, would be a series of potentially endless concentric circles extending outwards from each of us. In their crisscrossing and overlapping, in the expanse of their reach, might be the critical pattern of our time. A pattern revealing - just as contour lines on a map indicate the gradient of the land - the true topography of a society: its landscape of reciprocity, its border of generosity, its peaks and depths of give and take. Yet, however far those circles spread, unconditional hospitality remains outside their furthest perimeter. It lies, for the most part, in unknown territory, off the map."

**- Priya Basil, *Be My Guest***

***How would you draw hospitality?***



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