This Sunday at 9:30 Fr. Eric and Mtr. Kimberly will facilitate the last session of our Advent book study on Howard Thurman's book, Jesus and the Disinherited. Please find some discussion questions below to help guide our conversation.

1. "The religion of Jesus makes the love-ethic central (p.79)." Thurman opens the chapter of Love with this statement and then firmly argues why this statement is true. Britannica defines the word **religion** in this way: "It is human beings' relation to that which they regard as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of especial reverence. It is also commonly regarded as consisting of the way people deal with ultimate concerns about their lives and their fate after death." The Oxford Dictionary defines **ethics** in this way: "moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity." Therefore, Thurman's opening statement can be translated in this way: For Jesus, Love is regarded as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of especial reverence and makes the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity central. Does reading Thurman's statement with these definitions resonate with you the same as the original statement? Does it resonate with you differently? How?
2. Looking through a general lens before addressing Thurman's definition of "enemy" as he gives us the example of the Good Samaritan and the Syrophoenician woman, have you ever found yourself "hammering out the vital content of Jesus' concept of love" within yourself for someone or an enemy? What was that like? Was your goal reached and if so, what shifted for you?
3. How were you taught to love humanity? Was it through language and intellect or biblical references with limiting real life examples that were favorable to your own context or through actions that crossed differences? If neither of these, how?
4. The problem of segregation based on power, social class, and ethnicity is still relevant today. What are your thoughts about the segregation of churches and love-ethic in American Christianity based on Thurman's statement, "It is in this connection (common sharing of mutual worth and value) that American Christianity has betrayed the religion of Jesus almost beyond redemption (p. 88)?"
5. What is one takeaway you have from reading this book and being a part of this discussion?
6. What is one way we can apply what we have learned from this book individually or collectively?
7. The clergy thank you for your presence and contribution to this Adult Formation. We encourage you to spend some time in prayer and contemplation as the Spirit leads you to pray and live out Jesus' love-ethic in the world.