

Confession of a Class-Bound Church: A Responsive Reading

Amanda Udis-Kessler, April 17, 2011; originally written for a Unitarian Universalist congregation; updated June 12, 2022

One: Spirit of love and life, far too wildly inclusive to care what's in our wallets,

Many: We confess that we have failed to live up to your radical generosity.

One: We have kept our religion to ourselves.

Many: We have made ourselves comfortable with worship services that serve us well and many others, not at all.

One: In the name of honoring reason, we have become idolaters of the academic and the intellectual.

Many: In the name of rejecting superstition, we have set ourselves as judges of what is religiously legitimate.

One: We donate our fourth Sunday collection plates and our canned food goods

Many: And we neglect to struggle with our class privilege and power.

One: We seek diverse people in our congregations

Many: But not if their grammar is poor or they are missing teeth.

One: Not if their hands are rough or they live in a dangerous neighborhood.

Many: Not if they fear the police more than the fundamentalists.

One: Spirit of love and life, we have not let you work in us.

Many: We still think you prefer people like us.

One: We have made you in our image.

Many: Remake us in your image.

One: Invite us into a love that truly engages us with the poor.

Many: Wake us up and call us into humble service to those in need.

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One: Strengthen us to make true sacrifices in solidarity

Many: And to use our class privilege and power on behalf of true justice.

One: Let our lives be a witness, not that liberal religion is for the well-off,

Many: But that liberal religion turns the world upside-down.