

A Prayer of Confession

(on the theme of outward appearance, from 1 Samuel 16:1-13, the anointing of David)

Scripture tells us

*The Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.*

And so we confess together that we have not seen as God sees this week. In fact, we have not even tried to see as God sees most of the time. Please join me as we ask for forgiveness together.

For all of the times we have judged on outward appearance,

Lord, forgive us.

We confess that we often see those younger than us as immature or careless, and those older than us as incapable or frail. Have mercy on us, and

Lord, forgive us.

We confess that we often see those wealthier than us as extravagant and irresponsible, and those poorer than us as inadequate and irresponsible. Have mercy on us, and

Lord, forgive us.

We confess, too, that we have not seen one another as you see us, as our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have bickered and backstabbed and gossiped even as we've prayed for one another and worshipped together. Have mercy on us, and

Lord, forgive us.

And we confess that we have not seen ourselves as you see us, as your children, as worthy of your love. We have doubted your love, your will, and your compassion. We do not live as though you care, as though you see deeper into us than the world sees, than we see. Have mercy on us this morning, and

Lord, forgive us. Amen.