SANCTUARY REFLECTION GUIDE
July 13, 2025

Title: **Σπλαγχνίζομαι "Splagchnizomai"**
Preacher: **Rev. Chip Robertson**
Scripture: **Luke 10:30-33**

What do we do when tragedy strikes and suffering seems random? It's easy to feel overwhelmed or distant from God in the face of broken circumstances and unanswered questions. Yet, we believe that these hard realities don't mean God is absent or uncaring. So, how can we recognize and hold onto God's love in the midst of life's messiness?

In this sermon, we explore how God responds to our pain and shares our struggles with us. Through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we discover a beautiful image of compassion that doesn't just observe suffering from a distance but moves toward it, even when it is costly.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Our culture places a premium on reason, proof, and clear explanations. Why do you think we find it so hard to accept mystery or uncertainty? How might that shape the way we respond to suffering or pain?
3. Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan together in Luke 10:30-37. Who in your life has shown you what it looks like to show self-giving love to others, even when it costs you?

4. Like the Samaritan man, God doesn't pity us from a distance. He is moved to action and makes our tragedies His responsibility. How does this shape our view of God and the way we relate to challenges?
5. By becoming human, God entered fully into our experience. What difference does it make to know that He understands what it's like to be human—to rejoice, to grieve, to feel exhausted, etc.?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Seeing hardship that feels beyond our control can leave us feeling powerless and overwhelmed. We can't find all the answers and solutions to the world's problems on our own. But we do believe our behavior still matters. God calls us to be His hands and feet, blessing others through our obedience to do what we *can* in the areas He has placed us. **This week, we invite you to choose one person in your sphere to show intentional compassion to.**

First, **reflect on your circle of influence.** Who are those around you—family, friends, coworkers, neighbors—who might be having a tough time?

Then, **choose one person and a small step to show them compassion.** This could be offering a listening ear, sending a thoughtful note, helping with a practical task or errand, showing up with a meal, or praying with them.

Whatever step you take, remember *your small acts of kindness matter, and the way you move towards others in their pain makes a difference.* This is how God works through us in the world!