



# DEVOTIONS

## Day 8: With\* the Philippines

### Bible Reading:

“God has told us what is good. What God requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.”

*(Micah 6:8, TEV, adapted)*

### Quotes:

“*Matibay ang walis, palibhasa’y magkabigkis.* The broom is sturdy because its strands are tightly bound.”

*(A Philippine proverb translated by John Ramos)*

“When doing ministry with the poor in our midst and beyond, we need to be prepared to engage the poor in planning, dreaming, and executing mission projects. Their vision for a better tomorrow must be bound with our vision and action. Their spirituality of resistance, hope, and collaboration will inspire us to work with them and learn from them. Ministry with the poor is not simply a program, it is a calling to participate in God’s mission in the world, whose majority population is poor.”

*(The Rev. Elizabeth S. Tapia, United Methodist clergy from Bulacan Philippines Annual Conference, assigned as director of Mission Theology at the General Board of Global Ministries)*

### Prayer/Panalangin:

Incarnate God, we bless Your name.

Guide us and show us how to love with justice, how to act with dignity, how to share with humility.

Open our eyes to the myriad of suffering, and grant us courage to face the challenges of the future without poverty.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour and Friend. Amen.

*(Rev. Dr. Elizabeth S. Tapia, theologian for the General Board of Global Ministries)*

### Questions for Reflection:

- What are the cries as well as the gifts of the poor in your midst?
- The United Methodist Church in the United States is not a church of the poor, but wants to be engaged in ministry with the poor. What are the ways we can help transform the systems and structures that keep people poor?