we live in a time of polarization paralysis rejection division
within and among nations
faith communities
races & cultures
families
what divides us is not our differences.
what divides us is not our differences. It is our way of holding differences.
what divides us is our spirit ... our inner way of being.
the beatitudes teach a new spirit, a
different way of being, a way of holding

differences, a way of staying together
blessed

to be envied

i want to be like them when i grow up

that’s the identity i want

that’s who i want to be

desire & being
blessed are the rich/have’s vs. blessed are
... the poor
... those with a spirit like the poor
... those in solidarity with the poor
1. witness and withness

who are the poor?

economically politically personally

Who are the poor in terms of economic, political, and personal perspectives?
witness and withness

blessed are

... the poor (in spirit)

for the kingdom of heaven is

(already) theirs
2. witness and witness
blessed are the winners,

victors, those who kill vs.

blessed are

... those who mourn

... those who have lost a

loved one

... the losers
witness and withness

blessed are

... they who mourn

for they shall receive comfort
blessed are the aggressive, the violent, the dominant vs. blessed are … the gentle … the meek … the nonviolent … the kind
witness and withness

blessed are

the gentle

for they shall inherit the

earth
4. witness and withness

blessed are those who crave power, luxury, & comfort vs.
blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice

... empowerment-hungry
... common-good-thirsty
... equity-starved
blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice for they shall be satisfied
5. **witness and withness**
blessed are the exacting, the merciless, the deal-makers, the vengeful vs.
blessed are the merciful
... non-accusatory
... forgiving
... grace-givers
witness and withness

blessed are the merciful
for they’ll receive mercy
blessed are the playboys, the self-indulgent, the tricky vs.

blessed are the pure in heart

... focused on goodness

... self-disciplined

... genuine
blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God.

witness and withness
7. witness and withness

blessed are the warriors, the conquerors, the intimidators

vs.

blessed are the peacemakers

... conflict transformers

... win/win reconcilers

... harmonizers
blessed are the peacemakers for they’ll be called children of God.
blessed are the moral police, the persecutors, the safe & privileged vs.

blessed are they who are persecuted for justice

... misunderstood sages & saints

... vilified activists
witness and withness
blessed are
they who are persecuted
for justice
for the kingdom of heaven is (already) theirs.
what divides us is not our differences. it is our way of holding differences.
let us be present to one another as …

the poor in spirit,
they who mourn,
the gentle,
they who hunger and thirst for justice,
the merciful,
the pure in heart,
the peacemakers,
the persecuted for justice
witness and withness