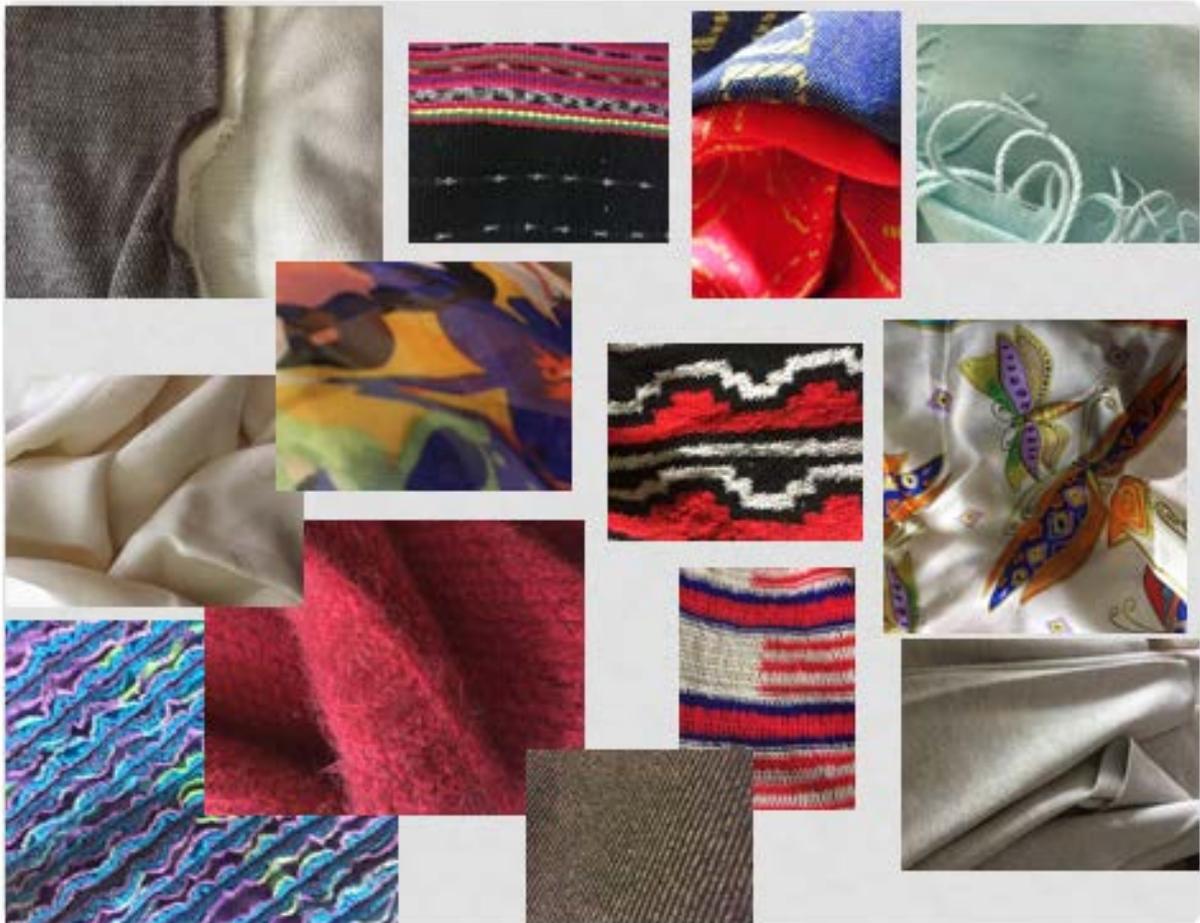


## One Mercy Mission: How to Dress for the Journey



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*A journey of transformation for the whole Earth Community—from the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth to joy for the poor and joy for the earth.*

We bring our stories/our experience into dialogue with one little piece of our tradition that captures the heart of the Christian gospel: an extract from a first century letter attributed to Paul of Tarsus and addressed to a community of believers in Colossae, a town in Phrygia and part of the Roman province of Asia Minor.

“As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **clothe yourselves with** compassion/ mercy (*splanchna oiktirmou*), kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, **clothe yourselves with** love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called **in the one body**. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and look out for one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God through him” (**Colossians 3:12-17**).

### Some Intertexts

- As many of you as were baptized into Christ **have clothed yourselves with Christ**. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one **in Christ Jesus** (Galatians 3:27-28)
- Jesus had compassion (*esplanchnisthē*) on the crowds because they were like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34).
- The Samaritan when he saw him...was moved with compassion (*esplanchnisthē*) (Luke 10:33).
- Blessed are the poor in spirit (the humble),...the gentle,...the merciful (Matthew 5:3, 5, 7).
- Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another (John 13:34 )