

Closing Prayer

All: **Lord, it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.**

**It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done
has not been done; let it be.**

**The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness,
of the world and of our lives
rest in you**

**The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.**

**The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys, new possibilities.
In your name we pray. Amen**

Source: A New Zealand Prayer Book

The Blessing and Sending Forth

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow,
May the soft winds freshen your spirit
May the sunshine brighten your heart
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
And may God enfold you in love **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God

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St Benedict's Episcopal Church

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Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude Chanson d'Automne Esther S. Higgins © 1991 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Gather

We sit in silence for a few minutes.

Leader: We light a light in the name of the Maker,
who lit the world and breathed the breath
of life for us.

We light a light in the name of the Word,
who saved the world and stretched out
his hand to us.

We light a light in the name of the Spirit,
who encompasses the world
and blesses our souls with yearning.

All: **We light three lights for the Trinity of Love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us:
the beginning, the end, the everlasting one.**

Source: Iona Community

Song: Open My Eyes that I May See c. 2001 Kristopher Eric Lindquist

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word

First Reading:

Making Peace

A voice from the dark called out,
‘The poets must give us
imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar
imagination of disaster. Peace, not only
the absence of war.’

But peace, like a poem,
is not there ahead of itself,
can’t be imagined before it is made,
can’t be known except
in the words of its making,
grammar of justice,
syntax of mutual aid.

A feeling towards it,
dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have
until we begin to utter its metaphors,
learning them as we speak.

A line of peace might appear
if we restructured the sentence our lives are making,
revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,
questioned our needs, allowed
long pauses . . .

A cadence of peace might balance its weight
on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,
an energy field more intense than war,
might pulse then,
stanza by stanza into the world,
each act of living
one of its words, each word
a vibration of light—facets
of the forming crystal.

Denise Levertov

Silence

**With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts that we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For your reign is the glory of the power that is love.
Now and forever. Amen.**

Source: A New Zealand Prayer Book

We Break the Bread

Leader:

Look! The Body of Christ is broken for the life of the world.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy One, in union with your people at every place in your church where your holy Eucharist is being celebrated, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. We long to be united to you and to become one with you. Since we cannot receive you today in the bread and the wine, we ask that you will nonetheless meet us in this moment and enter our deepest places, filling us with your never-ending love. In response to your loving call, we come to you with open hearts and minds that we may be filled with your indwelling Spirit and enabled to love and serve you with all of our hearts, minds, souls and bodies. May nothing ever separate us from you. May we live and die in awareness of your love.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so our souls may be healed by faith in you, through your tender mercy, O Christ who lives and reigns with the Creator in the unity of the Holy Spirit ever one God. Amen.

Silence

Song: Peace is flowing like a river

G728

Who after supper
and gave it to his disciples
This is my blood
which is shed for you,
to heal brokenness.

**took the cup, and blessed it
to his disciples as he said
my blood of the new covenant
and for all, and for everyone**

Do this
to remember me.

**as often as you drink it
to remember, always remember**

So we listen for God
In the breaking of bread

**the celebration of God,
and the gushing of wine.**

Come Holy Spirit
Bless these gifts
To be for us
To be for us

**and bless
this bread and this wine
for us your Body
for us your Life.**

Come Holy Spirit
Bless us your people
To bless your world

**and bless
empower us
to bless your world with your love**

That all may hear the bursting of joy
The dancing of willows
The shout of mountains
The leap of our spirits

**and the babble of children's voices,
and the surprise of open lives,
and the laughter of second birth,
and the swirl of celebration,**

And we all say Amen

Amen, Amen and Amen

Leader: Jesus, teach us to pray together:

All:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life giver,
Source of all that is and all that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven;**

**May the hallowing of your name echo through the Universe!
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
May your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
May your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and may it come on earth.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Silence

Reflection

The Rev. Caroline Hall

*In place of discussion, after the reflection, you are invited to share, if so moved,
your own thoughts and observations*

Prayer

**God is with us
Christ is calling us
The Spirit will guide us**

We are not alone.

(repeat three times with space in between for silent or verbal concerns)

**Feed us now, Child of God, as you fed your first disciples.
Feed us with that soul-food which nurtures enough
love within us to outstrip the fears and enmity that
ties the world up in knots.
Feed us with that spiritual bread which strengthens
our hands for serving those broken and lost people
whom this world deems a waste of space.
Feed us, so that we may be fulfilled with some of
that joy which the universe cannot contain.
For your love's sake. Amen!**

Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

We Exchange Peace with One Another

Leader:

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

MUSIC: Falling Leaves Cesar Franck, arr. Thomas © 1991 Lorenz Publishing Co.

We Prepare the Table

All:

**Blessed are you, Creator of the universe,
through whose goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
may it become for us the bread of life.**

**Blessed are you, Creator of the universe,
through whose goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
may it become for us the cup of blessing.**

**Receive these gifts, O Holy One,
and with them our offering of praise and thanksgiving.
In life and in death
may we be yours alone.**

We call upon God... **and we wait.**
We are still ... **and we wait.**
We are silent ... **and we wait.**

Silence

We await the sounds of God In the breaking of bread	the sounds of the sacrament: and the gushing of wine,
The pain of sorrow The echo of our name A cup on our lips A voice in our face: A power in our ears: As we await the sounds of God, In the breaking of bread	and the pulse of hope, and bread in our teeth, and breathing at our side, “My body, broken for you,” “My cup, poured out for you,” the sounds of the sacrament: and the gushing of wine.

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Silence

We hear sounds in the distance,
The crackle of fear
The scramble for rice
The trickle of goat’s milk
The growl of empty bodies
We hear sounds in our midst,
In the breaking of bread

Silence

We hear the bleating of a lamb
The death of a lamb
The beginning of an end
The taste of a mystery:
In the breaking of bread

Silence

We hear the bursting of joy
The dancing of willows
The shout of mountains
The leap of our spirits
Let us listen for God
In the breaking of bread

**vibrations of a world, hoping against hope.
and the murmur of distrust.
and the tearing of garbage,
and the sigh of rich tourists,
and the splash of spent blood.
the sounds of our God:
and the gushing of wine.**

**and the breaking of a womb,
and the breaking of a tomb,
and words that have healing,
our God, who has feeling,
and the gushing of wine.**

**and the babble of children’s voices,
and the surprise of open lives,
and the laughter of second birth,
and the swirl of celebration,
the celebration of God,
and the gushing of wine.**

United States Air Force Auxiliary Book of Prayers (adapted)

We Celebrate the Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

We give thanks
Who gave his life
Once for all

Who took bread
And gave it to his disciples
Take, eat,
given for you;
do this to remember me.

**for Jesus
as an offering, an offering**

**took bread and blessed it
to his disciples as he said
this is my body
given for us
to remember, always remember**

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