

SILENCE & CENTERING PRAYER

Jesus, you commanded waves to be still and calmed a stormy sea.

Quiet now our restless hearts that they may find rest in you.

We recognize the noise inside us and the noises all around us.

We acknowledge them, but seek here to know your presence in the midst of all that might distract us.

So, here in this moment, we surrender to you our words and speech, knowing that beneath the silence is a deeper Word, and that even when we say nothing, you are still listening.

Your Word invites us to...

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be still.

Be.

Be.

Silence

*CALL TO WORSHIP (a candle is lit)**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

Let the name of the Lord be praised.

You, O Lord God, are our lamp

You make our darkness bright.

You made the day for the works of light

And the night for the refreshment of our minds and our bodies.

Light and Peace in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Light and Peace to all who are gathered here in His name.

COMMON PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Lord, author of life, architect of galaxies, creator and designer of all that is -- we marvel that you should be our Father. You have come in person, in Jesus, to reveal to us your love. You have tied your lot to ours. You left home that we might come home. We celebrate the love that brought you to open a path for us. We rejoice that you have adopted us, and named us as Your own. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may forever bring you joy. We worship with angels and arch angels and all the company of heaven as we magnify your most Holy name.

GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

READING from Scripture

PSALM 139 (adapted)

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

You know when I sit and when I rise. You perceive what I am thinking from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely.

You have laid your hand on me.

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens you are there. If I make my bed in the depths you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

For you created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were we to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (*1 Thess 5:16-18*)

the community lifts up short prayers of thanksgiving

After each prayer, let the community respond with:

Lord, we give thanks!

For all your blessings and provision in all things, great and small, spoken and unspoken...

We give thanks!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As people of faith, let us affirm what we believe.

We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all that lives, of sun, moon, and stars, of water, earth, and sky.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life.

I believe and trust in God the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his Son, and in the Holy Spirit.

I believe and trust in the holy Three in One. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

As it is evening, and our days near end, let us pray in closing...

God, listen to us as we share with you whatever joys or sorrows, discoveries or questions we take into the night.

God be near us.

God be near us.

Into your hands we commit ourselves, our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures - for all things come from you and are best kept in your care.

Into your hands, Lord, we commit all things.

For the day now done...

We thank you, God.

For the rest before us...

We thank you, God.

Because God never sleeps,
Because his eye watches the sparrow,
and we are His...

Thanks be to God.

But before the day is done, let God's holy name be praised; and let God's people say...

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Let all of God's people say amen.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May you know the love of the Father and his welcome for you as you go. Bring that love and welcome to your world as you look forward to the day when we will all be welcomed home into our Father's home and Heart forever.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As we stand in the warm glow of God's love and light, let us turn to one another, brothers and sisters in Christ, greeting one another in peace.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

please greet one another!