**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Prayer for Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Do whatever he tells you to do.”

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone. **(Betty)**

**WELCOME (Betty)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before.
* Thanks to Judy Sholes and Maryann Dolan who prepared this communal prayer.
* To Reggie Ott for our music.
* To the people who will be reading and leading us in this prayer: Marilyn Voigt, Dan and Karen McCarthy, Jim and Suzie De Quattro, Sr. Grace Hartzog, Betty Thompson, George Fulk, Maryann Dolan, Tim Brown and Kate Monagan. Let us know if you’d like to read, too.
* **SETTLING IN (Judy)**

It is time to relax and to be still…..As you notice your breathing, try to feel the depth of God’s love deep within your being….Now, take a deep breath to celebrate our being in God and with each other….Finally, let us take a deep breath and reflect on God’s gift that calls us to be here together this morning.

**Now Reggie Ott will lead us in our opening hymn, “Table of Plenty”**

**OPENING SONG: “Table Of Plenty” by Dan Schutte (Reggie Ott)**

Refrain: Come to the feast of heaven and earth!

Come to the table of plenty!

God will provide for all that we need,

here at the table of plenty.

O come and sit at my table

where saints and sinners are friends.

I wait to welcome the lost and lonely

to share the cup of my love. Refrain

O come and eat without money;

come to drink without price.

My feast of gladness will feed your spirit

with faith and fullness of life. Refrain

My bread will ever sustain you

through days of sorrow and woe.

My wine will flow like a sea of gladness

to flood the depths of your soul. Refrain

**GREETING (Marilyn Voigt)**

  Beloved Community , rejoice! The Spirit is alive in us ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

          All : Thanks be to God ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Marilyn Voigt)**

Beloved Community, we come to this table of plenty as the people of God and the body of Christ. We are invited to this feast of community to celebrate the great fact that God is in love with us Let us, once again, in our listening and our sharing, awaken to what God is doing in us, and what God is seeking to become in us.

**INTRODUCTION TO** **THEME (Judy)**

This morning, we hear of marvelous gifts and of water transformed into good wine and then shared with others. It is interesting that these extraordinary readings come to us as we enter the ordinary time of our liturgical year. We will explore what they mean for us in 2022 in an institutional church of clerical /laity division, a world of inequality on every level, and lives where God comes to us in the most unexpected and ordinary ways.

In the first reading today, Paul reminds his Jewish Christian community of the many gifts that were showered on them by the Spirit. Paul and the members of the community believed that they were each to be another Christ in their own unique ways.

The second reading is from the Gospel of John, written for the Roman Christian community in about 100 A.D. John describes what he considers Jesus’ first miracle, the changing of water into wine. Each evangelist sets his theme with a sign (or miracle) at the beginning. John’s theme is the belief that Christianity replaced Judaism. He develops this theme with a story about a typical Jewish wedding steeped in ritual and tradition, in the obscure village of Cana, probably a Gentile area*.* Key to John’s symbolism are the empty water jugs that were used for purification. After being filled with wine, they could no longer be used for Jewish rituals.

The gospel focuses on Mary and Jesus and the intimacy of their relationship. Scripture scholars note that the few words exchanged between Mother and Son were regarded in Semitic language as respectful, spoken with confidence and understanding.

Following this story of water and wine, the poem in our third reading guides us in being aware of the extraordinary in the ordinary things that make up our lives

All three readings are about attentiveness – being attentive to our own and others’ gifts, being attentive to the needs around us and being attentive to God’s presence everywhere.

**(Judy)** Now Jim De Quattro will read from First Book of the Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 4-11. Then, Dan McCarthy will read questions, followed by silence for reflection.  Feel free to stay with whatever question calls you.

**READING 1 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (Jim De Quattro)**

Brothers and sisters:  
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit;   
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings, but the same God  
who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit  
is given for some benefit.

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;

to another, the expression of knowledge according to the  
same Spirit;

to another, faith by the same Spirit;

to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit;

to another, mighty deeds;

to another, prophecy;

to another, discernment of spirits;

to another, varieties of tongues;

to another, interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,  
distributing them individually to each person as the Spirit wishes.

**REFELCTIVE QUESTIONS (Dan McCarthy)**

How have you brought your gifts to the inequality you find in our institutions, like the clerical/laity division?

When have you felt that your gifts were not recognized or accepted? How did that affect your confidence and actions?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE (Betty will show slide and Judy will ring bell.)**

**(Judy)** Sr. Grace Hartzog will read from the 2nd chapter of John, verses 1-11

**READING 2 John 2:1-11 (Sr. Grace Hartzog)**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.  
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.  
When the wine ran short,  
the mother of Jesus said to him,  
“They have no wine.” (**Betty**: show slide.)  
And Jesus said to her,  
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?  
My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servers,  
“Do whatever he tells you.”  
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,  
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.  
Jesus told them,  
“Fill the jars with water.”  
So they filled them to the brim.  
Then he told them,  
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”

So they took it.   
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,  
without knowing where it came from  
— although the servers who had drawn the water knew —,  
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,  
“Everyone serves good wine first,  
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;  
but you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee  
and so revealed his glory,  
and his disciples began to believe in him.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ( Dan McCarthy)**

Listening to the interaction between Mary and Jesus how does their relationship resonate with you as a parent, or as a child?

In the picture, Mary points to the jug which has run dry. When have you felt a dryness in your life of work, ministry, activism, belief, tradition or ritual? What helped you?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE (Betty will show slide and Judy will ring bell.)**

**READING 3 “Mindful,” a poem by Mary Oliver ( Betty Thompson)**

Every day

    I see or I hear

      something

            that more or less

kills me

    with delight,

      that leaves me

          like a needle

in the haystack

    of light.

      It is what I was born for --

          to look, to listen,

to lose myself

    inside this soft world --

      to instruct myself

          over and over

in joy,

  and acclamation.

      Nor am I talking

        about the exceptional,

the fearful, the dreadful,

      the very extravagant.--

        but of the ordinary,

          the common, the very drab,

the daily presentations.

      Oh, good scholar,

          I say to myself,

            how can you help

but grow wise

    with such teachings

        as these —

            the untrimmable light

of the world,

      the ocean’s shine,

          the prayers that are made

                out of grass?

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS (Dan McCarthy)**

What kinds of things kill you with delight?

Think about a time you were really attentive to what you were experiencing in the moment..*(Pause.)* What did you learn about yourself?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE (Betty will show slide and Judy will ring bell.)**

**(Judy)** Karen McCarthy will now lead us in sharing our thoughts regarding today’s readings and reflection questions..

**SHARING (Karen McCarthy)**

We invite you to briefly share what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on these readings. That helps us to glimpse the many ways God is among us. We welcome new voices, and we also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening,

As you share your feelings, please use "I” or “me". And let's leave a breath of silence between speakers. A bridge of silence allows us to take in what was just said and let it influence what we may want to share.

So, let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long pause.]*

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards.

Who would like to begin our sharing?

*(Sharing)*

Thank you.

(Karen McCarthy) Now, George Fulk will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (George Fulk)**

We have reflected on the miracle Jesus performed at Cana and on how we are called to use our God-given talents and charisms for the good of others**.**

We now bring before you, our Generous and Loving God, what is in our hearts and minds. Knowing you are the eternal heart of the universe, our faithful companion and trusted guide, we enter this new day and we pray. Our response will be:  **Generous God, hear our prayer**.

For each of us, that we may act on Mother Teresa’s advice to “do ordinary things with extraordinary love,”

For this we pray**: Generous God, hear our prayer.**

For the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and for all the congregations of sisters who unselfishly dedicate their lives to using their personal talents and their orders’ charisms to serve God by serving others, we pray….**Generous God, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, that she might become truly synodal by listening to the voices of her members, especially those on the margins, we pray**,… Generous God, hear our prayer.**

For the protection of our democracy, may the Senate succeed in passing both the Freedom to Vote and John Lewis Voting Rights bills, which would ensure that all eligible voters will be able to cast their ballots without difficulty and that all votes will be counted, we pray…**Generous God, hear our prayer**

Now, for what else shall we pray? Please remember to unmute and mute yourself. And end your prayer with “For this, we pray.” Who would like to begin?

(People speak.) **Generous God, hear our prayer.**

Thank you.

Generous God, we give you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We will do all that we can to put your prayer into action…while entrusting the outcome to you. Amen.

**OFFERTORY (Maryann Dolan)**

We know that God has given each of us unique gifts and talents that we are called upon to use so that God can work through us. As St. Teresa of Avila has reminded us

Christ has no body but yours; no hands, but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ

must look out on the world.

Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless all the world.

As we listen to the song “We All Have Gifts to Share,.” let us reflect on what we are called to do in this unique time.

(**Betty** will play [We All Have Gifts to Share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8vfPPfQ0bo))

*(Play starting 1:50 and then start fading out at around 3:05, finishing 3:12.)*

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Suzie De Quattro)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in and among us.  *[Pause.]*

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the wine,

gifts of **Earth** and the work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it.  *[Pause.]*

Holy One, make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share. Amen.

**OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER (Tim Brown)**

***All (muted):*** Our Father, our Mother, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Kate Monagan)**

We thank you, loving God, for the blessings you have given us.

May we always use our gifts and talents in a way that demonstrates kindness, humility, and compassion.

May we always be mindful of Mother Teresa’s advice to do the ordinary in extraordinary ways.

May we be your bread of abundance and your wine of joy to all.

Amen.

**(Kate Monagan**) Now, let us all join in the singing of our closing song “Sing a New Church”

**Betty** will play <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETV1DXQk_Gk>

**CLOSING SONG: “Sing a New Church”** by Delores Dufner, OSB

Summoned by the God who made us,  
rich in our diversity,  
Gathered in the name of Jesus,  
richer still in unity.

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ

and, in splendid, varied ways,  
sing a new Church into being,  
one in faith and love and praise.

Radiant risen from the water,  
robed in holiness and light,  
male and female in God’s image,  
male and female, God’s delight. Refrain

Trust the goodness of creation

trust the Spirit strong within.  
Dare to dream the vision promised,  
sprung from seed of what has been. Refrain

Bring the hopes of every nation;  
bring the art of every race.  
Weave a song of peace and justice;  
let it sound through time and space. Refrain

Draw together at one table,  
all the human family;  
shape a circle ever wider  
and a people ever free. Refrain

**Resources**

Roland J. Fraley, Footprints on the Mountain

Jack Zevada, Bible Reflections

Mary McGlone, National Catholic Reporter, ncronline.org January 16, 2022

Roger Karban.  [Fosilonline.com](http://Fosilonline.com), Third Sunday of the Year 2019.

Dianne Bergant, CSA  … The Word For Every Season, Cycle C

“Mindful” Devotions, The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver pg 173-174.  Penguin Press, New York 2017

Song “We All Have Gifts to Share,” sung by Susan Kay Wyatt.

Song, “Table of Plenty” by Dan Schutte

Song, “Sing a New Church” by Delores Duffner

Picture … at the Motherhouse of Divine Providence , Allison, PA.

Obtained with permission from a recent Witness and Grace Conversation, Say Yes ,as Mary Did presented by Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM . (Obtained with the help of Gail DeGeorge)

Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila Adapted

**Further Questions for Reflection**

1. How did you discover that you had a gift? How do you acknowledge other people’s gifts? What have you learned about using your gifts alone or in community?
2. How do you discern when and how to use your gifts in challenging situations? Have you been willing to step out of your comfort zone? If so, what made it possible for you to do that?
3. As Catholic Christians today, how do you experience good wine as members of the Church? If you do not, what are you called to do?
4. What unexpected and ordinary ways lead you to God and to prayer?