**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer for Jan. 23, 2022**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“You are the body of Christ and each of you is a member of it.”*

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

**WELCOME (Suzie and Betty)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* We had the pleasure of preparing today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to Reggie Ott and Linda Donaldson for our music.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today: Ann Masters, Anne Regan, Bill Fanelli, Carol Kambic, Cheryl Dowden, Ed Hutchison, Jim De Quattro, Kathy Heller, Nancy Sushinsky, Pat Gabig, and Sr. Vera Ruotolo.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Sr. Vera Ruotolo)**

Let your breath bring you into quiet so you can be attentive to each other and to the Spirit. Notice your breath as it goes in and out…. Let it slow and deepen… and slowly fill you with the peace of Christ. We begin with 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together… and one to know the Spirit who never leaves us.

Now Linda Donaldson will lead us into our celebration.

**OPENING HYMN: “Gather Your People, O Lord” (Linda Donaldson)**

Refrain

Gather your people, O Lord.  
Gather your people, O Lord.  
One bread, one body, one spirit of love.  
Gather your people, O Lord.

Verse 2 We are parts of the body of Christ,

needing each other,  
each of the gifts the Spirit provides. Refrain

Verse 3 No more harm on the mountain of God;

swords into plowshares.  
Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart Refrain

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**GREETING (Ed Hutchison)**

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

**All:** Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/GATHERING PRAYER (Ed Hutchison)**

We gather today using the words of Nehemiah:

“This day is holy to the Most High your God.  
Do not mourn, and do not weep”—~~.~~“Go, enjoy rich foods and drink sweet wine,  
and be sure to send a portion to those who cannot provide for themselves.

For today is holy to Yahweh.  
Let no one be sad, for Yahweh’s joy is your strength.”

Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Suzie De Quattro)**

Let’s start by remembering the Sunday when we talked about baptism not as a single event but a lifelong process. We sang that we “put on Christ.” We reflected on powerful baptismal promises. Promises that are hard to fulfill on our own.

So today we will look at how we connect our individual promises as one Body of Christ, and how we could be healers when the Body of Christ is divided.

In Corinthians, we listen to Paul, writing to a community that has chosen sides. Imagine how even more forcefully he would write to us as a Christian community divided among denominations and even between Catholic factions.

Let’s also think of young people who feel abandoned, angry, and despairing. Many are working to repair theworld that they are inheriting from us. We could call it healing the Body of Christ in creation. Many of them would not call it that, as even the word “God” can be divisive.

Today’s gospel is also about community division.  Jesus goes back to his hometown where he reads and speaks in the synagogue.  Some who hear him reject his message and in next week’s gospel they try to kill him.  But what about the others in the synagogue?  Did they hear Jesus say that scripture “…is being fulfilled today even while you are listening” and talk about it on their way home?  Did some of them travel with Jesus to the next town to hear more?  Listening needs time to bear fruit.

Jesus was telling the community not only to see him as fulfillment of the scripture but to participate with him in bringing on “a year of favor of our God.” We are here today to strengthen each other in doing that, as the Body of Christ. *(Short pause)*

Let’s sing again our baptismal acclamation:

**SUNG ANTIPHON**  **(Linda Donaldson)**

We have put on Christ. In Christ we have been baptized. Alleluia, alleluia! (twice)

*(Slight pause)*

**Suzie**: Now Jim De Quattro will read from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. Then Ann Masters will offer questions for reflection, followed by silence. Feel free to stay with whatever question calls you.

**READING 1** [**1 Cor 12:12-30**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/1corinthians/12?12) **(Jim De Quattro)**

Brothers and sisters:  
As a body is one though it has many parts,  
so also Christ.  
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

And that body is not a single part, but many.

If a foot should say,  
“Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body, “  
does that make it any less a part of the body?  
If the ear should say,  
“Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body, “  
does that make it any less a part of the body?

If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to our hearing?  
If the whole body were hearing, what would happen to our sense of smell?  
Instead, God placed each part in the body with purpose.

If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you,“  
any more than the head can say to the feet, “I do not need you.”

And even those parts that seem less important are in fact indispensable. We surround them with greater honor and treat them with greater propriety than our more presentable parts.

God has constructed the body  
to give greater honor to the lowly members,  
so that there is no division,  
and so that all members may be equally concerned for one another.

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it;  
if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.  
  
You then are the body of Christ and each of you is a member of it.

*[Pause.]*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 1** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Ann Masters)**

Paul says: You are an “indispensable” part of the Body of Christ.

Where do you need healing?

Where does the Body of Christ need healing?

What can you do to bring healing to other parts of the Body?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** **(Betty:** Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty: Now Pat Gabig will read from the gospel of Luke. To proclaim that Jesus is an anointed prophet, Luke uses scriptures that proclaim a Jubilee Year for the oppressed.

**READING 2** [**Lk 4:14-21**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/4?1) **(Pat Gabig)**

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up.

Entering the synagogue on the sabbath as was his custom, he stood up to do the reading.

Jesus was handed a book of the prophet Isaiah, and, unrolling the scroll, found the passage where it was written:

            *The Spirit of our God is upon me,*  
                        *because the Most High has anointed me*  
                        *to bring Good News to those who are poor.*  
            *God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive,*  
                       *recovery of sight to those who are blind,*  
                       *release to those in prison,*  
                       *and to proclaim a year of favor of our God.*

Rolling up the scroll, Jesus handed it back to the attendant and sat down.  
The eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.  
He said to them,  
“This Scripture passage is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.”

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 2** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Ann Masters)**

When was the first time you heard something about Jesus that made you stop and pay attention?

When have you risked rejection in order to speak a hopeful truth?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  **(Betty:** Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty: For our reflection, Anne Regan and Bill Fanelli will offer some quotes from different faith traditions for our reflection.

**READING 3 (Full Name)**

Alice Walker wrote, “We are the ones we have been waiting for.” And isn’t that the same message we hear in today’s readings? Let’s listen to insights from people who draw on their own faith traditions to call us to do good.

From Islam: “A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts support each other.“

From Fr. Richard Rohr: “As an individual, you don’t have the full responsibility of putting it all together. All you have to do is discover your one gift and use it for the good of all.”

From Rep. John Lewis: “And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to use, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself.”

From bell hooks: “Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.”

From Rabbi Tarfon in the Talmud: “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”

From Chief Seattle: “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 3** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Ann Masters)**

When do you feel daunted by the world? How does that experience give you a way to speak to others who may be overwhelmed or despairing?

How free do you feel to do the good that you wish to do?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  **(Betty:** Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty: Kathy Heller will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Kathy Heller)**

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. And let's leave a breath of silence between speakers which allows us to take in more fully what was just said.

We begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long pause.]*

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards. Who would like to begin?

(Sharing)

*[Let sharing continue for about 20 minutes, ending by 11:20.]*

Thank you.  We have to stop now, and we can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now Cheryl Dowden will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Cheryl Dowden)**

Let us bring what is in our hearts to God in prayer. Our response will be: Holy One, hear our prayer.

God within us, show us how to remain active in your Body even as our own bodies change over time. For this we pray: Holy One, hear our prayer.

God beyond us, during this week we remember the Jews who died in the Holocaust. Forgive us for the harm that we and our society have allowed to be done in our name. For this we pray: Holy One, hear our prayer.

God among us, keep reminding us of those who animate us as your Body. This week we particularly thank you for St. Angela Merici and St. Francis de Sales and all foundresses, founders, and members of communities committed to living your love in the world. For this we pray: Holy One, hear our prayer.

Now let’s remember the feelings and prayers that arose in us as we shared reflections, and also the prayers we carry with us. *[Pause.]*

Now, for what else shall we pray? Please remember to unmute and mute yourself.

(People speak.) Holy One, hear our prayer.

Thank you.

O God, everything we just prayed is from our hearts. Now we put it all into your hands. With gratitude for your abundant gifts to us, we volunteer our time, our talent, and our treasure as your instruments to bring about the reality of your reign. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Nancy Sushinsky)**

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, thank you for nourishing us here.

May we nourish others

and bring your living presence into situations that cry out for transformation.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER (Carol Kambic)**

Now let us join our hearts to pray with all who seek peace and justice throughout the world, in the words of the Polynesian and Maori people and the New Zealand Anglican community:

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

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

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

**FINAL BLESSING** Eph 3:16-20 **(Betty Thompson)**

Out of God’s infinite glory,

may God give you the power, through the Spirit

for your hidden self to grow strong,

so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith;

and then, planted in love and built on love,

you will, with all the saints, have strength to know

the length and the breadth, the height and the depth – and then

knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge,

you will be filled with the utter fullness of God.

Glory be to God whose power, working in us,

can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Amen.

*[Pause.]*

Now Reggie Ott will lead us in singing “We Are Many Parts.”

**CLOSING – We Are Many Parts” by Marty Haugen (Reggie Ott)**

**Refrain**: We are many parts,

We are all one body.  
And the gifts we have,  
We were given to share.  
May the spirit of love

Make us one indeed:  
One, the Love that we share;  
One, our hope and despair;  
One, the cross that we bear.

**Verse 1**: God of all, we look to you,  
 We would be your servants true,  
 Let us be your love for all the world. **Refrain**

**Verse 2:** So my pain is your pain too  
 In your joy, is my joy too,  
 All is brought together in the Lord. **Refrain**

**RESOURCES**

Images:

* 1 Corinthians image: “Where I’m From” by Jan Richardson -- © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com. Used with permission.
* Luke: “Jews Praying in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur” by Maurycy Gottlieb, 1878 - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews_Praying_in_the_Synagogue_on_Yom_Kippur>
* Reflection image: by france white, shcj <https://www.shcj.org/american/how-we-serve/shcj-artists/france-white-blank-cards-and-prints/>

Intro to Theme:

* Fr. Raymond E. Brown, *Introduction to the New Testament*
* Sr. Mary M. McGlone, “Third Sunday in Ordinary Time” - <https://www.ncronline.org/news/spirituality/scripture-life/third-sunday-ordinary-time-1>

A group of people walking on a dirt road in a field

Description automatically generated with medium confidence



<https://www.dailynews.com/2018/11/01/southern-california-synagogues-reconsider-security-measures-after-pittsburgh-shooting/>

A painting of a group of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence [Maurycy Gottlieb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurycy_Gottlieb)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews_Praying_in_the_Synagogue_on_Yom_Kippur>