**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**May 1, 2022 – Third Sunday of Easter**

*Jesus said, “Come and have breakfast.” (John 21:12)*

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

**WELCOME (Suzie and Betty)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* We prepared today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer today: Ann Masters, Carol Kambic, Ed Hutchison, Pat Gabig, Michelle Gibbs, Jim De Quattro, Kathy Heller, Nancy Sushinsky, Judith Galleazzi, and Peg Duchesne.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

Now Judith Galleazzi will help us move from getting here to really being here.

**SETTLING IN (Judith Galleazzi)**

Let’s quiet ourselves so we can be attentive to what God hopes for us today. 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 welcome in the Spirit who never leaves us.

Now let’s rejoice in God in song:

**OPENING SONG** **- “God Has Chosen Me” by Bernadette Farrell**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgNMK2fPDmg>(Fade at 2:00)

God has chosen me, God has chosen me

to bring good news to the poor.  
God has chosen me, God has chosen me

to bring new sight to those searching for light.  
God has chosen me, chosen me:  
And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,  
to remove oppression and break down fear,  
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.  
  
God has chosen me, God has chosen me

to set alight a new fire.  
God has chosen me, God has chosen me

to bring to birth a new kingdom on earth.  
God has chosen me, chosen me:  
And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,  
to remove oppression and break down fear,  
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.  
  
God is calling me, God is calling me

in all whose cry is unheard.  
God is calling me, God is calling me

to raise up the voice with no power or choice.  
God is calling me, calling me:  
And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near,  
to remove oppression and break down fear,  
yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.

**GREETING (Suzie De Quattro)**

Let us rejoice, for Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ GATHERING PRAYER**  **(Carol Kambic)**

We come together today to stand beside the disciples as they – and we – deepen our experience of the Risen One alive with us. It is the light of the Risen One that lets us see our next step. And so we pray.

Holy One, over and over during this season we hear Jesus say, “Peace be with you.”

Teach us how to be a community of contagious peace and hope.

In a world and among loved ones with heart-breaking needs,

show us how to be your heart.

May we inquire, nudge, and challenge each other

to imagine what none us could conceive alone.

Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Betty Thompson)**

Today we will hear the end of the Gospel of John -- the final chapter, the bottom line. We hear three sides of a single message about God’s love and how to answer the call to follow Jesus.

First, in the fishing story:

God has abundance waiting for us. We just have to put our energy where God points. “Where can we as Church heed Jesus’ invitation to cast our nets differently when our present practices aren’t working?”

Second, on the beach when Jesus invites his friends to eat with him:

God is continually eager to share the love that nourishes and sustains. What food is Jesus preparing for us today?

Third, on the beach with Jesus and Peter alone:

God is endlessly eager to love us as we are. At another charcoal fire, Peter denied Jesus three times. As Jesus had done with everyone he healed, Jesus gave Peter forgiveness and grace. Then Jesus entrusted Peter with God’s mission to “feed my sheep.” Not baptize them. Feed them. How can we feed the world with the forgiveness that we’ve been given?

The good news of the resurrection isn’t something that we receive passively, it’s God calling us to action. The hope and joy of the Easter season come from our realization that we are not stuck. Jesus sets us free so that we can share in the work of feeding the lambs and proclaiming resurrection to a hungry world.

*(Slight pause)*

Now Peg Duchesne will read from the final chapter of the Gospel of John. Then Jim De Quattro will offer questions that will lead us into silence.

**READING 1 John 21:1-14**  **(Peg Duchesne)**

Jesus again appeared to the disciples, at Lake Tiberias. This is how it happened.

Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s children James and John, and two more disciples were together.

Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come with you,” they replied, and went off to get into their boat. They fished all night but caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the shore, though the disciples did not know who it was. Jesus called out, “Have you caught anything, friends?” “Not a thing,” they answered.

“Cast your net off to the starboard side,” Jesus suggested, “and you'll find something.” So they threw the net out and caught so many fish that they couldn’t haul the net in. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, “It’s our Teacher!”

Hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak (for he had nothing on) and jumped into the water.

Meanwhile, the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were only about a hundred yards from land.

When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. “Bring some of the fish you caught,” Jesus told him. Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with one-hundred fifty-three large fish. In spite of the great weight, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples asked, 'Who are you?' for they knew who it was. *(Slight pause)*

Jesus came to them, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 1 (Jim De Quattro)**

In what part of the story do you want to linger?

When have you labored in the wrong place, until you noticed where Jesus was pointing you?

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

Betty: Now Nancy Sushinsky will pick up our Gospel with Jesus’ private conversation with Peter.

**READING 2 John 21:15-17, 19, 25 (Nancy Sushinsky)**

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?” Peter answered, “Yes, Rabbi, you know I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” For a second time Jesus asked, 'Simon ben- John, do you love me?' Peter replied, 'Yes, Rabbi, you know I love you.” Jesus said, “Tend my sheep.” Then Jesus asked a third time, 'Simon ben-John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked “Do you love me?” a third time. And so Peter said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I love you.” Jesus said to Peter, “Feed my sheep.”

…And after this Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me.”

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 2 (Jim De Quattro)**

What would let you accept your frailties and failures as Jesus does?

Hear Jesus speaking to you. “Do you love me **more than these**?” (Pause.} “Feed my sheep.”

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

Betty: Now Kathy Heller will introduce a musical meditation.

**READING 3 (Kathy Heller)**

We have just heard, “And **after** this, Jesus said to Peter, ‘Follow me.’” Until this moment, Peter could not have carried out Jesus’ mission to follow him. Peter had to see how fragile his loyalty was, and how he let fear overcame his love. Until Peter had been broken and wept, he didn’t really know himself. Once Peter could accept his own frailty as Jesus did, he could understand what it means to love as Jesus loves, to trust as Jesus trusts.

This scene by the water summarizes the entire Gospel message. It is John’s final reminder that before we can **proclaim** a joyful Gospel, first we must grasp God’s loving acceptance of our weakness. We are all invited to the eucharistic feast on the shore, the only requirement is that we come as the sinners we are and accept the love that is offered. Then, and only then, can we answer Jesus’ call to follow him. (Pause.)

*(Kathy) As we pray with this song, “Follow Me,” which words is Jesus speaking to you? Which are you speaking to Jesus?*

**John Denver: “Follow me” (Linda Donaldson)**

It's by far the hardest thing I've ever done,  
To be so in love with you and so alone.

Follow me where I go, what I do, who I know.  
Make it part of you to be a part of me.  
Follow me up and down,  
All the way and all around,  
Take my hand and say you'll follow me.

It's long been on my mind,  
You know it's been a long, long time,  
I've tried to find the way that I can make you understand  
The way I feel about you,  
And just how much I need you  
To be there where I can talk to you  
When there's no one else around.

Follow me where I go, what I do, who I know.  
Make it part of you to be a part of me.  
Follow me up and down,  
All the way and all around,  
Take my hand and say you'll follow me.

You see, I'd like to share my life with you  
And show you things I've seen,  
Places that I'm going to,  
Places where I've been,  
To have you there beside me  
And never be alone,  
And all the time that you're with me,  
We will be at home.

Follow me where I go, what I do, who I know.  
Make it part of you to be a part of me.  
Follow me up and down,  
All the way...  
Take my hand and I will follow you.

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 3 (Jim De Quattro)**

What words of the song is Jesus speaking to you? What words are you speaking to Jesus?

When you hear Jesus’ invitation to “Follow me,” what questions do you want to ask?

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

Betty: Ann Masters will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Ann Masters)**

We invite you to share the essence of what is emerging within you from our readings and silence. We welcome new voices and we know the wisdom of our community includes both words shared and silent listening. Let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long-ish pause]*

Who would like to start our sharing? *[Let silence extend until someone is moved to speak.]*

*[Sharing]*

*[If there is extended silence during the sharing:]* Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Long-ish pause]*

*[Stop by about 11:20.]*

Thank you.  We can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now let us pray together, with Michelle Gibbs beginning.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Michelle Gibbs)**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. (Pause) Our response will be: e.g., Holy One, feed us.

God within us, unite us with the trust of our Mother Mary as we walk into the unknown with Jesus. For this we pray. Holy One, feed us.

God among us, show us our next step to bring to life merciful justice and right relationships in society, in solidarity with Catholic sisters. For this we pray. Holy One, feed us.

God around us, we thank you for all workers on this day celebrated as Labor Day and International Workers Day in many countries. Let us stand with workers seeking dignity and just reward for their efforts. For this we pray. Holy One, feed us.

God of all, as Ramadan ends, we pray with our Islamic sisters and brothers: Allah, open our hearts to our neighbors, and help us to be kind. For this we pray. Holy One, feed us.

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterwards.

(Shared prayers) Holy One, feed us.

God beyond all names, thank you for receiving our intentions, spoken and unspoken. We entrust all to you. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Pat Gabig)**

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 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, we entrust ourselves to you and to one another.

Make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share.

Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Ed Hutchison)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands in harmony with our family throughout the world:

***All (muted):*** Our Father, Our Mother, you unite heaven and earth. Holy is 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 (Suzie De Quattro)**

With every step  
you take,  
this blessing rises up  
to meet you…

Look close  
and you can see…

how it has been fashioned  
by those who walked  
this road before you…

how it made a way for them  
when no way could be  
seen.

Look closer  
and you will see  
this blessing  
is not finished,

that you are part  
of the path  
it is preparing,

that you are how  
this blessing means  
to be a voice  
within the wilderness

and a welcome  
for the way.

We close in song to celebrate the **joy** of following Jesus --

**CLOSING – I Will Follow Him** performed by Coro Mozart, a Portuguese chorus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF61j_Bgqv8>

Start at 0:10, 1.25 speed. Change to normal speed at 1:35. End by 3:08 with hands upraised.

I will follow him, follow him wherever he may go,  
And near him, I always will be, for nothing can keep me away.  
He is my destiny.

I will follow him. Ever since he touched my heart I knew  
There isn't an ocean too deep, A mountain so high it can keep, keep me away,

Away from his love.

I love him! I love him! I love him!  
And where he goes I'll follow! I'll follow! I'll follow!

I will follow him, follow him wherever he may go.  
There isn't an ocean too deep, a mountain so high it can keep, keep me away.

I will follow him, follow him wherever he may go!  
There isn't an ocean too deep, a mountain so high it can keep, keep me away,   
Away from his love.

I love him! Oh yes, I love him.  
I'll follow! I’m gonna follow him.

My true love! He'll always be my true love

From now until forever.

I love him! I love him! I love him!  
And where he goes I'll follow! I'll follow! I'll follow!

He'll always be my true love, my true love, my true love,  
From now until forever, forever, forever.

There isn't an ocean too deep, a mountain so high it can keep, keep me away.  
Away from his love.

**RESOURCES**

* *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*, Sheed and Ward, 2007
* *The Catholic Study Bible*, ed. Fr. Donald Senior (president emeritus of Catholic Theological Union), 1990
* *An Introduction to the New Testament* by Fr. Raymond E. Brown, Yale University Press, 1997, p. 360-361.
* “Only Sinners Need Apply” by Sr. Mary M. McGlone in 2019 Sunday Resources, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/spirituality/scripture-life/third-sunday-easter-1>
* Catholic Women Preach for Divine Mercy Sunday 2019 by Mary Kate Holman, <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/05052019>
* Image after reading 1: “Fishers of Men” at Fine Art America
* Image after reading 2: “The Biblical Notion of Call” found at Vocation Network
* Image after reading 3: “Stepping Stones” by Peter Cole
* “I Will Follow Him” – first recorded in 1961 as an instrumental, then recorded by Little Peggy March in 1963 with new English lyrics. The music was written by Franck Pourcel and Paul Mauriat and adapted by Arthur Altman. The completely new English lyrics were written by Norman Gimbel.
* Blessing the Way by Jan Richardson --<https://adventdoor.com/2011/12/01/advent-2-blessing-the-way/>