**Solidarity with Sisters**

**COMMUNAL PRAYER**

 **Sunday, June 19, 2022, Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ**

"We are at a moment of convergence of energies at the foot of the cross. The convergence is coming in the hope of, and the fear of, new life." (Sr. Pat Farrell, OSF)

**HELLOs (Suzie De Quattro/ Betty Thompson)**

Welcome, everyone! Happy Father’s Day to all of you men who have nurtured children!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* We will not be having Sunday prayer on August 7 and 14. After more than two steady years, we are taking a vacation.
* To make it easier for planners during this season when people are traveling:
	+ Regular readers, please let Ann Jelen know dates when you know you will be away during the summer.
	+ And if anyone would particularly like to read, please let her know, too. (amjelen43@gmail.com)
* Today we are using the prayer Anne Regan and Bill Fanelli prepared in 2020 with some minor changes to update it for this year
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer today: Sr. Grace Hartzog, Arlene McGarrity, Lynn Bufka, Norb Bufka, Peggy Thompson, Jim De Quattro, Suzie De Quattro, Betty Thompson, Linda Donaldson, Debra Street, and Peg Duchesne.
* We invite you to get bread and a drink to share today.

**SETTLING IN (Lynn Bufka)**

Now let’s move from getting here to being here. Settle into a comfortable position. Notice your breath as it goes in and out. We are reminded that God’s name- Yahweh- is itself a breath of prayer. With each breath then, we speak God’s name. YH/WH, YH/WH, YH/WH.

And now let’s take 3 more deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together….and one to welcome our God who is always ready to comfort and feed us.

Now Linda Donaldson will lead us into our celebration.

**OPENING SONG (Linda Donaldson)**

**“One Bread, One Body” John Michael Talbot**

Chorus: One bread, one body,
One Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless,
And we, though many
Throughout the earth,

We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew,
Servant or free,
Woman or man, no more. [Chorus]
2. Many the gifts,
Many the works,
One in the Lord of all. [Chorus]
3. Grain for the fields,
Scattered and grown,
Gathered to one, for all. [Chorus]

**GREETING (Suzie De Quattro)**

Let us rejoice, for Jesus Christ is alive among us and the grace of the Holy Spirit energizes us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: And all God’s people reply: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Suzie De Quattro)**

We come together today because it is with each other that we experience ourselves as both the people of God and the body of Christ. We gather to remember that God is in love with us. On this Corpus Christi Sunday, may we be particularly aware that we are indeed one body, one in the Spirit, radiant with the light of Christ.

And so let us pray: May the witness to Christ be strong among us, and fill us with the gifts of the Spirit as we work for and wait for the fullness of God’s reign. May God keep us steady as we inquire, nudge, and challenge each other. May it be so. *[Pause.]*

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

Today we consider, what is it we are actually saying when we say “Amen” “Yes” “Blessed Be” after hearing the words of Communion; after receiving the body and blood of Christ.

First, in Corinthians, Paul tells us we are saying yes “to participating in the body of Christ.” We’re saying yes to recognizing and receiving the suffering of the world. We receive the grief, outrage, anger and pain pouring out into the world, and we lament. In our Prayer of Lament, we raise our voices as people of the desert, wondering how we are to endure God’s seeming inactivity, and recalling our own profound inability to minister to the world in isolation. Today on Juneteenth, we pray to join Jesus in seeing the world through the eyes of those who suffer from racism and violent systems that damage the body of Christ.

Then in the Gospel of Luke, we are reminded what happens when we take Jesus’ way of being into the core of our being. Gifts of Earth, like the body of Christ, are blessed, broken and shared. With Jesus we are promised there will be enough for all. *[Pause.]*

Arlene McGarrity will now read from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, after which Peg Duchesne will offer questions to lead us into silence.

**READING 1 – 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (Arlene McGarrity)**

****

*(Start slide 1.)* **(Betty)**

**Arlene:**

Brothers and sisters:

The cup of blessing that we bless,

is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break,

is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

Because the loaf of bread is one,

we, though many, are one body,

for we all partake of the one loaf.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1 (Peg Duchesne)**

 **(Continue Slide 1.)**

What is this body of Christ that we are part of?

What does it mean for you to participate in the body of Christ?

Are we one body on the cross? One body with victim, executioner, observers?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[Slide 2-image & questions, time, chime]* **(Betty)**

****

*[Move from Slide 2 to Slide 3, “La Pieta.”]* **(Betty)**

**Suzie:** Sister Grace Hartzog and Jim De Quattro will now read our Prayer of Lament, lightly adapted from the Lament written by Rev. Dr.  Sharon R. Fennema.

**READING 2 -- Prayer of Lament (with verses from the Psalms, especially Psalms 19 and 74) (Sr. Grace Hartzog / Jim De Quattro)**

**Grace:** God of the cross and the lynching tree,
of the jail cell and the street corner,
of the bible study and the grocery store,

of the classroom and the refugee camps,

look upon the world you have made.
See how it is full of hatred and how violence inhabits the earth.

**Jim:** The streets and sidewalks of your dwelling place

echo with gunfire and flow with blood,
pouring out the cries of your beloveds.
Do you not hear our cries?
How long, O God, will you keep silence?
How long will we fail to be your voice?

**Grace:** The breaths snatched from lungs swirl on wind that blew creation to life,
echoing with the last gasps of your dear ones.
Do you not hear our gasps?

How long, O God, will you keep silence?
How long will we fail to be your voice?

**Jim:** The bones that you knit together in a mother’s womb are broken,
rattling with the earth-shaking suffering of your people.
Do you not hear our rattling?
How long, O God, will you keep silence?
How long will we fail to be your voice?

**Grace:** In these days, as in days past,
our mothers and grandmothers have become mourners.
Our fathers and grandfathers have become grievers.
Our children have become wanderers in vacant rooms.
Our communities have become filled with empty chairs.
Remember the people you have redeemed, Holy One.
Remember the work of salvation brought about by your love.

**Jim:** You made a way out of no way for slaves to cross the sea on dry land.
Arise, O God, and defend your own cause.
Raise up in us the cries of outrage.

**Grace:** You cast out demons so that people might be restored to community.
Arise, O God, and defend your own cause.
Raise up in us the determination to drive out racism.

**Jim:** You witnessed the death of your Beloved Child.
Arise, O God, and defend your own cause.
Raise up in us the grief that cannot be comforted.

**Grace:** You brought new life from the crucifixion of state violence and the wounds of abandonment.
Arise, O God, and defend your own cause.
Raise up in us courage to speak truth to power, and hope to hatred.

**Jim:** God of the ones with hands up and the ones who can’t breathe,

of those who fear going to school or their place of worship,

of those who live in the rubble of war,

of those who are hungry and thirst for clean water,

look upon the world you have made.

**Grace:** Do not forget your afflicted people forever
so that we might praise your holy name with joyful lips.  Amen.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Peg Duchesne)**

*[Continue Slide 3.[*

For what do you lament?

How is your voice different when you are on the cross, or at the foot of the cross?

To what do you need to say Amen with your life?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** (Slide 4-image & questions, time, chime, end slide) **(Betty)**

**Suzie:** Now Peggy Thompson will read from the Gospel of Luke.

**READING 3 –** Luke 9:11b-17  **(Peggy Thompson)**

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God,
and he healed those who needed to be cured.
As the day was drawing to a close,
the Twelve approached Jesus and said,
"Dismiss the crowd
so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms
and find lodging and provisions;
for we are in a deserted place here."
Jesus said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."
They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have,
unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people."
Now the crowd numbered about five thousand.
Then Jesus said to the disciples,
"Have them sit down in groups of about fifty."Then taking the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven,
Jesus said the blessing over them, broke them,
and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.
They all ate and were satisfied.
And when the leftover fragments were picked up,
they filled twelve wicker baskets.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Peg Duchesne?)**

****

*[Soon after Peg starts reading, begin Slide 5.]*  **(Betty)**

Peg:

With what we have just heard, with all we lament, ask yourself:

How am I being invited into communion with or through Jesus right now?

How will I respond to this invitation into communion in the body of Christ?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** (Slide 6-image & questions, time, chime) **(Betty)**

**Suzie:** Now Lynn Bufka will lead us in sharing.

**SHARING (Lynn Bufka)**

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

Who would like to start our sharing? Please unmute to speak and mute again afterwards.

*[Sharing]*

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

*[If needed, something like:]* Those are wonderful (ideas, resources) and it would be great to hear more after our final song. Let’s return to your reflections on how God is moving in you at this moment.

*[Stop by about 11:20.]*

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

**OFFERTORY (Lynn Buka)**

Today we use music for our Offertory. As you listen to this song by Sara Thomsen, notice how it mixes in you with our readings and laments and reflections. Notice what rises in you as a commitment for your time, your talents, and your treasure during the coming week.

“Canticle of the Turning” by Sara Thomsen from start until 1:02. **(Betty)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=empGgV8Usvk>

**Suzie:** Debra Street will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Debra Street)**

The scriptures repeatedly exhort us to absorb Jesus as a way of being. Mindful that we are called to be the body of Christ and called to reject the allure of going back to the way things were, we pray.

Our response will be, “O God, hear our prayer.”

Today on Fathers’ Day, we pray in gratitude for all who nurture children as fathers, brothers, mentors, teachers, and friends. Bless them with joy and strength. For this we pray. O God, hear our prayer.

Today on Juneteenth, we pray that, in the words of Father Bryan Massingale, a critical mass of White folks are becoming outraged, grieved and pained enough over the status quo to declare, "This cannot and will not be!" For this we pray. O God, hear our prayer.

God of grace, let the leaders of Catholic sisters feel our solidarity in their commitment to end racism, unjust systems, and gun violence. For this we pray. O God, hear our prayer.

God of life, keep our voices clear in valuing every person, particularly for people of color, LGBTQ people, and others oppressed by the systems in which we live and prosper. For this we pray. O God, hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray? *[Pause.]* Please unmute yourself as you speak. Please end your petition with “for this we pray.”

(People speak.)

Thank you.

We place all of our prayers, those spoken and those unspoken, into your loving care, entrusting the outcome to you.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Betty Thompson)**

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 words of Paul: “on the night Jesus was handed over,
he took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Now let **us** lift up **our** bread and cup.

Let us pour into them the loves, longings, and laments in our heart and in hearts all over the world.

*[A pause long enough for each person to do that.]*

O Food of Life, we ask you to enter us as we eat this bread and drink from this cup.

Saturate all of our loves, our longings, and our laments. Consecrate them to be what you hope. Consecrate **us** as we eat and drink. (Everyone eats and drinks.)

O Food of Life, may us your bread of abundance. Make us your wine of joy.

May even our fragments be plenty to share.

Now Norb Bufka will lead us in the prayer of Jesus.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Norb Bufka)**

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, who unite heaven and heart, 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.

**CLOSING PRAYER (Suzie)**

May we be quick to listen and slow to speak. May we hear people’s words, stories, hearts.  May we lay down all of the hatred, bitterness, angst that’s easy to spew. May we rest in the love, mercy, and grace of Jesus.  And when the enemy weasels its way into our head, may we call on the name of Jesus, in whose grace we stand united.  Yes! Amen! and Blessed be!

*[Brief pause]*

We stand in lament. And we are also called to joy. And so we sing with Linda:

**CLOSING SONG:** **“Bread to Share” by Marty Haugen** **(Linda Donaldson)**

Plenty of bread at the feast of life, plenty of bread to share!

Plenty of bread at the feast of life, there is plenty of bread to share!

Bread for those who sorrow - You have plenty to share.

The bread of life and laughter – You have plenty to share.

The bread of strength and justice – You have plenty to share.

You have plenty of bread to share.

Plenty of bread at the feast of life, plenty of bread to share!

Plenty of bread at the feast of life, there is plenty of bread to share!

Fish of hope and kindness – You have plenty to share.

The fish of your compassion – You have plenty to share.

Fish of love and welcome – You have plenty to share,

You have plenty of fish to share.

 Plenty of fish at the feast of life, plenty of fish to share.

 Plenty of fish at the feast of life, there is plenty of fish to share.

Room for those forgotten – You have plenty to share.

Room for those rejected – You have plenty to share.

And room for all the outcast – you have plenty to share.

You have plenty of room to share.

 Plenty of room at the feast of life, plenty of room to share.

 Plenty of room at the feast of life, there is plenty of room to share.

**Resources:**

Prayer of Lament - Lightly adapted from the Lament written by Rev. Dr.  Sharon R. Fennema, Assistant Professor of Christian Worship and Director of Worship Life, Pacific School of Religion. Copyright 2015 United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH  44115-1100.  Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education

Images:

“In His Image” by William Zdinak

“La Pieta” by Michelangelo

Regan-Fanelli photo from St. Anne Dupres, Quebec, of Jesus reaching off the cross

Anne Lamott “Blessings on the Journey” <https://narciejeter.com/category/anne-lamott/>