**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**June 26, 2022 –13th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

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“There is a disturbing quality to the urgency of Jesus’ call,

a shaking of foundations that those who want a quiet life

are bound to resent and resist.”

***James Dunn***

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone. **Betty Thompson & Suzie De Quattro**

**WELCOME Terri Butel**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* I prepared today’s communal prayer, and am grateful for my husband’s help with choosing music, as well as Fr. Terry Moran, who wrote the words we’ll use as our Celebration of Communion for the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth community. In the resources I listed a reflection by Carrie Newcomer about thresholds; although I didn’t use it per se, it is insightful and helped inspire today’s prayer.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer today: Betty Thompson, Ann Masters, Peg Duchesne, Jim De Quattro, Rose Marie Smith, Reggie Ott
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN Betty Thompson**

Settle into a position where you feel supported (for you are!) and comfortable. Let your breath slow and deepen and find its natural pace… in and out…. *[Pause.]* Become aware of divine peace surrounding you…. *[Pause.]*  Let that peace flow into three collective breaths: one to be here…. One to be together….. And one to welcome the Holy Spirit. *[Pause.]*

Now **Reggie Ott** will lead us into our prayer together.

**OPENING SONG** **- Be Not Afraid Reggie Ott**

You shall cross the barren desert,

But you shall not die of thirst.

You shall wander far in safety

Though you do not know the way.

You shall speak your words in foreign lands

And all will understand.

You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain: Be not afraid.

I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea

You shall not drown.

If you walk amid the burning flames

You shall not be harmed.

If you stand before the power of hell

And death is at your side,

Know that I am with you through it all.

Refrain

**GREETING Ann Masters**

God’s beloved people, we welcome you with joy! May grace and peace be with you.

**All:** And with you, too. Thanks be to God!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ GATHERING PRAYER**  **Ann Masters**

We are here to celebrate that God is faithful and loves us more than we can imagine.

We gather as imperfect people who are called and challenged to follow Jesus. We seek to live our vocation as people who continue God’s work of creation. And so we 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.]*

**Terri Butel** will introduce us to today’s theme.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME Terri Butel**

Here we go again: seemingly contradictory readings about the command to love and the conflict between our love entanglements and saying yes without reservation when we are called to particular discipleship. That’s just skimming the surface, however … note that Jesus, who has “set his face” for Jerusalem, has no qualm about inviting followers even as the minutes of his humanity tick away. Jesus is not criticizing love or duty but attachments that prevent singleness of mind and heart. How are we to navigate these thresholds without hesitation when we recognize the Spirit’s urging?

*[Slight pause]*

Now **Peg Duchesne** will read from Paul to the Galatians, followed by 1 minute of silence, and then she will read it again; **Jim De Quattro** will offer questions that will lead us into silence.

**READING 1 (Inspired by** **Gal 5:1,13-14) Peg Duchesne**

Christ set us free [to] serve one another through love.
For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement,
namely, *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

*[1 minute of silence; read* **READING 1** *again.]*

*[Slight pause]*

**QUESTIONS 1** *[Pause after each question.]* **Jim De Quattro**

What freedom do you lack to love your every neighbor?

“There’s a simple test to see if one’s enlightened

or at least if one is on the path to light

The question is: can you live one day without thinking

that someone you encountered wasn’t you?” (***Jan Phillips***)

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[****Betty****: Share slide 1, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.]*

**Betty**: Now **Rose Marie Smith** will read from the Gospel of Luke.

**READING 2** **Luke 9:51, 59-62** **Rose Marie Smith**

As the time approached when Jesus was to be taken from this world, Jesus firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem. As they were making their way along, they met a traveler to whom Jesus said, “Follow me.” The traveler replied, “Let me bury my father first.” Jesus said, “Let the dead bury their dead; you go and proclaim the reign of God everywhere.” Another traveler approached Jesus, saying, “I’ll be your follower, Rabbi, but first let me say goodbye to my people at home.” Jesus answered, “Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God.”

**QUESTIONS 2** *[Pause after each question.]* **Jim De Quattro**

When have I experienced the joy of a spontaneous “yes” that led to life-giving discipleship?

What is that one thing I have yet to claim/embrace that may be my purpose in being here?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[****Betty****: Share slide 2, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.]*

**Betty**: Now **Ann Masters** will read a poem by Jan Richardson.

**READING 3 Ann Masters**

Thou who dwells at the crossroads,

Bless the choices gone before,

The roads not taken,

The thresholds not crossed,

The lives not lived.

On the terrain that we have chosen

May we travel lightly,

Shed of regrets

and shorn of illusions

of other landscapes

that we reckoned

and did not choose to cross.

*[Slight pause]*

**QUESTIONS 3** *[Pause after each question.]* **Jim De Quattro**

What is a choice I regret that I can now bless and release?

The word “crossroads” implies Christ’s intimate presence in our difficult moments of choosing. Rest in this…

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[****Betty****: Share slide w/questions, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.]*

***Betty***: **Rose Marie Smith** will lead our sharing.

**SHARING Rose Marie Smith**

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? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

*[Sharing]*

*[Long silences are common and they can be fruitful. If there is extended silence after 15 minutes:]* Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Long pause]*

*[Stop by 11:15.]*

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

Now **Peg Duchesne** will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Peg Duchesne**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. *[Pause]* Our response is: **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

Shine a light on the ways we limit our love and bring us to new communion with all creation, we pray, **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

Help us to be single-hearted in loving service of all people; when we choose otherwise, help us to admit it, plan and commit to a better response next time, we pray, **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

Help us to embrace that for which you made us, without fear, we pray, **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

Inspire Catholic sisters to recognize your intimate presence in the difficult crossroads they face; comfort their grieving hearts, we pray, **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

For the dear people whom no one recognizes as neighbor, for them and for us blind folk around them, we pray, **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

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

*[Shared prayers]* … for this we pray, **Boundless Love, hear our prayer.**

O You who see us, hear us, and love us more than we can imagine, thank you for receiving our intentions, spoken and unspoken. We entrust all to you. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION Terri Butel**

O God you formed all things according to your dream of boundless charity –

a universe of interconnectedness and wholeness,

of kinship and integration.

We give you thanks and praise, O God

for your presence in Earth:

in the colors of the landscape -

the fields of emerald grass,

the meadows of bluebells,

the red of clay,

the blue of oceans’ waters,

the shimmering waves of the Northern lights.

Charity is your gift to us,

given in Jesus, your dream of Love unbounded made flesh.

At the table of Jesus all are welcomed

and the dignity of every person is respected.

At the wide and welcoming table of Jesus

the marginalized and powerless find a special place,

the poor delight in plenty,

the blind receive new sight,

the broken are made whole,

the diversity of gifts is celebrated,

enemies are reconciled,

women find a voice.

May our presence to one another

unfold for us the reign of God and

may we be led by your Spirit

to an integrity of life

expressive of the wholeness of charity.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

who learned a gesture of tenderness from a woman

who anointed his feet with precious perfume

and whose gesture we rejoice to remember and proclaim.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

who rose from supper, laid aside his garments,

took a towel, poured water,

and washed his disciple’s feet

so that there would be no more servants but only friends;

so that all might know themselves as sons and daughters,

equals in the community of life.

{You} poured out your Spirit upon the bread and wine

as you do upon your holy people assembled here.

Teach us the mystery of the bread and wine: that by faithfulness to love, the blessing promised to those who lay down their lives for their friends will be ours.

God, in your goodness, you have given us one another.

Our presence to one another

enables, sustains, and challenges us

to be responsive to your call.

May it be so. Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS Ann Masters**

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 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 Rose Marie Smith**

Let us (offer) (raise our hands in) a final blessing for each other:

Broken, we have gathered. Encouraged and nourished, we reach out.

Now let us now go forth in peace:

in communion with each other

and becoming communion for a hungry world. Amen.

Now **Reggie Ott** will lead us in Go Make a Difference.

**CLOSING –** **Go Make a Difference Reggie Ott**

**Refrain**

Go make a diff’rence.

We can make a diff’rence.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

Go make a diff’rence.

We can make a diff’rence.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

Verse 1

We are the salt of the earth,

called to let the people see

the love of God for you and me.

We are the light of the world,

not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

Verse 2

We are the hands of Christ

reaching out to those in need,

the face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope;

we are the voice of peace.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

Verse 3

So let your love shine on,

let it shine for all to see.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

And the sprit of Christ

will be with us as we go.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

**RESOURCES**

James Dunn, a New Testament Scholar, quote about urgency of Jesus’ call.

Opening Song: Be Not Afraid, Bob Dufford

Inspirations for Greeting: Philippians 1:3, 7., 9, Romans 1:7, 1 Peter 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1

Gathering prayer – inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Jan Phillips quote: **No Ordinary Time: A Book of Hours for a Prophetic Age**, p. 129

Jan Richardson poem, from the book **In Wisdom’s Path: Discovering the Sacred in Every Season**, p. 119.

Celebration of Communion – adapted from Eucharistic Prayer, Sisters of Charity, written by Fr. Terrence Moran, Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, used with permission.

Closing Song: Go Make a Difference, Steve Angrisano & Tom Tomaszek, Spirit & Song, OCP.

**Other contributing sources:**

Threshold reflection by Carrie Newcomer, <https://carrienewcomer.substack.com/p/thresholds?utm_source=email>

June 26, 2022: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time by Mary McGlone, <https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/june-26-2022-thirteenth-sunday-ordinary-time>

**The Wisdom Jesus**, Cynthia Bourgeault, p. 53.