**Solidarity with Sisters**

**COMMUNAL PRAYER**

 **Sunday June 14, 2020**

**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)

**TECHNICAL CHECK-IN (Betty Thompson)**

We welcome you here on behalf of Solidarity with Sisters.

* We sent the files of readings, responses, and lyrics.
* Zoom: turn on cameras - Gallery view option.
* Mute/unmute: know how? Needed even during singing.
* **I will mute all of us now.** Unmute to speak, then mute yourself again afterwards.

Now let’s put technical things aside.

**WELCOME (Betty)**

* Welcome, everyone!
* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* The liturgy for today was prepared by Anne Regan & Bill Fanelli.
* Thanks to Stu Sklamm and Reggie Ott, who will lead us in music.
* Thanks to everyone who will read and lead today – Marilyn Voigt, Marie McCarthy, Judy Sholes, Suzie De Quattro, Mary Ott, [confirm who for Intentions], and Jim De Quattro.
* After each reading, Jim will offer you reflection questions. Feel free to focus on just one question. It may take you deeper.

**SETTLING IN (Betty)**

Now let’s move from getting here to being here. Settle into a comfortable position. Notice your breath as it goes in and out. Become aware of Divine Presence in you as inhale, and tensions leaving as you exhale. And now let’s take 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together….and one to create space for God alive among us!

Now Stu Sklamm will lead us into our celebration.

**OPENING – They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love (Stu Sklamm)**

We are one in the Spirit,

 We are one in the Lord,

We are one in the Spirit

 We are one in the Lord,

And we pray that all unity

 may one day be restored:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

 Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other,

 We will walk hand in hand,

We will walk with each other,

 We will walk hand in hand,

And together we'll spread the news

 that God is in our land:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

**GREETING (Bill Fanelli)**

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 (Bill)**

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. We have been promised - wherever two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name, Jesus is right here in our midst. 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.

**GATHERING PRAYER (Suzie DeQuatttro)**

O God who creates and who gives breath,

be with us now as we come to you

with the great longings of our world

and of our selves.

We come together

trusting that the Spirit will be at work in us.

Help us to let go and to let come.

Help us to live the questions

and to move with you, in you, and toward you,

ever open to what is waiting to be born in us. Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Anne Regan)**

Today we consider, what is it we are actually saying when we say “Amen” after receiving the body of Christ? What are we saying “Amen” to when we receive the 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 absence, and recalling our own profound inability to minister to the world in isolation. We pray to join Jesus in seeing the world through the eyes of the most vulnerable, including the most vulnerable parts of ourselves. And in the Gospel of John, we are reminded how it is that we must take Jesus’ way of being into the core of our hearts in order to be the body of Christ, indeed one, broken and whole. And Jesus promises that we have life as we remain in him and God in us.

Marilyn Voigt will now read from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

** Show slide “In His Image” by William Zdinak (Betty)**

**READING 1 – 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (Marilyn Voigt)**

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 (Jim DeQuattro)**

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

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

Paul says “we, though many, are one body for we all partake of the one loaf”…
Are we one body on the cross? One with body with victim, executioner, observers?

**SILENCE (Sound a chime after 2 minutes – Suzie)**

**End “In His Image” slide – begin “La Pieta” by Michelangelo slide (Fanelli-Regan slide) (Betty)**

**Suzie:** Marie McCarthy and Betty Thompson will now read our Prayer of Lament, followed by reflection questions and silence.

**READING 2 -- Prayer of Lament (with verses from the Psalms, especially Psalms 19 and 74) (Marie McCarthy and Betty Thompson)**

**Marie:** God of the cross and the lynching tree,
of the jail cell and the street corner,
of the bible study and the police car,
look upon the world you have made.
See how it is full of hatred and how violence inhabits the earth.

**Betty:** The streets and sidewalks of your dwelling place 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?

**Marie:** 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?

**Betty:** 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?

**Marie:** 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.

**Betty:** 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.

**Marie:** 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.

**Betty:** 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.

**Marie:** 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.

**Betty:** God of the ones with hands up and the ones who can’t breathe,
of those who hashtag saytheirrname and those who hashtag shutitdown,
of “we who believe in freedom” and we who “have nothing to lose but our chains,”
look upon the world you have made.

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

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**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Jim)**

What do we lament?

How do we fail to use our voices right now?

To what do we need to say Amen with our lives?

**SILENCE (Sound a chime after 2 minutes.) (Suzie)**

**Suzie:** Now Judy Sholes will read from the Gospel of John.

**End “La Pieta” slide. Begin Regan-Fanelli photo from St. Anne Dupres, Quebec, of Jesus reaching off the cross (Betty)**

**READING 3 – John 6 (Judy)**

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood

Remains in me and I in him

Just as the living Father sent me

And I have life because of the Father,

So also the one who feeds on me

Will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Jim)**

There is a difference between being at the foot of the cross, and on the cross.

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

How am I responding to this invitation into communion in the body of Christ?

**SILENCE (Sound a chime after 2 minutes.) (Suzie)**

**END SLIDES. (Betty)**

**Suzie:** Now Mary Ott will lead us in sharing.

**SHARING (Mary)**

We invite you to briefly share what emerged in YOUR heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on these readings. Everyone’s individual reflections help us to glimpse the many ways God is among us.

If you would like to speak, you will need to unmute yourself on your phone or in Zoom. After you speak, please mute yourself again. If more than one person speaks at once, one will go first and the other will speak after that.

Who would like to begin our sharing?

(Sharing)

Thank you.

Now Ann Jelen will lead us in prayer.

**INTENTION (Ann Jelen)**

The scriptures repeatedly exhort us to absorb Jesus as a way of being. We are reminded that we are called to continue to receive the love of God and be the body of Christ. We are called to reject the lure of going back to the way things were before. . Mindful of God’s promise of God to stay with us, we pray.

Our response will be, “Holy One, hear our prayer.”

God of love, the restoration of justice, reconciliation and forgiveness are the conditions for building true peace. May this understanding lead to transformation of unjust structures and to restored respect for the dignity of bodies of all colors, created in God’s image and likeness. For this we pray. Holy One, hear Our Prayer

God among us, give us the courage to risk what we are accustomed to, so that we build a society in solidarity with all who are most vulnerable, and with Earth itself. For this we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

God in all things, help us to recognize you during this pandemic in the endless ways you are present – in suffering, in goodness, in creativity, in truth, in ourselves, and in Earth. For this we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

The leaders of Catholic sisters are striving to support their congregations while continuing their service to others in this unprecedented time. For all of them, and especially for the staff of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

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. Holy One, hear our prayer.

We lament that too often the lives, rights, and freedom of LGBTQ people have not been valued in our communities and our society. Guide us all as we seek your justice here on earth, and give us the courage to reconcile with those who have been harmed by religion. 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 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, and we entrust the outcome to you. As we do, we use the words of Sister Sharlet Wagner. We thank you, God, that “It is not ours to see the future. Our task is not to create a plan for the new to emerge. It is to create a space for the new to emerge. For the young. For the growing diversities. A space where the Holy Spirit is free to work. If we can do this, the future will emerge. And it will be good.” Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Betty)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

And so we remember the night before Jesus died.

So let us know that God is among us

and give thanks. [Pause.]

And then Jesus, who was having dinner with his friends,

looked at what was in front of him, the bread and the cup,

and he blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now

into what is front and center in our lives

and into ourselves and our community,

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

**OUR FATHER (Suzie)**

Now let us pray in harmony with all Christians throughout the world in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

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

**CLOSING PRAYER (Suzie)**

Let us now go forth in peace:

in communion with each other

and offering communion to a hungry world. Amen.

**CLOSING SONG:** **CITY OF GOD (Reggie)**

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!

A new day is dawning for all those who weep.

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

Let us build the city of God.

May our tears be turned into dancing!

For the Lord, our light and our love,

Has turned the night into day!

We are sons of the morning, we are daughters of day!

The One who has loved us has brightened our way.

The Lord of all kindness has called us to be

A light for all people to set their hearts free. (Chorus)

God is light, in God there is no darkness!

Let us walk in God’s light, God’s children, one and all.

O comfort my people; make gentle your words.

Proclaim to my city the day of her birth! (Chorus)