**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Prayer for Sunday, 20 June 2021**

*Why are you so afraid? Do you have no faith?*

*For the love of Christ impels us.*

**CHECK-IN** and then Betty mutes everyone. **(Betty Thompson)**

**WELCOME (Betty Thompson)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Thanks to Peggy Thompson and Denise Heckman who prepared this communal prayer.
* Thanks to the following people who will be leading prayers and doing readings: Alicia and George Urban, Charlotte Cook, Jim De Quattro, Kate Monahan, Bill Fanelli, Maryann Dolan, Norb Buffka, and Cathy Newton.
* The music this week is all shared online and is listed in the email you received earlier. It was suggested by prayer liturgies offered by the Kairos Mission Circle of the Monroe IHM Sisters. Artwork is by Marion Honors, CSJ.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch with Suzie or me.

**SETTLING IN (Peggy Thompson)**

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.

Let's begin our time together with a song; the words can be found in your worship aid.

**OPENING** (**Denise Heckman** *start the audio/video***)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p42lHK-mGMw>

**Gather Your People, O Lord** (by Bob Hurd; sung for us by Khrisha J. Blackwell)

**Refrain:** Gather your people, O Lord.

 Gather your people, O Lord.

 One bread, one body, one spirit of love

 Gather your people, O Lord.

Draw us forth to the table of life:

Brothers and sisters,

Each of us called to walk in your light. [Refrain]

We are parts of the body of Christ,

Needing each other,

Each of the gifts the Spirit provides. [Refrain]

No more harm on the mountain of God;

Swords into plowshares.

Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart. [Refrain]

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life;

Waters of mercy,

Waters of hope that flow from your side. [Refrain]

**[Peggy]** And now **George Urban** will offer our opening prayer.

**OPENING PRAYER (George Urban)**

***A Prayer in the Buddhist Tradition*** *(St. Joseph’s Health System, Syracuse, NY)*

May I become at all times, both now and forever,
A protector for those without protection;
A guide for those who have lost their way;
A ship for those with oceans to cross;
A bridge for those with rivers to cross;
A sanctuary for those in danger;
A lamp for those without light;
A place of refuge for those who lack shelter;
And a servant to all in need.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Denise Heckman)**

*Our theme today is the love of God – how appropriate on Father’s Day.*

Now **Charlotte Cook** will read from 2 Corinthians 14-17.

**READING 1** **(Charlotte Cook)**

For the love of Christ compels us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who, for their sake, died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

*(Slight pause)*

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**QUESTIONS ONE** (**Peggy Thompson** reads)
*(Pause after each question.)* (**Denise Heckman** shares *to the screen***)**

In what ways are you becoming a new creation in Christ?

How does it feel when the love of Christ compels you to act unselfishly?

**PSALM (Denise Heckman)**

(**Denise Heckman**) Our Psalm today is by Sweet Honey in the Rock. Feel free to sing along; the words can be found in your worship aid.

**A Prayer for the World: Song 23** *(Sweet Honey in the Rock)*

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

[lyrics approximate]

The Lord’s my Shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

Leads me beside the still waters—

Restores my soul.

The Lord’s my Shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

Leads me beside the still waters—

Restores my soul.

I walk the valley of shadows

Thou art with me.

I know you are—

Thou art with me.

I know you are.

Thy rod and staff are a comfort to me

Yeah, yeah.

Be my shelter—

Be my shelter.

Umm umm umm….

Oh make a joyful noise unto the Lord all lands!

Serve the Lord with gladnessm

Come before His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, He is God

And it is He that made us, and not we ourselves.

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving,

And enter His courts with praise,

Oh, be thankful to Him and bless His name.

For the Lord is good,

His mercy is everlasting,

And His truth endures to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Let everything that has breath

Praise the Lord.

I know, I know

Joyful noise—

I will praise Him,

Gonna praise Him.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.

He leads me in the path of righteousness for His name’s sake.

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

Your rod and your staff shall comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever and ever.

**READING 2 (Jim De Quattro)**

(**Peggy Thompson**) Now **Jim De Quattro** will read from Mark 4:35-41**.**

(**Jim De Quattro**) A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

*(Slight pause)*

 **QUESTIONS TWO** (**Peggy Thompson** reads)
*(Pause after each question.)* (**Denise Heckman** shares *to the screen***)**

What are the squalls and storms in your life?

When have you felt that Jesus was letting you drown?

**HOMILY**

**(Peggy Thompson)** Now **Kate Monahan** will share some insights on today’s gospel from Loyola Press.

(**Kate Monahan**) Today's Gospel offers evidence of Jesus' power and authority as he calms the storm. In his day, power over nature was believed to be a sign of divinity—only God calms storms. Jesus' rebuke of the storm also echoes the rebuke he uses when he talks to and expels demons. In each situation, Jesus' power and authority is a sign of his divinity. Indeed, the disciples are left wondering about Jesus' identity at the conclusion of today's Gospel. They see before them a human being who acts with the authority and power of God. The disciples' uncertainty about Jesus' identity is a recurring theme in Mark's Gospel.

This Gospel is a metaphor for our lives. We are in the boat, the storms of life are raging around us, and like the disciples, we may believe that Jesus is unconcerned, or “sleeping.” We hope that we will be as familiar with Jesus as his disciples. If we feel that Jesus is sleeping, are we comfortable enough to wake Jesus and present him with our needs? Jesus does not chide his disciples for waking him. Instead, he chides them for their lack of faith, for their lack of perspective. When we bring our worries to God in prayer, we might just begin to learn to see things from God's perspective.

*(Slight pause)*

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**QUESTIONS THREE** (**Peggy Thompson** reads)
*(Pause after each question.)* (**Denise Heckman** shares *to the screen***)**

What helps you relate to Jesus as both human or divine?

How does it feel to see things from God’s perspective: Presumptuous? Liberating? Or …?

**(Peggy Thompson)** Now **Alicia Urban** will lead our sharing.

**SHARING [Alicia Urban]**

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. As you share your feelings, please use "I” or “me". And let's leave a breath of silence between speakers. A bridge of silence allows us to take in what was just said and let it influence what we may want to share.]

So let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. [Long pause.]

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards.

Who would like to begin our sharing?

(Sharing)

Thank you.

Now **Bill Fanelli** will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Bill Fanelli)**

We know that God alone is enough for us. At the same time, we have heard Paul say that “if there is anything you need, pray for it.” So now we bring what is in our hearts to God. Our response will be: ***Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.***

***A Blessing for Visioning the Future***, by Ruth Fox, OSB

May God bless you with discontent with easy answers, half-truths, superficial

 relationships, so that you will live from deep within your heart.

Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of

 people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection,

 starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them

 and to change their pain to joy.

Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

May God bless you with the foolishness to think you can make a difference in this

 world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Spirit of Love, hear our prayer.

These blessings are yours - not for the asking, but for the giving - from One who wants to be your companion, our God, who lives and reigns, forever and ever. Amen.

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

(People speak.)

O God, we give you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We will do all that we can to put our prayers into action – while entrusting the outcome to you. Amen.

Now **Maryann Dolan** will help us enter into the Offertory and Communion.

**OFFERTORY AND CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Maryann Dolan)**

In these weeks after Pentecost, we celebrate the amazing fact that the Spirit of God lives in us now and at every moment. What does it mean to offer yourself to God in gratitude? Is there an old or new call that you will commit to this week? *[Pause.]*

Let us pray. Generous God, Creative Spirit, we commit to sharing our time, talents, and treasures so that we may be a light and a witness to the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

At dinner with friends, he took what was in front of them, the bread and the cup,

gifts of the earth and work of human hands, and blessed them.

Let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

and bless it.  [Pause.]

Holy One, you transform us as you nourish us here.

May we nourish others with your presence.

Amen.

Now **Norb Buffka** will lead us in the Our Father.

**(Norb Buffka) OUR FATHER (Norb Bufka)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands to pray in harmony with Christians throughout the world in the words that Jesus gave us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

(**Peggy Thompson)** Now **Cathy Newton** will lead us in the final blessing.

**FINAL BLESSING (Cathy Newton)**

Broken, we have gathered. Nourished, we reach out.

Now let us now go forth in peace:

in communion with each other

and offering communion to a hungry world. Amen.

Now let’s close this Father’s Day prayer with “And the Father Will Dance,” by Carey Landry. Again, the words are in your worship aid.

**CLOSING SONG** (**Denise Heckman** will start the audio**)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYQLLpWR9Q0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYQLLpWR9Q0)

***Refrain:*** And the Father will dance as on a day of joy.
 He will exult over you and renew you by His love.
 And the Father will dance as on a day of joy.
 He will exult over you and renew you by His love.

Shout for joy, all you His people.
Sing aloud and exult with all your hearts,
For Yahweh your God is in your midst. [Refrain]

You have no more evil to fear.
You have no more evil to fear.
Do not let your hands fall limp
For Yahweh your God is in your midst. [Refrain]

And when the time comes, I will rescue the lame,
And when the time comes, I will gather the strays,
And when the time comes, I will be your guide
I will gather you in and give you renown among all peoples. [Refrain].

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**Resources:**

“Gather Your People, O Lord”-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p42lHK-mGMw>

Opening Prayer: St. Joseph’s Hospital, Syracuse, NY-- <https://www.sjhsyr.org/find-a-service-or-specialty/spiritual-care/prayers>

“Prayer for the World—Song 23”-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHLkVdnHVrU>

Artwork by Marion Honors, CSJ (Carondelet, Latham Province): search via Google Images

Homily from “Sunday Connections,” Loyola Press-- <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/12th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

Blessing for Visioning the Future, by Ruth Fox, OSB-- <https://www.praytellblog.com/index.php/2015/07/11/a-mixed-blessing-for-the-feast-of-st-benedict/>

“And the Father Will Dance”-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYQLLpWR9Q0>