**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**February 6, 2022, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Do Not Be Afraid, I will make you fishers of humankind.”*

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

**WELCOME (Mary Dolmage)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Cecilia and I were pleased to prepare today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to Linda Donaldson for our music.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today:

Terri Butel, Kathleen Heller, Maryann Dolan, Kate Finan, Deb Ballard,

Kate Monagan, Betty Thompson, and Suzie DeQuattro.

* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Mary Dolmage)**

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.

Join us now as we sing “Gather Us In,” by Marty Haugen, leading us into our celebration.

**OPENING HYMN: “Gather Us In” by Marty Haugen**

**YouTube:** [**https://youtu.be/ar0BXa82F9M**](https://youtu.be/ar0BXa82F9M)

(Please begin at time mark :20 Stop at time mark 1:43)

Here in this place new light is streaming.
Now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Rerfrain: Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,

Gather us in, the blind and the lame,
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race. Refrain

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,

Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song. Refrain

**GREETING (Mary Dolmage)**

Beloved Community, rejoice!The Spirit of Christ is alive in us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All:** Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/GATHERING PRAYER (Cecilia Estrada)**

We gather because we experience the courageous love of God. We are grateful for God’s embrace of us every day. As we celebrate this goodness in our lives, we pray that our time together will help us be instruments of goodness in the lives of others and action in the world around us. Open our hearts and minds to ways we can demonstrate the love, compassion, and call of God to those nearby, in our communities, and around the world. Blessed Be.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Cecilia Estrada)**

Today’s Gospel paints a picture of hope for us. The people “pressed in” to hear the words Jesus spoke to them. Their bodies leaned forward, a motion that signals, “I don’t want to miss this.” What would it look like if we all recommitted to pressing in on the Word? We pray that we may lean in on Jesus when we are in need of support. Let’s immerse ourselves in his wisdom, allowing his words to embrace us.

Now Kate Finan will read from the Gospel of Saint Luke 5: 1-11.

Then Terri Butel will offer questions for reflection, followed by silence. Feel free to stay with whatever question calls you.

**READING 1 Luke 5:1-11** **(Kate Finan)**

One day, Jesus was standing by Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored by the side the lake; the fishers had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore; then, remaining seated, he continued to teach the crowds from the boat.

 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Pull out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Rabbi, we’ve been working hard all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I’ll lower the nets.”

Upon doing so, they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until they both nearly sank.

After Simon saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down before Jesus, saying, “Leave me, Rabbi, for I’m a sinner.”  Simon and his shipmates were astonished at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, Zebedee’s sons, who were Simon’s partners.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish among humankind.”  And when they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

*[Pause.]*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 1** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Terri Butel)**

When you, like Peter, have received unwanted advice from a well-meaning friend or stranger, what was your reaction?

How have you felt when you have “pulled out into deep water,” trusting in God, and found that “your nets were at the breaking point”?

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

**MUSICAL REFLECTION (Cecilia)**

**Cecilia:** We will take a few minutes of reflection as we listen to “Pescador de los Hombres” (Lord, You Have Come)

**Betty:** share <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvnp8fjUv0E>

Lord, You have come to the seashore
Neither searching for the rich nor the wise,
desiring only that I should follow.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes set upon me,

gently smiling, you have spoken my name;
all I longed for I have found by the water.
At your side, I will seek other shores.

Lord, see my goods, my possessions;
in my boat you find no power, no wealth
Will you accept then my nets and labor? Refrain

Lord, take my hands and direct them
Help me spend myself in seeking the lost,
returning love for the love you gave me. Refrain

Lord, as I drift on the waters.
be the resting place of my restful heart,
my life's companion, my friend and refuge. Refrain

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 2** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Terri Butel)**

What words from this song move you toward trust in the goodness of God?

What do you offer of yourself to God and to others?

*(Slight pause)*

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

**READING 3 (Maryann Dolan)**

The dialogue between Jesus and Simon Peter is a situation familiar to many of us. We’ve done something and it’s just not working out, no matter what we try. And then someone comes along to offer their opinion when you really didn’t want it. We can imagine how Simon felt in this situation. Jesus tells them to lower their nets, one more time in deep water.

Understandably, Simon’s response shows some reluctance. Why would it be any different from all the other times they lowered their nets to find nothing? But he obeys Jesus, a stranger at that time, and is rewarded with an abundance of fish.

Simon Peer is an example for us as Christian disciples. Disciples must try again and again. We don’t always “get it right” the first time. Sometimes we do the right thing, but it doesn’t work out as we expected. We don’t always trust God right away. God invites us again and again, to dig deeper, and trust.

One of the hardest lessons of discipleship is knowing what to change and when to change it. As followers of Jesus, our actions should come from our trust in Him. At times we can focus so much on our external actions that we forget the intentions behind that action. Simon Peter tries to send Jesus away, acknowledging that he himself is a sinful man who doesn’t deserve to be in relationship with the Lord. However, God is good, merciful, and full of compassion. Jesus invites the fishermen to follow him and become his disciples.

Through this gospel, we can learn that even when we doubt, we are deserving of a relationship with God. We are called to inspire others to love God through our words and actions.

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 3** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Terri Butel)**

When have you had a transformative encounter with Christ? Ponder its meaning in your life. How can you honor that experience this week?

If we are to be Christ to one another, **what can we do to encourage and empower** the prophets of our day to speak, or the saints of our day to minister?

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

**Cecilia:** Kathy Heller will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Kathy Heller)**

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. And let's leave a breath of silence between speakers which allows us to take in more fully what was just said.

We begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long pause.]*

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards. Who would like to begin?

(Sharing)

*[Let sharing continue for about 20 minutes, ending by 11:20.]*

Thank you.  We have to stop now, and we can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now ­­­­Deb Ballard will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Deb Ballard)**

Let us bring what is in our hearts to God in prayer.

Our response will be: Ever-faithful God, hear our prayer.

God among us, we thank you for the gift of all Black Americans as we celebrate Black History Month. Help everyone to realize that Black History month is every American’s history. For this we pray: Ever-faithful God, hear our prayer.

God beyond us, we pray for an end to human trafficking through the intercession of Saint Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of human trafficking victims and the Sudan. For this we pray: Ever-faithful God, hear our prayer.

God among us, we pray for all people of Asian descent as they continue with Lunar New Year celebrations. For this we pray: Ever-faithful God, hear our prayer.

God within us, we pray for your blessing upon the work of the Leader Conference of Women Religious and their member congregations who act in so many ways to bring relief to the hungry, to the sick, and to the abused and oppressed, to seek justice for racial minorities and for immigrants, and to foster reverence for all of God’s creation. For this we pray: Ever-faithful God, hear our prayer.

Now let’s remember the feelings and prayers that arose in us as we shared reflections, and the prayers we carry with us. *[Pause.]*

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

(People speak.) Ever-faithful God, hear our prayer.

Ruth Dalton asks us to pray for Doug Haggerty, a young County police officer who died in Silver Spring last Thursday.  The family has lived across the street from us for 36 years. They are devastated. Thank you. According to police, Montgomery County Police Officer Douglas Haggerty, off duty at the time, was traveling eastbound on Spencerville Road, after Good Hope Road, when he reportedly began to experience an "incapacitating medical event."

Thank you.

O God, everything we just prayed is from our hearts. Now we put it all into your hands. With gratitude for your abundant gifts to us, we volunteer our time, our talent, and our treasure as your instruments to bring about the reality of your reign. Blessed Be.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Kate Monagan)**

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 give you thanks for your presence in and among us.  *[Pause.]*

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, thank you for nourishing us here.

May we nourish others and bring your living presence into situations that cry out for transformation. Blessed Be.

**OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER (Suzie DeQuattro)**

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Blessed Be.

**FINAL BLESSING (Betty Thompson)**

Let us raise our hands as we bless each other.

Open unto us — light for our darkness.
Open unto us — courage for our fears.
Open unto us — hope for our despair.
Open unto us — peace for our turmoil.
Open unto us — joy for our sorrow.
Open unto us — strength for our weakness.
Open unto us — wisdom for our confusion.
Open unto us — forgiveness for our sins.
Open unto us — love for our hates.
Open unto us — thy Self for ourselves.

Lord, Lord, open unto us!

-Adapted from Howard Thurman “Lord. Open Unto Me”

*[Pause.]*

Now Linda Donaldson will lead us in singing, “Glory and Praise to Our God.”

## **CLOSING SONG: (Linda Donaldson)**

## **Glory and Praise to Our God** by Dan Schutte

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Refrain: Glory and praise to our God,

Who alone gives light to our days.
Many are the blessings he bears
To those who trust in his ways.

We, the daughters and sons of God,
Who built the valleys and plains.
Praise the wonders our God has done
In ev'ry heart that sings.

With all wisdom God strengthens us,
Like gold that's tested in fire.
Though the power of sin prevails,
Our God is there to save.

Ev'ry moment of ev'ry

Our God is waiting to save,
Always ready to seek the lost,
To answer those who pray.

**RESOURCES:**

* **Gather Us In Mary Haugen**

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ar0BXa82F9M>

* **The Inclusive Bible**

The First Egalitarian Translation

Rowman and Littlefield Publishers

* **The Living Word**

LTP Publications 2021-2022

* **Howard Thurman** “Lord. Open Unto Me”

## **Glory and Praise to Our God**

[Dan Schutte](https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=APq-WBsx4mjW77izYWaC_BrdmT5q84W1Ww:1643746594898&q=Dan+Schutte&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLUz9U3MDbIMzVYxMrtkpinEJycUVpSkgoAanWulhsAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi0uI6fqd_1AhVHjIkEHf13BwIQMXoECA4QAw) [**Album**](https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=APq-WBuVDePMq-0VXsRtx9u0pBgnwVBAnQ:1643749960519&q=dan+schutte+glory+and+praise+to+our+god+album&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LRT9c3LDTNqshKNjPRUs9OttLPLS3OTNYvSk3OL0rJzEuPT84pLS5JLbJKyywqLlFIzEkqzV3EqpuSmKdQnJxRWlKSqpCek19UqZCYl6JQUJSYWZyqUJKvkF9apJCenwJRDwDXfi4FaQAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiz5vvjtd_1AhW1Kn0KHSX7DNkQ6BMoAHoECAgQAg)**:**[Journeysongs Third Edition: Volume 18](https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=APq-WBuVDePMq-0VXsRtx9u0pBgnwVBAnQ:1643749960519&q=Journeysongs+Third+Edition:+Volume+18+Album&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LRT9c3LDTNqshKNjNR4gXxDJPM44uTyo3StdSzk630c0uLM5P1i1KT84tSMvPS45NzSotLUous0jKLiksUEnOSSnMXsWp75ZcW5aVWFufnpRcrhGRkFqUouKZklmTm51kphOXnlOamKhhaKDiCVO9gZQQA-6uOGHkAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiz5vvjtd_1AhW1Kn0KHSX7DNkQmxMoAXoECAgQAw)