**solidarity with Sisters Communal Prayer for Sunday, February 20, 2022
*The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

*“If you don’t love your neighbor, then you don’t love God.”*

**Please bring the bread that is traditional to your family, or your favorite.**

**HELLOS: (Betty Thompson)**

**WELCOME: (Suzie De Quattro)**

* Introductions
* Thanks to Jo’Ann De Quattro, Jennie Lechtenberg, and Emma Bezaire, who are all Sisters of the Holy Names, for preparing this communal time.
* Thanks to those who will read and lead us in prayer and music: Sr. Vera Ruotolo, Sr. Grace Hartzog, Judith Galleazzi, Kathy Cavanaugh, Ann Jelen, Peg Duchesne, Kathleen Cross, George Urban, Gail De George, Paula Lake, Reggie Ott, and Jo’Ann, Jennie, and Emma.
* Sr. Vera will help us settle into our intention for this time and this space together.

**SETTLING IN: (Vera Ruotolo, SNJM)**

Let our breath bring us into quiet so we 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. Breathe In, and out. ***Pause.***

Now LOOK at the community gathered together to make space for our loving God who wants to share life with us. ***Pause.***

Take a second breath as we come together. Breathe in, and out. ***Pause.***

Let’s take another breath to open ourselves to the movement of the Spirit among us.

**GREETING: (Suzie De Quattro)**

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

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

**OPENING SONG:** A New Commandment - St Mary's Virtual Choir **(Betty)**

[A New Commandment - St Mary's Virtual Choir - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=485btt72V2o)

A new commandment I give unto you:

That you love one another as I have loved you.

That you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall people know you are my disciples: if you have love one for another.

By this shall people know you are my disciples: if you have love one for another.

**GATHERING PRAYER (Sr. Grace Hartzog)**

Spirit of the Living God, teach us how to be your community – a living sign of love in our world. Help us to see one another with your eyes of love, to recognize what is ours to do in the world, and to give ourselves over fully to the action of your love in our lives. As we share bread today, may we inquire, nudge, and challenge each other to imagine what none of us could conceive alone. Blessed be.

**CALL TO WORSHIP/REFLECTION: (Emma Bezaire, Jennie Lechtenberg, and Jo’Ann De Quattro, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary)**

***JL:*** Who/what called you to worship, to pray with this community today?

Perhaps it was your alarm clock, or perhaps you just finished breakfast, or...whatever or whoever it was that called you, let us tell you how we arrived at the point to prepare.

***EB:*** When we agreed to plan today’s prayer experience, we did it somewhat blindly – looking at the timing for us rather than the scriptures designated for today. When we did look at the Scripture, we found ourselves somewhat stumped.

***JDQ:*** The juxtaposition of those readings, and an article in Global Sisters Report by Linda Romey, a Benedictine Sister of Erie, Pennsylvania, called us to make a decision: as members of a religious community of women, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, we decided to take the opportunity to put into action some of Linda Romey’s words which we have excerpted and rearranged with her permission:

***EB:*** “For the sake of what may emerge in generations to come, for the sake of women everywhere, for human wholeness and the survival of our world, we must end patriarchy now… Every time we refer to our genderless God as “he” we are supporting the power of patriarchy. Exclusiveness diminishes God, whereas inclusiveness diminishes patriarchy… We can immediately remove all exclusive language for humans and for God from our prayer, our Scripture readings, what we post online, write or speak… That is step one. Our inclusiveness will change consciousness, both ours and that of others, and it will invite a much bigger God in.”

***JL:*** The concept of a ‘bigger God’ in our midst, in the arms of this community, can be mind-boggling, overwhelming, beyond our capacity to comprehend. Perhaps if we try to be intentional about the language we use that can be transformational.

***JDQ:*** Years ago, I was part of the support staff at a shelter for homeless women, living among the women. The director of the house had a photo of an elderly woman on the wall next to her desk. One guest of the house said: “I like that picture of God!” She helped transform my image of God.

*[Pause.]*

Judith Galleazzi will offer questions for your reflection in silence. Feel free to stay with any question that speaks to you.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:** *Pause after each question.* **(Judith Galleazzi)**

What did you hear that moved you to think differently? *[Pause.]*

What did you hear that moved you to be uncomfortable? *[Pause.]*

What did you hear that moved you to be challenged? *[Pause.]*

**COMMUNAL SILENCE (Betty:** Slide, time, chime**)**

**Betty:** Kathy Cavanaugh and Ann Jelen will read from the 103rd Psalm and the 6th chapter of the gospel of Luke.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (Kathy Cavanaugh)**

**R: Our Loving God is kind and merciful.**

 Bless God, O my soul, and all my being bless God’s Holy Name.

Bless God, O my soul, and remember all God’s blessings.

**R: Our Loving God is kind and merciful.**

Our Merciful God forgives all your sins, heals all your illnesses.

God our Redeemer saves your life from destruction,

And crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R: Our Loving God is kind and merciful.**

Merciful and gracious is our Loving God, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

Not according to our sins does God deal with us,

Nor does God repay us according to our crimes.

**R: Our Loving God is kind and merciful.**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God put our sins from us.

As parents have compassion on their children,

So our God has compassion on people who believe in God.

**R: Our Loving God is kind and merciful.**

*[Pause.]*

**SCRIPTURE READING:**  Luke 6:27-38 **(Ann Jelen)**

To you who listen to me with the ears of your heart, I say: Love your enemies. Do good to people who hate you.

Bless people who curse you; pray for people who mistreat you. When people strike you on one cheek, turn and give them the other cheek; when people take your coat, give them your shirt as well.

Give to all people who ask of you. When a person takes what is yours, don’t demand it back. Do for other people what you would have people do for you.

If you love people who love you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ love people who love them. If you are good only to people who are good to you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ do that much.

If you lend to people you expect to repay you, what credit does that provide you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to other ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full.

Love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You will rightly be called children of the Creator, since God is good even to people who are ungrateful and perform wicked acts.

Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate.

Avoid judgment, and you will not be judged. Refrain from condemnation of people, and you will not be condemned. Pardon other people, and people will pardon you.

Give generously to people and you will be given: a full measure overflowing will be poured into your lap. Your generosity will be generously rewarded.

Ponder these words from Scripture in your heart.

*[Pause for 2 deep, slow breaths.]*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:** *[Pause after each question.]*  **(Judith Gallezzzi)**

After listening to this Scripture reading, what images speak to you or stay with you?

Recall a time when you gave generously of yourself.

Were you surprised by the “full measure” given to you?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE (Betty:** Slide, time, chime**)**

**REFLECTION: (Emma Bezaire, Jennie Lechtenberg, and Jo’Ann De Quattro,**

**Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary)**

***JL:*** Many of you, some as members of religious communities, as associates, and, some, as part of Solidarity with Sisters, are aware that our congregations have gatherings called Chapters periodically. For us, SNJMs, we gather every five years as the deliberative and decision-making body of the community. We also select leaders. In 1996, we gathered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

***EB:*** We spoke of the role of Eucharist in our lives. “Assumptions about our sacramental life are challenged as we become aware of and unite in solidarity with people for whom the longing for Eucharist remains unfulfilled. Both Eucharistic feasting and fasting, lived in a variety of languages, cultures, and perspectives, call us, as church, and as congregation to a new moment of conversion and dialogue.”

***JDQ:*** During the years that have followed, we have invited each other to open our understanding of eucharist to include the ways we share life, food, friendship with those we minister with, live with, love. So, today, we have invited you to bring some bread to eat – even though we are not able to actually share it with each other – we will share it virtually in the sense of giving thanks for the riches we have. Giving thanks for this community we share.

If you forgot to bring it, we invite you, if you wish, to bring it into the room during the Communal Silence and reflection after Judith offers the following questions:

**REFLECTION/QUESTIONS: *Pause after each question.*** **(Judith Galleazzi)**

Name a time when you lived Eucharist. What touched you? *Pause.*

What images come to mind? *Pause.*

**COMMUNAL SILENCE (Betty:** slide, time, chime**)**

**Betty:** Jim De Quattrowill lead our sharing.

**SHARING:**  **(Jim De Quattro)**

We invite you to share **briefly** what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on the readings and commentary. The sharing helps us to notice the many ways God is among us.  We welcome new voices. We also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening. As you share, please use “I” or “me” statements.

Let’s remember to leave a bridge of silence between speakers. A bridge of silence allows us to absorb what has been said and to influence what you may wish to share.

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

Who would like to begin our sharing? Please unmute yourself to speak.

(Sharing) *Conclude by 11:20AM*

Thank you.

Now Kathleen Cross will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**  **(Kathleen Cross)**

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

Loving God, you have called, chosen, and empowered each of us to be living signs of your love in our world. May we respond generously to that call and help to create a just and loving society. We pray, **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, strengthen all women religious, especially the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Recreate them for your purpose in this place and in this time. Give them courage to exercise leadership in our broken church and world. We pray, **Holy One, hear our prayer**.

Loving God, heal the divisions in our world. Help us all to learn to work together for a just and equitable society. Help us to bring about your beloved community in our world. 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 remember to unmute yourself and end your petition with “For this we pray.” Our response is: **Holy One hear our prayer.**

(People speak.) **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Thank you.

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. Blessed be.

**OFFERTORY (George Urban)**

In these weeks and months of ordinary time, we celebrate the amazing fact that the Holy One is with us and lives in us now and at every moment. And so we offer ourselves to God in gratitude for having been chosen, just as we are, to be God’s Living sign in our world. Is there an old or new call that I will live out during the coming 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. Blessed be.

**PRAYER OF JESUS: (Gail DeGeorge)**

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:

***All (muted):***

Our Mother, Father, Loving God, in heaven, holy be your name.

Your New Community come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for the New Community, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Blessed be.

**BLESSING BEFORE A MEAL: (Paula Lake)**

As we prepare to share this meal, let us be conscious of the Holy One we call our Creator, Friend, Mother, Father, Sister, Brother, Redeemer, and Provider.

 Mindful of those who tilled the soil, those who harvested its bounty, and those who toiled in the heat of sun and kitchen, we ask blessings on all of them, they are here with us in a special way.

We ask you, Holy One, to accept these gifts and transform them into plenty to share with our sisters and brothers in need. Accept our gratitude for your love and grace. Accept our efforts to give thanks for each other.

Bless & inspire all young people to realize their visions of a better world, a world of peace. Bless those whose generosity and commitment makes possible their dreams: their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and all others.

Bless all of us as we struggle to be engaged in the transformation of our world.

 Bless us as we become eucharist for one another.

Give us and our world, we pray, plenty of knowledge and wisdom,

plenty of justice and compassion, plenty of bread and peace.

**SHARING BREAD: (Emma Bezaire and Reggie Ott)**

Hold the bread in your hands. “Let us extend our hands outward and bless this bread in thanksgiving for life. Open our eyes to see the hunger of others. Thank you for promising and giving us food for the journey.”

Let us say: Amen. So be it! Blessed be!

Amen! Alleluia from “Lilies of the Field” (**Reggie Ott)**

**FINAL BLESSING: (Jennie Lechtenberg and Jo’Ann De Quattro)**

Broken, we have gathered;

Nourished, let us now reach out.

May our steps lead us to paths of service,

Our words, to the healing of troubled hearts,

Our touch, to the embrace of compassion,

Our hearts, to perform random acts of kindness.

Now let us now go forth in peace:

in communion with each other

and offer eucharist to a hungry world. Blessed be.

**CLOSING SONG: “**You Don't Love God If You Don't Love Your Neighbor…”

 By Rhonda Vincent (**Betty:** Stop after 2 minutes; 46 seconds)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=IR2rpVd5Lwo&pp=QAFIAQ%3D%3D>

**RESOURCES:**

Inclusive Bible: :  The First Egalitarian Translation.  A Sheed and Ward Book, published by  Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Lanham, Maryland, 2007.  p. 282.

Images: “Let Us Love One Another” and “Do This In Memory of Me” by France  White, SHCJ, with permission
find art by France at [www.shcj.org/white\_reproductions.html](http://www.shcj.org/white_reproductions.html)

Bread Blessing: Stirring WATERS: feminist liturgies for justice, Diann L. Neu, Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, Silver Spring, MD, [www.waterwomensalliance.org](http://www.waterwomensalliance.org) Liturgical Press, 2020

Global Sisters Report, January 18, 2022 by Linda Romey
 <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/religious-life/column/its-time-find-out-where-religious-life-can-go-without-patriarchy>

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary; Acts of 1996 General Chapter.

Image: Names for Godde EdWordle [www.edwordle.net](http://www.edwordle.net) by Jo’Ann De Quattro, snjm