

SOLIDARITY WITH SISTERS
COMMUNAL PRAYER
JUNE 21, 2020
12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Create a climate where those you love and all whom you encounter are free to be themselves with you, free to stretch their wings and fly beyond the limitations they or others have imposed. Be generous with compassion and encouragement and support.” - Sister Miriam Therese Winter, MMS

“Blessed are you when you refuse to be indifferent to the deaths of your fellow human beings, when you attend to the tragedy of another’s loss with your heart and your voice, when you have the will to see and the courage to address our nation’s most destructive sins, when you do not prioritize the status quo but instead prioritize justice.” – Rev. Al Sharpton

TECHNICAL CHECK-IN– Betty

We welcome you here on behalf of Solidarity with Sisters.

- We sent the files of readings, responses, and lyrics.
- Introductions and hellos
- 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 Lynn

Welcome, everyone!

Do we have anyone who hasn’t been here before?

My father, Norb, and I prepared today’s liturgy.

Thanks to all those fathers who have agreed to lead us in word today: Jim DeQuattro, Tim Brown, Reggie Ott, Stu Sklamm and George Urban. Thanks too to Betty and Susie for facilitating with us.

If you'd like to read in future Sundays, please get in touch.

After each reading, we will offer questions before we pause for silent reflection. Don't feel you have to answer all questions. To stay with only one of them might lead you into a deeper place.

You'll hear both Stu and Reggie's voices in the spoken word and our music today comes from both innovative ways of putting together music in a time of physical distancing and a song from our beloved Fr. Glen. We hope you like these and please sing along even as we are muted!

SETTLING IN Lynn

Let's get settled as we prepare to begin. Settle into a comfortable position. Notice your breath as it goes in and out. Become aware of Divine Presence in you and around you.

We begin with 3 deep breaths. One to be here... one to be together... and one to create space for God alive among us!

Now we will experience a new way of voices singing together to lead us into our celebration.

OPENING – Be Not Afraid (Betty will start the music and share the screen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF0DlpFOoBg>

v1. 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 to foreign lands and all will understand. You shall see the face of God and live.

R. Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow Me and I will give you rest.

v2. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amidst the burning flames you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you, through it all.

/R

At time 3:05 fade out sound and stop video.

[v.3 Blessed are your poor for the Kingdom shall be theirs. Blest are you that weep and mourn for one day you shall laugh. And if wicked men insult and hate you all because of Me, blessed, blessed are you! /R

v.4 And when the earth has turned beneath you and your voice is seldom heard. When the flood of gifts that blessed your life has long since ebbed away. When your mind is thick and hope is thin and dark is all around, I will stand beside you till the dawn.

/R]

GREETING (Lynn)

Brothers and sisters, rejoice.

encourage one another, live in peace, and God will be with you.

All: And all God's people say Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Lynn)

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. Jesus told us that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is right here in the midst of us. We pray that in this strange and often difficult time, on this Father's Day, our time together this morning will be radiant with the light of Christ and the love of our Creator.

GATHERING PRAYER (Suzie)

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 in community
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.

And now Norb will introduce our theme.

INTRODUCTION TO THEME Norb

Lynn: Now Tim Brown will read from the prophet Jeremiah.

READING 1 Jeremiah 20:11-13 (Tim Brown)

Jeremiah said:

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion:
my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.
In their failure they will be put to utter shame,
to lasting, unforgettable confusion.
O LORD of hosts, you who test the just,
who probe mind and heart,
let me witness the vengeance you take on them,
for to you I have entrusted my cause.
Sing to the LORD,
praise the LORD,
for he has rescued the life of the poor
from the power of the wicked!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1 (Jim DeQuattro)

Do you hope for vengeance against your enemies? What does Jesus call us to do?

We can think that God is on our side but actually what does that mean? As Abraham Lincoln said: Are we on God's side?

SILENCE (2 minutes) (Sound a chime at the end of the time, or other signal.)

Lynn: Now Reggie Ott will read from the Gospel of Matthew.

READING 2 – Matthew 10:27-33 (Reggie Ott)

Jesus said to the Twelve:

What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;
what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;
rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy
both soul and body in Gehenna.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?

Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.

Even all the hairs of your head are counted.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.

But whoever denies me before others,

I will deny before my heavenly Father.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2 (Jim DeQuattro)

“What I say to you in the darkness...” sometimes we think that means we proclaim God's word broadly in the day. It might also mean, we have to slow down and be still to hear God. Where are you today?

Are there times when I have not acknowledged Jesus? When I have denied Jesus?

Darkness is often associated with evil or bad events. When have you experienced something good come out of darkness?

SILENCE (2 minutes) (Sound a chime at the end of the time, or other signal.)

Lynn: Now Stu Sklamm will read an excerpt from a reflection entitled Prophets for Life by Sr. Mary McGLone, CSJ, followed by reflection questions and silence. {For personal info: This article appears in the [Cycle A Sunday Resources](#) feature series.}

READING 3 (Stu Sklamm)

What is a prophet? A prophet is someone called by God to read the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel. A prophet is someone deeply in touch with contemporary reality, one who is loving and courageous enough to expose what is contrary to the will of God as well as galvanize others to believe in and work to create a gospel alternative. Now that's a job description set up to antagonize just about everybody.

All those who benefit from the status quo — authorities, clergy, the dominant race, the highly educated, the wealthy, etc.— know that prophets question their privilege, privilege which they generally believe they have earned. The privileged among us recognize prophetic words as a threat to our complacency and our comfort.

Do we wonder why people rejected Jeremiah and plotted against him? The prophetic message is just too demanding! We've seen it time and again. ...

The second dimension of prophecy is the too often forgotten task of promoting real alternatives. This dimension of the prophetic vocation offers an interpretation of the charge Jesus gives us in today's Gospel: "What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light." ...

In today's Gospel Jesus sends the apostles out to preach the coming of the kingdom of heaven in word and deed. He knows they will encounter resistance and even life-threatening opposition. Thus, he starts and finishes the core of his instructions by saying "do not be afraid." Halfway in between those two statements he explains that those who kill the body have very limited power; the real danger comes from those who can suffocate the human spirit. The latter are the ones the prophets rail against, even at the cost of their lives.

Today's readings call us to reconsider our Christian vocation. Each of us was baptized to share in Christ's prophetic ministry. That means we need to stop and ask ourselves if we are willing to step into the space where the way of the world contradicts the Gospel and say "It doesn't have to be this way." It means we must love our world enough to be part of making it what God created it to be. Accepting the call to prophecy means that, like Jeremiah, we are accepting the role of speaking and acting as renegades for life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3 (Jim DeQuattro)

How often do we hear a nearly inaudible voice prod us with some version of those most disturbing questions: “Isn’t there another possibility? Does it always have to be this way?”

The moment we find ourselves resisting other possibilities, can we ask we need to ask ourselves what we fear, what have we allowed to come into our lives and fetter our hopes?

SILENCE (2 minutes) (Sound a chime at the end of the time, or other signal.)

SHARING (Lynn)

I invite you to share your reflections. 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 XX will lead us in prayer.

INTENTION (George Urban)

The scriptures tell us to not be afraid and to be confident that God is with us. Today, some of our intentions are adapted from a “Prayer in the Time of Coronavirus” while other intentions reflect additional fears and concerns. So let us pray. Our response will be, “Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.”

Open our hearts so we can hear the word in the quiet and darkness of our lives, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Help us speak boldly the truth of the Gospel, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Bring wisdom to doctors and endow caregivers with compassion, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Bring healing to those who are ill and protect those who are most at risk, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one and welcome those who have died into Your Eternal Home, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Stabilize our communities and unite us in our compassion during these dual pandemics- the new pandemic of coronavirus and the pandemic of racism that has been with us for too many centuries, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Catholic sisters are often the hands and feet of Christ. Let each of us support them in the work that they do and let us be inspired to also serve as Christ's hands and feet. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Help us to quiet the noise so as to listen to the prophetic voices of Catholic sisters, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.**

Help us put aside our fears and inspire us to use our prophetic voices to bring about a more inclusive society, for this we pray. **Heavenly Father, 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 (Lynn)

Like the early Christian community,
let’s keep ourselves open to the future emerging among us today.
Like the early church, let’s praise God and break bread together.

And so we remember the night before Jesus died.
The first thing Jesus did was to give thanks.
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,
and know that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it. [Pause.]

OUR FATHER (Suzie)

Now let’s 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.

**BLESSING OF FATHERS adapted from the Rev. Chuck Currie as posted at Xavier.edu-
Lynn**

Fathers in Our Lives

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, students and athletes to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

We pray especially for those fathers who are struggling as parents, that God will restore them to dignity and hope.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. We ask Your blessings for them. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER Lynn

Let us now go forth in peace:
in communion with each other
and offering communion to a hungry world. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: TITLE – Will the Circle Be Unbroken (Fr. Glen Willis)

<https://www.reverbnation.com/frglenwillissds/song/6065280-will-the-circle-be-unbroken>

Lyrics:

(Chorus)

Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by

Sing a new song to the Lord now
Sing it loud and sing it clear
Sing a new song to the Lord now
For the whole wide world to hear

(Chorus)

In the footsteps of those before us
We approach a brand new day
Goodness kindness deep inside us
Hand in hand join to say

(Chorus)

Whether fair or stormy weather
We shall set sail on the tide
Casting nets to bring salvation
With our Savior by our side

(Chorus)

We have come here now together
We have come from near and far
Let us go forth now together
Sing God's praises to the stars