

TODAY'S SERVICE

CULTIVATING CONNECTION WITH SELF, OTHERS, THE WIDE WORLD, AND GOD

FEEL FREE TO USE PRONOUNS OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ALL SONGS AND PRAYERS

Chimes

Gathering Statement

We gather today to connect with the Divine, with ourselves, with each other, and with the Oneness of all Creation. We gather because inclusive community—built around the teachings of Jesus, shared stories, and rituals—inspires us to pursue justice and live out our values.

Sarum Prayer

God be in my head
and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes
and in my looking;
God be in my mouth
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart
and in my thinking;
God be at my end
and at my departing

A Reading from Psalm 138:

The Lord is in the highest place,
but They still care for the humble.
Even from so high above,
They know what the proud do.
If I am in trouble, God, you keep me alive.
If my enemies are angry, you save me from them.
Lord, I know you will do what you have promised.
Lord, your faithful love will last forever.
You are the one who made us, so don't leave us.

Those who have ears, let them hear.

Liturgy:

From the Jesus Sutras, written by a 7th century Christian community near Xi'an:

The highest skies are in love with You.
The great Earth opens its palms in peace.

Our truest being is anchored in Your goodness.
You are God: Compassionate being of three.
Everything praises You, sounds its true note.
All the Enlightened chant praises.
Every being takes its refuge in You
And the light of Your Holy Compassion frees us all.
Everything looks to you, without thinking.
Shower us with Your Healing Rain!
Help us to overcome, give life to what has withered,
And water the roots of kindness in us.
Amen.

A Reading from Psalm 93

The Lord is on High.
The Lord wears majesty and strength like clothes.
God is ready, so the whole world is safe.
It will not be shaken.
Your kin-dom has continued forever.
You have lived forever!
Lord, the ocean roars.
The mighty ocean sounds like thunder
as the waves crash on the shore.
The crashing waves of the sea are loud and powerful,
but the Lord above is even more powerful.
Lord, your teachings will continue forever.
Your holy Temple will stand for a long time.

From the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

Emily: Creator God, whose love calls the whole creation into relationship with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

Daniel: For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Claire: For the waters of the earth—including the Great Lakes that surround us here in Michigan; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Emily: For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Dan: For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Claire: For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Emily: For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures—especially our local leaders—that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Daniel: For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Claire: For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Emily: For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work; and that they may have the support they need, we pray:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Daniel: For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet:

People: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace

Emily: Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES

Dan, Ben, Josh, Abby, Joann, Kinley, Caleb, Erin, Becky, Auggie, Jay, George, Ryan, Peter, the Pritcher family, Tim, Kristy, Dark Angel, Joseph, Nicole, Wendi, Constance, Erica, Ashton, Landon, the Sarr family, George, Laura, Haevyn, Mindy, Calob, Bishop Yvette Flunder, Bishop Bonnie Perry, Bishop Darrell Goodwin, Bishop Tim Wolfe, Leah, David, Hope Clinic, JFS, Ozone House, immigrants, the Ypsilanti Youth Choir and those we lift up in silence.

we haven't named. We hold them and their families in our hearts.

COMMUNION:
Call and Response

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion

Once upon a time, God made a garden, and every creature lived in it happily with God. We took long walks with God in the cool of the evening. And when we all sat down with God to eat, the curling vines gave up their fruit, the tall gold wheat gave up its grain, we ate delicious bread and drank from a cup of blessing, singing songs under the stars 'till morning, and the grateful creation was at peace.

Ever since, whenever we honor the earth by eating and drinking with heartfelt thanks, God walks with us again. God sits with us and eats. Our tables become the garden, the whole creation sighs with peace, and we see again how life was meant to be.

So we come to this table, to the garden of God. We taste and remember. We taste and see that God is good.

COMMUNION PRAYER:

Thank you, Creator God, for sharing your life with us in every good thing of this world. And thank you most of all for Jesus, who sat us down to eat good bread and drink good wine, so that in tasting how good they are we could remember how good you are. Christ is our Eden, our Garden of peace. In him we find the fullness of life you desired for us from the start — walking together, sharing food, and living in peace.

Send your Holy Spirit to Christ's table now where he still sits with us, and where we remember you. Bless the bread and the cup, fruit of the earth and work of our hands. May they become by your grace the taste of Eden in our hearts. As we eat and drink together, let us see more clearly a vision of life as you meant it to be. Consecrate us to the ministry of making it so, by sharing earth's

goodness with all, in reverence and hope, with justice, and joy. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kin_dom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kin_dom, the power, and the glory are yours.

Now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG: Jesus We Love You,

Old things have passed away

Your love has stayed the same

Your constant grace remains the cornerstone

Things that we thought were dead

Are breathing in life again

You cause Your sun to shine on darkest nights

For all that You've done, we will pour out our love

This will be our anthem song

[Chorus]

Jesus we love You

Oh, how we love You

You are the one our, our hearts adore

[Verse]

The hopeless have found their hope

The orphans now have a home

All that was lost has found its place in You

You lift our weary head

You make us strong instead

You took these rags and made us beautiful

For all that You've done, we will pour out our love

This will be our anthem song

[Chorus]

[Bridge]

Our affection, our devotion

Poured out on the feet of Jesus

(repeat)

[Chorus]

Benediction

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