

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 Colossians 3:

God has chosen you and made you Their holy people. They love you. So your new life should be like this: Show mercy to others. Be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Don't be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If you feel someone has wronged you, forgive them. Forgive others because the Lord forgave you. Together with these things, the most important part of your new life is to love each other. Love is what holds everything together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking. It is for peace that you were chosen to be together in one body. And always be thankful. Let the teaching of Christ live inside you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And, in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

Those who have ears, let them hear.

Prayer by St. Theresa

May today there be peace within you.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.
Amen.

A Reading from Psalm 36:

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

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

Emily: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Creator, saying, "Creator, have mercy." Dan and I will take turns doing the call, and you respond with "Creator, have mercy."

Emily: On your earth, the garden of life,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On soil, that it may be fruitful in all seasons,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On rocks and minerals that form the foundations for life,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On volcanoes and lava flows that reveal the power of earth's core,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On hills and great mountains; on cliffs, caves, and valleys,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On deserts and their hardy creatures,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On your waters, which sustain a diverse community of life,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On coral reefs, and on the animals, plants, and fish that inhabit them,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On ocean deeps, teeming with life; on the open seas and all that travel upon them,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On rivers, bringing water to thirsty places,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On lakes and streams, home to a diversity of life,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On ponds and marshes, cradles of life,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On wetlands and estuaries; on rocky coasts and beaches,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On rains that water the earth, causing plants to sprout and grow,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On the atmosphere of your planet earth, that it may sustain all that breathes,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On winds that carry seeds and spores; on breezes that warm and cool the earth,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On lightnings and fires that cleanse and destroy, and on all that lies in their path,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On all the ecosystems of your earth and their intricate communities,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On forests of many kinds; on trees and shrubs and vines,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On grasslands, tundras, and plains, and on their varied plants,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On ferns and fungi; on spore-bearing and seed-bearing plants,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On micro-organisms of endless variety, the complex and the simple,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On reptiles and amphibians,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On many-legged creatures and insects;

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On mammals of the land and mammals of the sea,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On fish and mollusks and algae and coral reefs,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On farm animals and on creatures we befriend as pets and family,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On animals preserved in sanctuaries and those housed in zoos,

People: Creator, have mercy

Emily: On the human family across the globe, in kinship with all creation,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On all who live and work and play in this city and this neighborhood,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On those who work around us, whose labor builds up our communities and our world,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On the businesses and industries of our cities, that they may benefit the whole community,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On the parks and green spaces of our cities; on those who maintain them and those who enjoy them,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On schools and all places of learning; on all who care for—and teach—children and adults,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On visitors and immigrants; on all who offer welcome, shelter, and hospitality,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: On all places of reverence and peace and prayer;

People: Creator, have mercy.

Emily: On our ancestors, and on those who will come after us,

People: Creator, have mercy.

Daniel: Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: open our hearts so that we may love the Creation as You love it. Where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen

PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES

Katie, Dan, Ben, Josh, Sophie, Philip, Jack, Brad and Desirae, Seong-Guk, Junior, Patrick, Lisa, Abby, Tim, Kristy, Dark Angel, Joseph, Nicole, Wendi, Constance, Erica, Ashton, Landon, Aine, the Sarr family, George, Laura, Haevyn, Mindy, Calob, Bishop Yvette Flunder, Bishop Bonnie Perry, Bishop Darrell Goodwin, Bishop Tim Wolfe, Bishop Lesley Jones, Leah, David, Hope Clinic, JFS, Ozone House, immigrants, the Ypsilanti Youth Choir and those we lift up in silence.

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:

Let us pray.

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:- Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Creator, and I thy dear child;
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.

Riches I need not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

Benediction

May the God who breathes life into forests and fields, who knows every bird in the sky and every creature of the earth, bless your going out and your coming in.

May you find beauty where you least expect it, kindness where it is most needed, and joy enough for today.

Go in peace.

Rest with joy.

Love your neighbor.

You are not alone.

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