"A Peace-Filled Silence"

Quiet Worship, Saturday, 21 September 2019, in the Bushnell Room at 9:00 a.m.

“Holy Spirit, comforting Spirit, remaining in your presence in a peace-filled silence is already prayer.

You understand everything about us, and even a simple sigh can be a prayer.”

Brother Roger of Taizé

Gathering Music:

Two sung prayers from Taizé, “Instrumental I”

“Veni Sancte Spiritus tui amoris ignem accende”

“Christe Salvator, Filius Patris, dona nobis pacem”

A brief period of silence and calm

Opening Words: Words from a simple hymn, sung at Llandecwyn, Gwynedd, North Wales, in a small church on the site of an early Celtic church (as the Christ Candle is lighted)

“Be still in God’s presence, be still in God’s presence, be still in God’s presence, and love and be loved.

Fall deep in the Silence, fall deep in the Silence, fall deep in the Silence, the Silence of God.

A brief period of calm and silence
**Sung Prayer:**
A sung prayer from Iona’s, “There is One Among Us,”

Listen or hum or sing quietly, as you wish

“In love you summon, in love I follow,
living today for your tomorrow.
Christ to release me, Christ to enfold me,
Christ to restrain me, Christ to up-hold me.”

A brief period of silence

**Morning Psalm:**
from Psalm 122, “Peace be within you”

[In the Hebrew Scriptures, “peace” usually means stability and well-being and is external, this Psalm being a notable exception. In the New Testament—as here—the sense is almost always that of “heart-peace” and is more internal.]

“I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. . . .

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.'
For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
And for the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good."

A brief period of silence, for reflection on the Psalm

**Sung Prayer**
A sung prayer from Iona’s, “There is One among Us,”

Listen or hum or sing quietly, as you wish

“The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you,
God’s peace growing in you.”

A brief period of calm and silence
A Reading from Scripture  

*Philippians 4:4-9, “The Peace of God”*

As you hear the Scripture read, listen for the word or phrase that seems lifted up for you at this moment:

Paul, writing to the Philippians:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God—which surpasses all understanding—will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the peace of God will be with you.”

*NRSV*

“The Word of the Lord” . . . “Thanks be to God.”

Great Silence

The sound of the gong signals the beginning and the ending of this time for listening with the ears of our hearts, for seeking to rest in God’s embrace. As the silence begins, you may wish to allow your breathing to slow, and the muscles of your face and neck and shoulders to relax.

**Prayers of the People**  
from *Celtic Treasure* by John Philip Newell & the *Book of Common Worship*

Through our Prayers of the People we give voice to our love for others and for the world.

“Lord, in the silence of our hearts or in spoken words . . .  
we give thanks for the gift of this day . . .  
and pray for the life of the world. . . .

Eternal God, we rejoice this morning in the gift of life, . . .  
which we have received by your grace, . . .  
and the new life you give in Jesus Christ. . . .
Especially this morning we thank you
   for the love of our relatives and friends . . .
   for strength and abilities to serve your purposes for us today . . .
   for this Community of Faith in which we live and serve . . .
   and for this time together in peace-filled silence . . .
   Lord in your mercy . . . *Hear our prayer*

“God of grace, we offer our prayers for the needs of others . . .
   and commit ourselves to serve them . . . as we have been served in Jesus Christ.
Especially today we pray
   for peace in the Middle East . . .
   for our sisters and brothers in Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem . . .
   for immigrant families at our southern border . . .
   for refugees and homeless women, men, children throughout the world . . .
   for the outcast and the persecuted . . .
   and for all those from whom we are estranged . . .
Help us to awaken peace within our own hearts . . .
   Showing the love of Christ . . .
   and the peace of Christ in all we do . . .
   Lord in your mercy . . . *Hear our prayer*

“Lord, listen as we now offer our individual prayers, in silence or in words,

Each spoken prayer ends with, “Lord in your mercy,” . . . “*Hear our prayer.*”

“We know that you hear our prayers, Lord. . . .
Listen also now as we offer the prayer taught to us by your Son, Jesus:

“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever.

   Amen”

Brief silence
Closing Words

from the Book of Common Worship, as the Christ Candle is extinguished

“Eternal God,
You never fail to give us each day all that we ever need,
and even more.
Give us such joy in living
and such peace in Serving Christ,
that we may gratefully make use of all your blessings,
and joyfully seek our risen Lord
in everyone we meet.

Kindle in us, this day, the fire of your love.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen”

Closing Sung Prayer

A joyously sung “Amen” from South Africa, from Iona’s, “There is One among Us” as the Christ Candle is extinguished

Listen or hum or sing quietly, as you wish.

“Ameni, ameni,
Amen, amen, amen. Ameni.”

Leave when you are ready

“Sometimes there would be a rush of noisy visitors and
the silence of the monastery would be shattered.
This would upset the monks.

Not the master, however,
who seemed as content with the noise
as with the silence.

To those protesting he said one day,
‘Silence is not the absence of sound . . . but the absence of self.’”