Quiet Worship, Saturday, 15 February 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

“Three things we have to do . . . the vision that Jesus starts . . .”

in the Bushnell Parlor, around the fireplace

Jesus often sought silence and a time away, often going “out to the mountain to pray.” And one of those times became especially important to Henri Nouwen, who says,

“A biblical text that has been very, very important to me is the story in Luke 6:12-19 where Jesus spent the night in prayer on the top of the mountain. In the morning, he came down and created a community of apostles around him. Then in the afternoon, with his apostles, he ministered—he went out and healed and proclaimed the good news.

I’ve been fascinated by that because it basically says, prayer at night, community in the morning, ministry in the afternoon. Now night, morning, and afternoon are symbols for the vision that Jesus starts. The three areas we have to consciously focus on are,

one, communion with God, prayer, or being in solitude with God;
secondly, creating community;
and thirdly, doing ministry.”

Now—in the quiet of this time and place—let us come to God in prayer, . . . let us come together in community, as Children of God, . . . and let us then go forth to do ministry, as each is called. . . .

Gathering Music

three Sung Prayers from Taizé (Instrumental)

“The kingdom of God is justice and peace
Come Lord, and open in us and joy in the Holy Spirit.
the gates of your kingdom.”

“Ubi Caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.”

“Where there is charity and love,
God is always there.”

“Laudate omnes gentes,
laudate Dominum . . .”

“Sing praises, all you peoples,
sing praises to the Lord . . .”

A brief period of calm and silence

Opening Words

from Celtic Treasure, John Philip Newell, as the Christ Candle is lighted

“We light a light
in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Saviour who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.”

A brief period of calm and silence
Psalm of the Day

from the Lectionary for Saturday in the Fifth Week after Epiphany
from Psalm 111, “Praise for God’s Wonderful Works”

“Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever. . . .
The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.”

NRSV

A brief period of silence, for reflection on the Psalm.

A Sung Prayer from Taizé

“The Kingdom of God”

Listen to the words, or hum them, or sing them quietly, as you wish.

“The kingdom of God is justice and peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come Lord, and open in us
the gates of your kingdom.”

A Reading from Luke 6:12-19

[as noted above, one of Henri Nouwen’s favorite Bible passages]

“Now during those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray;
and he spent the night in prayer to God.
And when the day came, he called his disciples
and chose twelve of them, whom he also named as apostles:
Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, 
and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 
and Matthew, and Thomas, and James, son of Alphaëus, 
and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas, son of James, 
and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, 
with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people 
from Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 
They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; 
and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, 
for power came out from him and healed all of them.”

Brief Silence

A Sung Prayer from Taizé

“Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.”

“Where there is charity and love,
God is always there”

Great Silence

The sound of the gong signals the beginning (once) and the ending (three times) of this time 
for listening with the ears of our hearts, for seeking to rest in God’s embrace. [c. 10 min.]

Prayers of the People

“Loving God, in the silence of our hearts or in spoken words . . .
let us give thanks for the gift of this day . . .
and pray for the life of the world . . .

Especially this morning we thank you . . .
for the vision that Jesus starts
for being able to come to you in prayer . . .
for the community of faith within our church . . .
and for being able to do ministry, as each of us is called . . .
for the diversity of challenges, you give us . . .
for the diversity of gifts you give to us . . .
and for the gift of your son, Jesus . . .
Lord in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer.

With the dawn of your love, Lord, you reveal your victory . . .
over all that would destroy or harm . . .
and you brighten the lives of all who need you. . . .

Especially this morning we pray . . .
for families suffering separation . . .
for understanding among peoples . . .
for those isolated by sickness or sorrow . . .
for the victims of violence or warfare . . .
and for the Church throughout the world. . . .
Lord in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer.

Lord, listen as we now offer our individual prayers, in silence or in words
Each individual prayer ends with, Lord in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer.

We know that you hear our prayers, Lord. Listen also now as we join our voices, praying 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

A Sung Prayer from Taizé

“Laudate omnes gentes”
Listen to the words, or hum them, or sing them quietly, as you wish.

“Laudate omnes gentes,
laudate Dominum . . .
Sing praises, all you peoples,
sing praises to the Lord”

Brief Silence
Closing Words from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, as the Christ Candle is extinguished

“May God who is present in sunrise and nightfall,
and in the crossing of the sea,
guide your feet as you go.

May God, who is with you when you sit
and when you stand,
encompass you with love
and lead you by the hand.

May God, who knows your path
and the places where you rest,
be with you in your waiting,
be your good news for sharing,

and lead you in the way that is everlasting. Amen.”

Leave when you are ready, going out to do ministry as you are called . . .