A Thanksgiving Quiet Worship

Quiet Worship, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 21 November 2020

[available at: www.westminstempls.org/worship/additional-worship-opportunities/]

Until we can again gather in-person, each of us is invited to “gather” in our own special place, at 9:00 a.m. on each Third Saturday . . . to read or pray the bold-face words quietly, out-loud . . . knowing that they are being read or prayed by others at the same time . . . by a cloud of witnesses. You may wish to have a candle at hand to light as the Christ Candle.

From early times down to Annie Lamont it has been said that the only two spoken prayers anyone ever really needs are heart-felt “Help me” and “Thank you.”

In the words of the Great Thanksgiving at every Communion Service, we affirm “It is right to give God thanks and praise.”

With Thanksgiving Day just ahead, as we gather each in our own special place, let us remember of one of the most familiar of the sung-prayers from Taizé,

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.”

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, then

“O God, early in the morning I seek your presence,
not because you are ever absent from me
but because often I am absent from you . . .
at the heart of each moment
where you forever dwell. . . .

from Sounds of the Eternal, by John Philip Newell
In the rising of the sun,
in the unfolding color and shape of the morning
open my eyes to the mystery of this moment . . .
that in every moment of the day
I may know your life-giving presence. . . .

Open my eyes to this moment
that in each moment
I may know you as the One who is always now. . . .”

Let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and for the bounty of the earth.

A brief period of silence

A Sung Prayer from Taizé:
“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.”
Read slowly, or hum or sing if you know the tune

“Confitemini Domino, quo niam bonus
Confitemini Domino, Alleluia”

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good
Give thanks to the Lord, Alleluia!”

A brief period of silence

Morning Psalm: from Psalm 65, “Thanksgiving for Earth’s Bounty”

“Praise is due to you, O God . . .
You visit the earth and water it. . . .
You greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it. . . .
You water its furrows abundantly
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth. . . .
You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness. . . .
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.”

A period of silence, for reflection on the Psalm

A Sung Prayer from Taizé:
Read slowly, or hum or sing if you know the tune

“In the Lord, I’ll be ever thankful . . . “

“In the Lord, I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid, lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.”

A period of silence

A Reading from Scripture:  

Philippians 4:6-9, from the Lectionary for Thanksgiving Day

Paul writes,

“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 Jesus Christ. . . .

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 God of peace will be with you.”

Great Silence

The sound of the gong signals the beginning and the ending of this time for listening “with the ears of our hearts.” 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. (c. 10 min.)
Prayers of the People

“In the silence of our hearts, and in spoken words, let us give thanks for the gift of this day, and pray for the life of the world. Especially we thank you for the beauty and fruitfulness of your creation . . . for the new creation in Christ . . . and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . . for the sustaining love of family and friends . . . for the fellowship of faith in your church . . .

Lord in your mercy . . . 

Hear our prayer

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray for those who govern nations of the world . . . for the people in countries ravaged by war . . . for all who work for peace and international harmony . . . for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . . for those throughout the world who know you by other names, through other traditions, in other stories . . .

Lord in your mercy . . . 

Hear our prayer

“Lord, listen as we offer our individual prayers, in silence or in words. [you may end your individual prayer with Lord in your mercy . . . Hear my prayer.]

“We know that you hear our prayers, Lord.

Listen also now as we offer the prayer taught to us by your Son, Jesus

[SLowly, savoring the words, using a modern translation of the first century Aramaic, Jesus’ own language]

Our Father in heaven, . . . holy is your name, . . .
Your kingdom come, . . . your longing come . . . for the earth to be . . . as it is in heaven . . .
The bread of our need . . . give to us each day, . . . and forgive us our sins . . . as we forgive those . . . who sin against us. . . .
Do not lead us on a path . . . where we will fail you, . . . rather, deliver us from evil. . . .
For the kingdom and the power and the glory . . .
Are yours, now and forever. . . . 

Amen.”

Brief silence

A Sung Prayer from Taizé:
“Laudate omnes gentes”
Read slowly, or hum or sing if you know the tune

“Laudate omnes gentes, 
laudate Dominum”

“Amen.”

Sing praises, all you people,
sing praises to the Lord”

A period of silence

Closing Words from Celtic Treasure, John Philip Newell, after which the Christ Candle is extinguished

“As we go forth from this time of quiet,
may the blessings of heaven,
the blessings of earth,
the blessings of sea and sky . . .
be with those we love this day
and with every human family. . . .
As we go forth with thankfulness in our hearts,
may the gifts of heaven,
the gifts of earth,
the gifts of sea and sky . . .
be with those we love this day
and with peoples throughout the world. . . .

Amen.”

Let peace settle down around you. Go forth when you are ready