“Comfort and assurance in God’s presence . . .”

Quiet Worship, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 17 October 2020

[available at: www.westminstermpls.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.

Opening Words: from Celtic Treasure, by John Philip Newell and from The Iona Worship Book 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

Although we gather each in our own special place,
we are a house of prayer,
a home to friend and stranger, to saint and sinner.

We come this day
with hope or hesitation, with joy or concern,
yearning for life in its fullness.

Generous God and generous Savior,
touch us through your Spirit.

Let us worship God.

A brief period of silence
Sung Prayer

Three sung prayers by David Keller and Lynn Bauman
from *Songs of Presence: Contemplative Chants for the New Millennium*

Read slowly, or hum or sing if you know the tune

“In the name of the Holy One,
in the name of the Son,
in the name of the Spirit,
we are made one.”

“Leave all things you have
and come and follow me.”

“I am the Way, the truth, and the life.”

A brief period of silence

*Psalm of the Day:*

from the *Lectionary* for Saturday in the 19th week of Ordinary Time
from Psalm 63, “Comfort and Assurance in God’s Presence”

“O God, you are my God, and I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you;
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when on my bed I think of you,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you,
your right hand upholds me. . . .”

NRSV

A brief period of silence, for reflection on the *Psalm*
Sung Prayer

Two sung prayers by David Keller and Lynn Bauman
from Songs of Presence: Contemplative Chants for the New Millennium

Read slowly, or hum or sing if you know the tune

“Holy, Holy, Holy One.”

“All shall be well
And all shall be well
And all manner of thing shall be well”

A brief period of calm and silence

Gospel Reading for the Day:  Lectionary Gospel text, for next Saturday, the 19th week of Ordinary Time

“Jesus said, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? . . . Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will God clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Indeed, strive for God’s kingdom, and these things will be given to you. . . .”

NRSV

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. 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

“Eternal God, we praise you for your mighty love
given in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross,
and the new life we have received by his resurrection.
Especially this morning we thank you . . .
for the presence of Christ in our weakness and in our suffering . . .
for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament . . .
for the Prayer Ministry within our congregation . . .
for the friendships we have with people in our Global Partner Churches . . .
and for the opportunities available to us to give to others . . .
Lord in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

“God of grace, let our concern for others this day reflect Christ’s self-giving love,
not only in our prayers, but also in our practice.
Especially this morning we pray for those subjected to tyranny and oppression
wherever it may be . . .
for wounded and injured people . . .
for those who face their own death . . . or the death of a loved one . . .
for those who we think may be our enemies . . .
for peacemakers everywhere . . .
and for the church in Cuba, the Cameroons, and the Middle East.
Lord in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

“Lord, listen as we now 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 join our voices in praying the prayer taught to us by your Son, Jesus:

Prayed together, slowly . . . absorbing Jesus’ words and prayer thoughts

“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 brief period of silence

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

Lord, be with us as we leave this place of your presence,
Let us go forth in peace,
Let us take with us your gifts of life and love,
Let the Holy Spirit be with us
  and guide us as we go on the Way.        Amen.

Allow peace to settle down around you. Go forth when you are ready.