

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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September 6, 2020

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Gather us, O God

C: And we will know your life that makes us one.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will give you the pain of our brokenness.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

L: Trinity of love braid us as one

C: That our brokenness be healed by you

That our fears be held by you

That our gifts be used by you

That our lives be offered to you

So that the world may know your reign of love. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

L: Where people squabble

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where races fight

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where neighbors argue

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where nations disagree

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where Christ's disciples gather

C: Peace be our way.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out . . . truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

L: Liberating God, you set us free from our loneliness by the touch of another's hand; you deliver us from our selfishness, so we may be of service to others; you break the chains of our pride, so we might walk with you in humility.

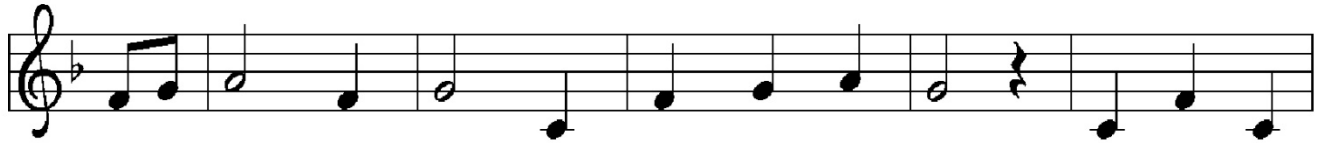
Christ of love, when we cling to our anger, you send forgiveness to take us by the hand; when we harbor bitterness, you place in our hands the bread of heaven; when we drink from the stagnant waters of sin, you share with us the cup of salvation.

Spirit of new life, you gather us as the body of Christ to teach us how to live together, to love together, and to serve together, so that world might know that you indeed dwell among us. Amen. (adpt. *Lectionary Liturgies*, Thom M. Shuman)

The First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



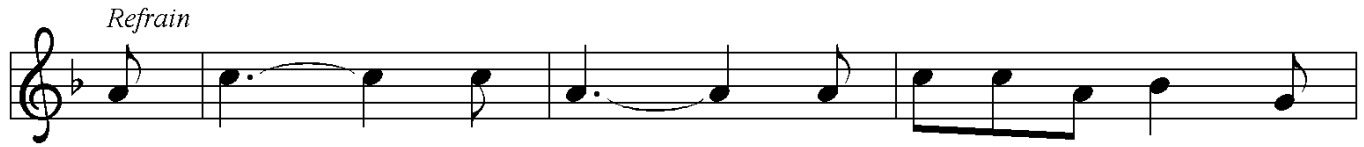
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20

The Message

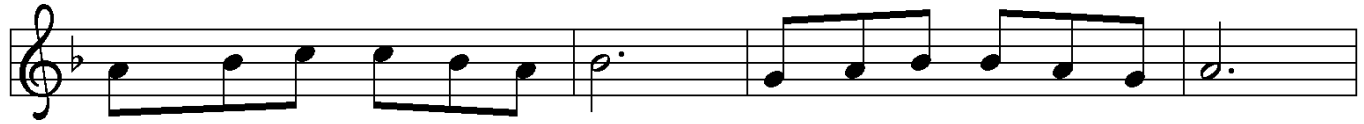
Pastor Ward Misenheimer



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kneels at the feet of his friends, | si - lent - ly wash - es their feet, |
| 2 | Neigh-bors are wealth - y and poor, | var - ied in col - or and race, |
| 3 | These are the ones we will serve, | these are the ones we will love; |
| 4 | Kneel at the feet of our friends, | si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet: |



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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The Iona Abbey Creed

L: Now let us confess our faith with the words of the Iona Creed:

**C: We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, water and earth,
of the breadth and beauty of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
Life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen**

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Lord, look on your world. We know the world is so fractured and filled with chaos and crises of our own making. Teach us to pray, and when we struggle to pray, may your Spirit intercede with the words we cannot find. Come, Holy Spirit!

A brief silence.

L: Lord of all faithfulness, you live at the heart of all of our gatherings and reveal yourself in the midst of two or three. You call a broken people around your table: in times of disagreement teach us to listen, free us from prejudice, and bind us to your way of forgiving grace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

- L: Lord of all justice, you are the one who raises up those who are bent low, so we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the courage and the boldness to work toward abolishing social structures which continue to perpetuate racial practices and policies in our own communities. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Abby Bostian
- Jessie Amaker
- The Ashton family
- Josh Baker
- Lindsey Baker
- Lemont Bell
- Anne Brown (Teleah Amaker's mother)
- Freda Christ
- Ann Farabee
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Gazda
- Richard Henderson
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Rick Messina
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Caroline Morton
- Tyler Oddman
- Anita Ortiz
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Myra Steele
- Kirby Strickland & family
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Linda Ann Wassum
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Lisa Williams
- Terry & Carol Wisner
- Jeff Woods

- L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).
- L: We give thanks for the marriage of Kristin and Adam Bostian (son of Abby and Phil Bostian) and for the marriage of Breanna and Ian Stimac (son of Laurie Stimac). We pray for them as they begin their married lives together.
- L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially . . .

Grace Stegall, aunt of Lisa Williams
 Marlene Quigley, aunt of Jennie Henderson
 Nell Clayton, aunt of Janet Rasmussen

We also remember and give thanks for the life of Carole Bekkenhuis-Johnson, mother of Brenda Cicenía.

We also remember and give thanks for the life of Giovana Aparicio Aragón, daughter of Mercedes Aragón, at the 2nd anniversary of her death.

. . . By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

- L: We pray for all communities and all people who have been impacted by Hurricane Laura. Strengthen and protect all relief workers.
- L: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord, on this Labor Day weekend, we remember those who have no work, who are struggling to provide for their families, and who despair of ever finding employment again. Open our hearts to see the needs of the unemployed and the underemployed, and to respond with compassion and support. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord, take the time and gifts you have entrusted to us, and teach us how to use them to give others the abundant life of Jesus – so that your people may rejoice in the new life you give, for you are the life-giver and we are your servants.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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 kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace. May you know the support of family, friends, and people who feel as passionately about the world as you do.

May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses, who through the ages, did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.

May you never feel alone.

And if you do, may you carry in your heart the words of Jesus, who told his friends: "I am with you always."

C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Annette Nolan