

# PRAYER GROUP

June 9, 2020

## ***A TIME FOR A CHECK-IN***

### ***GREETING***

*Leader:* Jesus said,  
“Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I, in the midst of them.

### ***LIGHTING THE CANDLE***

*Leader:* We light this candle as a reminder that Jesus,  
who is for us the light of the world,  
will be with us always,  
even until the end of the age.

### ***OPENING SENTENCES***

*Leader:* One thing I have asked of God  
this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of God  
all the days of my life;  
to behold the beauty of God  
and to seek God in God’s temple.

Who is it that you seek?

**We seek God, the Holy One.**

Do you seek God with all your heart?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek God with all your soul?  
**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek God with all your mind?  
**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek God with all your strength?  
**Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

## ***DECLARATION OF FAITH***

*Leader:* To whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life,  
and we have believed and have come to know  
that You are the Holy One of God.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory.

## ***PRAYER***

*Reader:* Christ, as a light illumine and guide us.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow us.

*All:* **Christ under us; Christ over us;  
Christ beside us on our left and our right.**

*Reader:* This day be within and without us,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

*Reader:* Be in the heart of each to whom we speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto us.

*Reader:* This day be within and without us,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

*All:* **Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside us on our left and our right.**

## ***AN INVITATION INTO STILLNESS***

Let us now take a moment to settle into the silence.

Hear and feel the quiet of this place  
and this community of people.

Hear and feel your quiet breathing.

Inhale the good gifts that God provides,  
and exhale all of the things  
that you need to release.

Breathe in strength. *(Pause for breath...)*

Exhale exhaustion. *(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in freedom. *(Pause for breath...)*

Exhale all that holds you back. *(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in a new sense of direction. *(Pause for breath...)*

Exhale the paths you no longer want to use.  
*(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in hope. *(Pause for breath...)*

Exhale self-doubt. *(Pause for breath...)*

Breathe in unconditional love. *(Pause for breath...)*

Exhale distrust and hate. *(Pause for breath...)*

In this time of prayer,  
may our minds be open to new truth,  
and our hearts be receptive to love.

Let us open ourselves to the Spirit of Christ  
in our midst.

**VIDEO** “Breathe”—*The Work of the People*

**PRAYER** *Sara Dunning Lambert*

Holy One,  
ignite within us a fiery passion  
for your mission in the world today.

Warm us by the Spirit’s dancing tongues of flame,  
that we may feel your kindling blaze within,  
urging us to do your greater good.

Make us wholly present to experience a new birth,  
and awaken possibilities within us  
to share your love in the world.

In this love and abundance,  
we come to celebrate your harvest—  
a harvest bearing the first fruits of the Spirit within us.

Show us how to use these gifts,  
as we listen for your truth  
in the gentle breeze of your Spirit. **Amen.**

## **READINGS 1 Kings 19:9-13 (NRSVA)**

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' <sup>10</sup> He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

<sup>11</sup> He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

**A REFLECTION** *Barbara Holmes* <https://youtu.be/KOKL3Hypa0s>

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens.

Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world...

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **WORDS OF BLESSING**

*Leader:* The strength of the rising sun,  
the strength of the swelling sea,  
the strength of the high mountains,  
the strength of the fertile plains,  
the strength of the everlasting river  
flowing in us and through us this day,  
the strength of the river of God  
flowing in us and through us this day.