**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Prayer for Sunday, June 27, 2021**

**Thirteenth sunday in ordinary time**

**“Your faith has saved you; go in peace, and be whole.”**

**CHECK-IN** and then Betty mutes everyone. **(Betty Thompson)**

**WELCOME (Betty)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Thanks to Judy Sholes and Maryann Dolan who prepared this communal prayer.
* Thanks to Reggie Ott and Linda Donaldson for our music.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today : Sr. Marie McCarthy, Jim and Suzie De Quattro, Gail De George, Ann Masters, George Fulk, Anne Regan, and Bill Fanelli. If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Judy)**

Let your breath bring you into quiet so you can be attentive to the Spirit and to each other. Notice your breath as it goes in and out…. Let it slow and deepen… and slowly fill you with the peace of Christ. We begin with 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together… and one to know the Spirit who never leaves us.

Now, Linda Donaldson will lead us in prayerful song to begin our celebration.

**OPENING – We Walk By Faith ( Linda Donaldson)**

We walk by faith, and not by sight;

No gracious words we hear

From one who spoke as none e’er spoke

But we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,

Nor follow where he trod,

Yet in his promise we rejoice,

And cry “My Lord, my God!

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,

And may our faith abound

To call on you when you are near,

And seek where you are found.

We walk by faith, and not by sight;

No gracious words we hear

From one who spoke as none e’er spoke,

But we believe him near.

**GREETING (Maryann )**

Beloved Community, let us rejoice!The Spirit of Christ is alive in us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All:** Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Maryann)**

We are called to be gospel people and spread the good news. The stories of the early church and the insights of a prophet in our time light our way in the readings this morning.  Together we experience ourselves as the people of God and the body of Christ. Nourished, we reach out to make the gospel visible in more ways and in more places.

**GATHERING PRAYER (Maryann)**

Today we gather

meeting together to consider

where we stand and who we are.

Be with us, O God, In this time and space

as we affirm and shape the changes

In our understanding of the Way.

In prayer and dialogue

we encompass and embrace

the living and breathing growth of us all.

We are here to listen openly,

to be healed and refreshed

for the journey forward today.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME ( Maryann)**

After Eastertide the liturgical season of Ordinary Time resumes. In this time, we hear the stories of the early church and their attempts to understand more fully who they are and how they are to grow and spread the gospel.

In today’s first reading from 2nd Corinthians, Paul exhorts the community in Corinth to remember the great act of love of Jesus who emptied himself and became one with them. So, too, the community is urged to share their abundance and to seek equality with each other. It is in their relationships with one another that they give life and receive eternal life.

Mark’s gospel shows the power of human relationships as Jesus resuscitates Jairus’ daughter and heals the woman with the uterine bleeding. Though Jesus is pressed by a large crowd and even ridiculed, he responds to both the synagogue official and the simple touch of the woman.

The 3rd reading, adapted from Sister Mary McGlone's commentary, draws our attention to the “story within a story” – the anonymous woman who is healed in the midst of the story of Jairus’ daughter. Sr. Mary’s insights prompt us to examine power, faith, and relationships. The anonymous woman whom Jesus called daughter encountered him and was transformed. Faith leads to action that generates greater faith.

Today, we listen to theses stories knowing that they are our stories as well.

*(Slight pause)*

**( Maryann )** Sr. Marie McCarthy will read from the second letter to the Corinthians. Then, Anne Regan will offer questions for our reflection, and you might stay with whatever question calls you.

**READING 1** **2 COR 8:7,9, 13-15 (Sr. Maria McCarthy)**

Brothers and sisters:
you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.
Not that others should have relief while you are burdened,
but that as a matter of equality
your abundance at the present time should supply their needs,
so that their abundance may also supply your needs,
that there may be equality.
As it is written:
*Whoever had much did not have more,
and whoever had little did not have less. (Slight pause)*

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Anne Regan)**

How do you feel about sharing your abundance? Have you ever experienced seeking… or resisting… this sharing? *(Pause.)*

What feelings arise in you when you experience inequality in interactions or relationships? What guides your response?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** **(Betty:** Share slide w/question and stop. Judy will time and chime)

**(Judy)** Jim and Suzie De Quattro will read from the Gospel of Mark.

**READING 2** **MARK 5:21-43 (Jim and Suzie De Quattro)**

**(Jim)** When Jesus had crossed again in the boat
to the other side,
a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea.
One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward.
Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying,
“My daughter is at the point of death.
Please, come lay your hands on her
that she may get well and live.”
He went off with him,
and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

**(Suzie)** There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years.
She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors
and had spent all that she had.
Yet she was not helped but only grew worse.
She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd
and touched his cloak.
She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.”
Immediately her flow of blood dried up.
She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.
Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him,
turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who has touched my clothes?”
But his disciples said to Jesus,
“You see how the crowd is pressing upon you,
and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”
And he looked around to see who had done it.
The woman, realizing what had happened to her,
approached in fear and trembling.
She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth.
He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you.
Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”

**(Jim)** While he was still speaking,
people from Jairus’ house arrived and said,
“Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?”
Disregarding the message that was reported,
Jesus said to Jairus,
“Do not be afraid; just have faith.”
He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside
except Peter, James, and John.
When they arrived at Jairus’ house,
Jesus caught sight of a commotion,
people weeping and wailing loudly.
So he went in and said to them,
“Why this commotion and weeping?
The child is not dead but asleep.”
And they ridiculed him.
Then he put them all out.
He took along the child’s father and mother
and those who were with him
and entered the room where the child was.
He took the child by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum*,”
which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”
The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around.
At that they were utterly astounded.
He gave strict orders that no one should know this
and said that she should be given something to eat. *(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Anne Regan)**

What does it mean to you to have faith…or to lose faith? How do you feel when you have doubt? *(Pause.)*

Have you ever felt empowered through an encounter with Jesus? What is it that changed in you as a result? *(Pause.)*

Put yourself in this Gospel – who are you and how do you feel?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  **(Betty:** Share slide; Judy will time and chime)

**READING 3 (Judy)**

 (Adapted from commentaries by Sr. Mary McGlone and Roland Faley)

In today’s gospel, we meet two women, one young, and one considerably older. The young one had a powerful father to advocate for her. The latter, anonymous and shamed by her condition, seemed caught between the need to hide and her drive to flourish.

In the incident with Jairus' family, everything was clear: Jesus took the young woman by the hand, told her to rise, and she got up. Jesus fulfilled Jairus' request. That story would be complete without the interruption of the woman with a hemorrhage. Nevertheless, the Gospel presents this audaciously hopeful woman inside Jairus' story. What does Mark want us to see in this woman?

Mark reported that the woman had hemorrhaged for 12 years. She was ritually unclean, denied access to the temple and kept apart from society. Her suffering only grew worse on financial, physical, social and religious levels.

But one day, she heard about Jesus…and, unlike Jairus’s daughter, she had no advocate, so she took matters into her own hands — literally… She put more faith in Jesus and the God of life than in the ritual restrictions she was supposed to observe. She trusted that Jesus would not be offended if she broke a few rules in pursuit of fullness of life.

She reached out in hope of healing and never could have imagined Jesus' response. Not only was he aware that a touch of great significance had occurred in the midst of jostling, but when she presented herself to him, he addressed her as "daughter," claiming a relationship with her that he attributed to no other. Using that name, Jesus effectively adopted the role of being her father-advocate, implying that her faith in him and the God of life created a unique bond between them.

None of the evangelists tell us of Jairus' fear and impatience while Jesus halted to interact with the woman. But while Jairus was suffering anxiety about his child, Jesus drew attention to the woman who was a living parable of faith in action.

This woman, known to us only as "daughter," believed in Jesus before she saw him. She encountered Jesus, and that encounter changed her life, and led her to witness to her beliefs.

At the end of their dialogue, Jesus summarized a theology of prayer in the three things he said to the woman: Your faith has saved you, go in peace, and be whole (cured). Thus, the inside story is simply that faith leads to action that generates greater faith.

*(Slight pause)*

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Anne Regan)**

This theology of prayer is “your faith has saved you, go in peace and be whole.” How does that resonate with your theology of prayer? *(Pause)*

How have you felt like an outcast? *(Pause.)*

What do you do when you encounter rules that restrict the fullness of your life?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  **(Betty:** Share slide w/questions Judy will time and chime.)

**(Judy)** (Gail De George) will now lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Gail De George)**

We invite you to briefly share what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you listened and as you reflected on these readings. That helps us to glimpse the many ways God is among us. We welcome new voices, and we also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening,

As you share your feelings, please use "I” or “me". And let's leave a breath of silence between speakers. A bridge of silence allows us to take in what was just said and let it influence what we may want to share.

So, let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long pause.]*

Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute again afterwards.

Who would like to begin our sharing?

(Sharing)

Thank you.

**( Gail De George )** Ann Masters will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Ann Masters)**

Our response will be: Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those throughout the world who have used the power and gifts given to them to change the world. We call on them to help us discover within ourselves your power and the ways to use it to bring about your Kingdom of justice and peace. For this we pray.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are outcasts and victims of violence, poverty, malnutrition, and climate change. May they be included in our effort to work toward a better life, equality, and the common good. For this we pray.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for the work of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and of the nuns who manage the Talitha Kum effort on behalf of those who are victims of human trafficking.

For this we pray. Loving God, hear our prayers.

We pray for our country and for the world…that we might overcome the deep divisiveness that exists, and that the power of love will overcome the love of power. For this we pray.

Loving God, here our prayer

Now let’s remember the feelings and prayers that arose in us as we shared reflections, and also the prayers we carry with us. *[Pause.]*

Now, for what else shall we pray? Please remember to unmute and mute yourself.

(People speak.) Loving God, hear our prayer.

Thank you.

O God, we give you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We will do all that we can to put our prayers into action – while entrusting the outcome to you. Amen.

**OFFERTORY (Geroge Fulk)**

In today’s readings, Jesus reminds us of the importance of having faith, and St. Paul reminds us of our need to share our abundance with those less fortunate. As we experience the coming week, let us reflect on any areas that challenge our faith and relationships. Let us consider the areas where we might contribute our time, talent and treasures for the good of all, so that…in the words of St. Paul:

*Whoever had much did not have more,
and whoever had little did not have less. Amen.*

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Betty Thompson)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in and among us. *[Pause.]*

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the cup,

gifts of the earth and work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it. *[Pause.]*

Let us invite God into ourselves so that we become God’s living presence in our world. *[Pause.]*

Holy One, you transform us as you nourish us here.

May we nourish others with your presence.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER (Bill Fanelli)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands to pray in harmony with Christians throughout the world in the words that Jesus gave us:

***All (muted):*** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Judy)**

Broken, we have gathered;

Nourished, let us now reach out.

May our steps lead us to paths of service,

Our words, to the healing of troubled hearts,

Our touch, to the embrace of compassion.

Our hearts, to perform random acts of kindness.

Now, let us go in peace, love, and gratitude and to serve each other and the world. Amen

Now Reggie Ott will lead us in our closing hymn Take My Hand Precious Lord

**CLOSING SONG: Take My Hand Precious Lord (by Jim Reeves) (Reggie Ott)**

Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, let me stand.

I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn

Through the storm, [through](https://www.definitions.net/definition/through) the night.

Lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home.

When my way [grows](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grows) drear, [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, [linger](https://www.definitions.net/definition/linger) near.

When my [light](https://www.definitions.net/definition/light) is [almost](https://www.definitions.net/definition/almost) gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call,

Hold my hand lest I fall,

Take my hand, [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home.

When the [darkness](https://www.definitions.net/definition/darkness) appears and the [night](https://www.definitions.net/definition/night) draws near

And the day is past and gone,

At the [river](https://www.definitions.net/definition/river) I stand.

Guide my feet, hold my hand,

Take my hand. [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home,

Precious Lord, take my hand.

Lead me on, let me stand.

I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn.

Through the storm, [through](https://www.definitions.net/definition/through) the night

Lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home.

(Lead me home)

**RESOURCES**

* Commentaries from the estate of Fr. Roger Karban … [http://www.fosilonline](http://www.fosilonline/).
* Gathering Prayer -adapted from " A Meeting “ based on Acts 1: 13-26… Miryam of Nazareth by Ann Johnson
* Scriptures - <https://www.usccb.org/Sundayreadings>
* Reflection. Sr. Mary M. McGlone, Reflection for June 27, 2021: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, National Catholic Reporter. <https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/june-13-2021-thirteenth-sunday-ordinary-time>