**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Prayer, October 10, 2021**

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“O God, open our eyes and ears to Wisdom.”*

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone. **(Suzie De Quattro and Betty Thompson)**

**WELCOME  (Betty Thompson)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Betty and I had the pleasure of preparing for this Sunday.
* Thanks to Linda Donaldson for our music.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today:   Judith Galleazzi, Cecilia Estrada, Mary Dolmage, Pat Gabig, Jim De Quattro, Kathy Linabery, Cheryl Dowden, Sister Jo’Ann De Quattro, Sister Jennie Lechtenberg, Peggy Thompson, Kathy Heller, and Carol Kambic.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Suzie De Quattro)**

Now let’s move from greeting each other to greeting the presence of God living within us. Allow yourself to be drawn into this present moment. Notice what is all around you – the sights, the sounds, the support of your chair. Now deepen your breath and feel it filling you as you breathe in and out. . . in and out. . . Quiet your thoughts and find in the stillness the presence of Divine Wisdom. . . And now let’s take 3 deep breaths. One to be here. . . One to be together. . . And one to listen to the voice that is already speaking deep within.

**OPENING  SONG – “HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?” (Linda Donaldson)**

1. My life flows on in endless song,  
   above earth’s lamentation.  
   I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn  
   that hails a new creation.

Refrain:  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Love is lord of heav’n and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

1. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
   I hear that music ringing.  
   It finds an echo in my soul.  
   How can I keep from singing? Refrain
2. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
   a fountain ever springing!  
   All things are mine since I am God’s!  
   How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

**GREETING / CALL TO WORSHIP (Judith Galleazzi)**

Beloved Community, together we gather to know Sophia. The Judeo-Christian community has always addressed God by this feminine name. Today let us treasure the immense gift of Sophia, our wise and gracious God. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

**GATHERING PRAYER (Judith Galleazzi)**

Radiant and unfailing wisdom

Your deep love calls to me

I seek you with all my heart.

Hasten to make yourself known

Sit at the gate of my heart.

Teach me your ways

Meet me in every thought.

Arouse my mind to your perception.

Open all that is closed within me

Dance on the path of my life.

Free me from all that hinders.

Deepen all that attracts me to you.

Draw my love ever nearer to you.

I promise to be awake and vigilant,

Attentive to your voice,

Perceptive to your guidance.

I will hide no secret from you

Come reveal yourself to me. Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME  (Cecilia Estrada or Mary Dolmage)**

In recent weeks we’ve been thinking together about prophecy, and about God’s vision for human relationships with creation and all creatures. Today we turn inward. We look at how we cherish and celebrate the treasure of Sophia wisdom. Scriptures call Sophia “God’s delight” and “the artisan who fashioned all things.” And we look at how we draw on wisdom in using our financial resources to make the reign of God a reality.

God always promises us a rich life. Never a life of material prosperity.

*(Slight pause)*

Now Pat Gabig will read from the Book of Wisdom. Then Jim De Quattro will offer questions and silence for reflection.  Feel free to stay with whatever question calls you.

**READING 1** [Wis 7:7-11](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/wisdom/7?7) **(Pat Gabig)**

Solomon spoke: "And so I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called for help, and the spirit of Wisdom came to my aid.  I value her more than scepters and thrones; my riches are nothing compared with her.  No precious stone can be her equal, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand.

I loved her more than health or beauty, I preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps.

Through her I received all good things, and at her hands incalculable wealth.   All this was given to me to enjoy, though I did not realize at the time that Wisdom was their mother, the source of it all.

What I learned over time I now share freely with you for I do not want to hide how rich she is.

Wisdom is an inexhaustible treasure to human, and those who acquire this treasure become God's friends.

*(Slight pause)*

**QUESTIONS 1** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Jim De Quattro)**

Think of one of the wise people you’ve known. What are the qualities you see?

Life becomes simpler when one thing matters most. If a stranger observed you, what would they think matters most to you?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**     **(Betty:** Share slide 2, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty:  Now Kathy Linabery will read from the Gospel of Mark.

**READING 2 -** [Mk 10:17-27](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/mark/10?17) **(Kathy Linabery)**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone ran up,  
knelt down before Jesus, and asked,   
"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"  
Jesus replied: “You know the commandments” and

the other replied "Teacher, all of those I have observed from my youth."  
Jesus looked at the person with love

and said, "There is one thing more that you must do.

Go, sell what you have, and give it to the poor and those who need it.

You will then have treasure in heaven; After that come and follow me."   
At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property,

became crestfallen and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around at the disciples and said,   
“It is easier for a camel to pass through the Needle’s Eye Gate  
than for a rich person to enter the realm of God.

But with God all things are possible."

*(Slight pause)*

**QUESTIONS 2** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Jim De Quattro)**

When have you turned away, perhaps sadly, because of what was asked of you?

Sister Mary McGlone writes that “genuine Wisdom costs everything one possesses.” What has wisdom led you to relinquish?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**     **(Betty:** Share slide 2, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty:  Now Cheryl Dowden will read a reflection based on Fr. Richard Rohr and Sr. Mary McGlone.

**REFLECTION** **(Cheryl Dowden)**

As privileged people, we have a complicated relationship with money, resources, and possessions. We offer four thoughts for you to consider. Let each one sink in.

Money becomes evil when rights are not balanced by responsibilities, and responsibilities are not balanced by rights. When these are aligned, money can do a great deal of good. Paul never said money is the root of all evil. He said, “the **love** of money is the root of all evils.” *(Pause.)*

The enthrallment of money can captivate individuals and skew the systems upon which our civilization depends. This **greed** is destroying the common good and Earth, our common home. *(Pause.)*

The young inquirer wanted the kind of life Jesus offered. But the person’s many possessions held a stronger grip than that deep desire. Jesus wants us to know that we don’t need all the things or experiences we think we do. **Does ownership free us to live and give**, or does it tie us down and make us frightened of loss? We can forget that everything is a gift. What we really need is to keep first things first: Jesus and the realm of God. Life becomes much more simple when one thing matters most. *(Pause.)*

Jesus invited the wealthy person to live into the wisdom that **possessions can be a means to communion**. Communion might mean distributing what we own to those who need it more. Communion might mean creative use of our resources to impact systems that harm. Part of our most basic inheritance is the desire for communion. What must we do to be open to our inheritance? *(Pause.)*

**QUESTIONS 3** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Jim De Quattro)**

How do you, or how could you, “use your possessions as a means of communion”?

How do your possessions free you? How do they trap you?

What do you feel you need in order to have enough?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**     **(Betty:** Share slide 3, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.**)**

Betty:  Sister Jo’Ann De Quattro will now lead our sharing, and then Sister Jennie Lechtenberg will lead us in prayer.

**SHARING  (Sr. Jo’Ann De Quattro)**

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,

And let’s remember to leave a bridge of silence between speakers.

Now we begin in silence as we gather our reflections.  *[Long pause.]*

Please unmute yourself to speak. Who would like to begin our sharing?

(Sharing)

(Allow about 20 minutes for sharing. Aim to end no later than 11:20.)

Thank you.  We have to stop now, and we can continue after the final song, as we often do. Now let us pray.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Sr. Jennie Lechtenberg)**

Just sit for a minute with all that has been shared this morning, and notice what prayer is rising in you. *[Pause.]*

Oh God,

Your own Wisdom is calling out to us

Day and night.

Open our eyes and ears to Wisdom,

To the beauty of your Person.

And make us ever more able to take you in,

To understand more fully,

To know more deeply,

To have patience to listen well.

Trusting in the wisdom that radiates in and around us, let us pray.

Our response will be: Divine Wisdom, live in us.

Who would like to begin?

(People speak.)  Divine Wisdom, live in us.

O God, we give you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken.  Expand our prayers in solidarity with one another, with women religious, and with people who are marginalized. We will do all that we can to put our prayers into action – while entrusting the outcome to you.  Amen.

*(Slight pause)*

**OFFERTORY (Peggy Thompson)**

Consider what you are attached to. How is Wisdom inviting you to simplify? Here are some ideas to start:

* Clean out a place in your home. *(Pause.)*
* Limit your choices. How many cereals or books do you need? *(Pause.)*
* If someone admires something of yours, give it away. *(Pause.)*
* Catalog your appliances and gadgets and identify which ones you can share. *(Pause.)*
* Consider what simple things bring you into the presence of Christ. *(Pause.)*

This week, let Sophia Wisdom guide you. ~~?~~ What is the commitment you will make for this week? *[Pause]*

Let us pray.  Most gracious Love, we commit to sharing our time, talents, and treasures so that we may be a light and a witness for you. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Kathleen Heller)**

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.]

Holy One, make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER                    (Cecilia Estrada and Mary Dolmage)**

Now let us join our hearts with all who seek Sophia throughout the world, in the words of the Polynesian and Maori people and the New Zealand Anglican community:

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Carol Kambic)**

Pray for wisdom,

That you may recognize and seek

Life’s true treasures:

Community,

Biodiversity,

Clean water,

Being an honest person,

Making music,

Dancing,

Laughter,

Reparations,

Mutual aid,

Wholeness,

Art,

Friendship.

Amen.

With that prophetic blessing, let us sing how we are called to be Christ for one another.

**CLOSING SONG – “ANTHEM” by Tom Conry** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP2gwC5TGFs> )

Refrain: We are called, we are chosen.

We are Christ for one another.  
We are promised to tomorrow,  
while we are for him today.  
We are sign, we are wonder.  
We are sower, we are seed.  
We are harvest, we are hunger.  
We are question, we are creed.

**Repeat Refrain**

Where can we stand justified?  
In what can we believe?  
In no one else but Christ who suffered,  
nothing more than Christ who rose.  
Who was justice for the poor.  
Who was rage against the night.  
Who was hope for peaceful people.  
Who was light.

**Refrain**

How are we to stand at all,  
this world of bended knee?  
In nothing more than barren shadows.  
No one else but Christ could save us.  
Who was justice for the poor.  
Who was rage against the night.  
Who was hope for peaceful people.  
Who was light.

**Refrain**

**RESOURCES**

**Gathering Prayer:**

* Sr. Joyce Rupp in *Prayers to Sophia*, “Calling on Sophia,” <http://www.franpratt.com/litanies/2018/9/13/litany-for-sophia>

**Reflection:**

* Sr. Mary M. McGlone in NCR Sunday Resources - <https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/oct-10-2021-twenty-eighth-sunday-ordinary-time>
* Fr. Richard Rohr’s daily reflections at <https://cac.org/rights-and-responsibilities-2021-09-22/>
* Adapted from Richard Rohr, *What Do We Do with Money?,* unpublished notes, 2020.
* Karen Gargamelli-McCreight at Catholic Women Preach -

<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/10102021>

**Prayers of the Community:**

“Litany for Sophia,” <http://www.franpratt.com/litanies/2018/9/13/litany-for-sophia>

**Offertory:**

Fr. Richard Rohr quotes minister Adele Ahlberg Calhoun at <https://cac.org/what-do-we-do-with-money-weekly-summary-2021-09-25/>

**Final blessing:**

Karen Gargamelli-McCreight at Catholic Women Preach -

<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/10102021>

**A long and fine resource on Sophia and John of the Cross**, by Carmelites Kevin Culligan and Regis Jordan: “Carmel and Contemplation: Transforming Human Consciousness” at <https://www.baltimorecarmel.org/wp-content/writings/CF_Transformation_in_Wisdom_-_the_Subversive_Character_and_Educative_Power_of_Sophia_in_Contemplation.pdf>