**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**July 10, 2022 – 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“Go and Do Likewise.”*

*Luke 10:37*

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

**WELCOME (Bill Cavanaugh)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Kathy and I prepared today’s communal prayer.
* We want to thank Marilyn Voigt for leading the music and all those you will be reading today: Paul Voigt, Kathy Linabery, Maryann Dolan, Terri Butel, Alicia and George Urban, Karen and Dan McCarthy.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch
* And we want to remind you that there will be no Communal Prayer Services the first 2 Sundays of August: The 7th and 14th

**SETTLING IN (Kathy Cavanaugh)**

We invite you to **s**ettle into a position where you feel supported and comfortable; let your shoulders drop releasing any tension.

We’ll begin with our Breath Prayer to help us move from ‘getting here’ to ‘being here’. (Pause)

As Bill lights this candle, may we all *become aware of our gratitude for Christ’s Light inside us, between us, and all around us.*

*(Pause)*

Let us take three breaths together:

 One to be here now …. One to be present to each other….. And one to welcome the Holy Spirit to renew our spirits today. *[Pause.]*

As Marilyn leads us in singing our opening song, let us continue to be aware of how Christ’s Light inspires us “to go and do likewise”(Luke 10:37).

**OPENING SONG**  **(Marilyn Voigt)**

**“Whatsoever You Do”**  by Willard Jabusch

**Whatsoever you do to the least of my people**

**that you do unto Me.**

When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;

When I was thirsty you gave me to drink.

Now enter into the home of my Abba.

When I was weary, you helped me find rest;

When I was anxious, you calmed all my fears.

Now enter into the home of my Abba.

**Whatsoever you do to the least of my people**

**that you do unto Me**

When I was homeless, you opened your door;

When I was naked, you gave me your coat.

Now enter into the home of my Abba.

When in a prison, you came to my cell;

When on a sickbed, you cared for my needs.

Now enter into the home of my Abba.

**Whatsoever you do to the least of my people**

**that you do unto Me**

**GREETING (Dan McCarthy)**

God’s beloved people, we welcome you with joy! May grace and peace be with you.

**All:** And with you, too. Thanks be to God!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ GATHERING PRAYER**  **(Dan McCarthy)**

We are here to celebrate that God is faithful and loves us more than we can imagine.

We gather as imperfect people who are called and challenged to follow Jesus. We seek to live our vocation as people who continue God’s work of creation. And so we pray:

May the witness to Christ be strong among us, and fill us with the gifts of the Spirit as we work for and wait for the fullness of God’s reign. May God keep us steady as we inquire, nudge, and challenge each other. May it be so. *[Pause.]*

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Karen McCarthy)**

Today’s theme is: Christ’s light within us tells us **Who** And **Whose** we are.

Teresa of Avila describes our experiencing Christ’s light:

 “Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion is to look out into the world; yours are the feet with which God is to go about doing good; yours are the hands with which God is to bless people now.”

Oscar Romero wisely reminds us:

“I can’t do everything, but I can do something.”

*[Slight pause]*

Now **George Urban** will read from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of Luke, and then Bill Cavanaugh will offer questions for silent reflection.

**READING 1 (** **Luke 10, 25-37 ) (George Urban)**

An expert on the law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, ‘Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?”

Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

The expert on the law replied:

“You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the expert on the law, seeking self - justification, pressed Jesus further: “And just who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road: the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side.

“But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, ‘ Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I’ll repay you on the way back.’”

“Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim? ”

The expert on the law answered, “The one who showed compassion.”

Jesus replied, “Then go and do likewise.”

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ( Bill Cavanaugh)**

To whom am I called to be a compassionate neighbor today?

When have I experienced the generosity of a ‘stranger on the road…?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *(time 2:00, chime)* **( Betty Thompson )**

**BETTY :** Now Kathy Linabery will present a reading based on Bishop Ken Untener’s Good Samaritan Homily

**READING 2** **(Kathy Linabery)**

A parable is a simple story that teaches a profound truth. Whenever we read one of Jesus’ parables, we need to look at the deeper truth. The parable of the good Samaritan goes much deeper than the question “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus’ response turns the question around and takes up the deeper question:
‘How do I let the Love of God that is in me shine on the world around me?’

The deeper truth is: “We are all neighbors, living in a universal neighborhood.”

The question isn’t “Which ones will we help?”

Jesus says, “Stop worrying about categorizing people — asking ‘Who is my neighbor?” —and discover that we are called to be neighbors to the whole world, to all creation.

We can’t single-handedly solve the problems of the whole world, but we are called to a different way of life, namely, we are to live our whole life in a way that is inclusive and compassionate to all.

But there’s more. When Jesus talked about this in other parts of the Gospel he gave us the reason for living this way. The reason isn’t because God is watching us, and God will get us if we don’t, and God will reward us if we do. The reason is, Jesus tells us, because we will live up to who we are—-God’s Beloved, for God makes the sun to rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

The reason for following this way of life is that we believe that God’s life is in us. That means we are not simply to enjoy it ( which we do!), but also make that love shine through us to others, and to all creation. That’s the reason we are to live caring for each other and our world.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is saying, “My love is already within you.”

Let that love that is within you shine all around and stop picking who gets it.

 May Jesus’ words ring in our ears, shine in our heart: “Go and do likewise!”

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS (Bill Cavanaugh)**

What is my usual way of shining Christ’s light on the world around me?

How do I spill light in our broken world when I am wounded and broken?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE:** *( time 2:00, chime)*  **( Betty Thompson )**

**BETTY:**  Now Kathy Cavanaugh will read “Beatitudes for Carers” by Flo McCarthy.

**READING 3 (Kathy Cavanaugh)**

Blessed are you who care and are not afraid to show it -

you will let people know they are loved.

Blessed are you who are gentle and patient -

you will help people to grow as the sun helps the buds to open and blossom.

Blessed are you who have the ability to listen -

you will lighten many a burden.

Blessed are you who know how and when to let go -

you will have the joy of seeing people find themselves.

Blessed are you who, when nothing can be done or said, do not walk away, but remain to provide a comforting and supportive presence -

you will help the sufferer to bear the unbearable.

Blessed are you who recognize your own need to receive, and who receive with graciousness -

you will be able to give all the better.

Blessed are you who give without hope of return -

you will give people an experience of God.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ( Bill Cavanaugh )**

When have you been the one in need and what was it like to receive help?

Which of these Beatitudes for Carers feels most like you, or least like you?

Reflect on a time in your life when someone’s presence helped you to bear the unbearable.

**COMMUNAL SILENCE:** *(time 2:00, chime )* **( Betty Thompson )**

**Betty:**  Now Alicia Urban will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Alicia Urban)**

We know the wisdom of our community includes both words shared and silent listening. Now, if you’d like, we invite you to share the essence of what is emerging within you from our readings and silence. Let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long-ish pause]*

Who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

*[Sharing]*

*[Long silences are common and they can be fruitful. If there is extended silence after 15 minutes:]* Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Long pause]*

*[Stop by about 11:20.]*

Thank you.  We can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now Maryann Dolan will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY ( Maryann Dolan )**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. *[Pause]*

Our response will be: **“Holy One, hear our prayer.”**

For our Church, to commit to accompanying all, especially those marginalized, with compassion, love and care; and to heal the breach of inclusion so that mercy supersedes all other concerns, including power, authority and institutional issues, we pray:

 **“Holy One, hear our prayer”**

For the spiritual transformation of all whose faith is rooted in rigid laws or rules and have not experienced the gift of helping those in need, or who are blind to seeing how we are united as children of God, we pray: **“Holy One, hear our prayer.”**

For renewed energy, strength and inspiration for Catholic sisters to continue seeking racial justice for minorities and immigrants, to stop human trafficking, to bring relief to those who are in need as they act to encourage reverence for all God’s creation, we pray.  **“Holy One, hear our prayer”.**

For the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States and all who are affected by recent federal Supreme Court decisions in this country, may wisdom, mercy, justice, humility and unity prevail. We pray: **“Holy One, hear our prayer”**

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterwards.

*[Shared prayers]* … “Holy One, hear our prayer.”

O Holy One, You who see us, hear us, and love us more than we can imagine, thank you for receiving our intentions, spoken and unspoken. We entrust all to you. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION ( Terri Butel )**

O God, you formed all things according to your dream of boundless charity –

a universe of interconnectedness and wholeness,

of kinship and integration.

We give you thanks and praise, O God

for your presence in Earth:

in the colors of the landscape -

the fields of emerald grass,

the meadows of bluebells,

the red of clay,

the blue of oceans’ waters,

the shimmering waves of the Northern lights.

Charity is your gift to us,

given in Jesus, your dream of Love unbounded made flesh.

At the table of Jesus all are welcomed

and the dignity of every person is respected.

At the wide and welcoming table of Jesus

the marginalized and powerless find a special place,

the poor delight in plenty,

the blind receive new sight,

the broken are made whole,

the diversity of gifts is celebrated,

enemies are reconciled,

women find a voice.

May our presence to one another

unfold for us the reign of God and

may we be led by your Spirit

to an integrity of life

expressive of the wholeness of charity.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

who learned a gesture of tenderness from a woman

who anointed his feet with precious perfume

and whose gesture we rejoice to remember and proclaim.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

who rose from supper, laid aside his garments,

took a towel, poured water,

and washed his disciples’ feet

so that there would be no more servants but only friends;

so that all might know themselves as sons and daughters,

equals in the community of life.

You poured out your Spirit upon the bread and wine

as you do upon your holy people assembled here.

Teach us the mystery of the bread and wine: that by faithfulness to love, the blessing promised to those who lay down their lives for their friends will be ours.

God, in your goodness, you have given us one another.

Our presence to one another

enables, sustains, and challenges us

to be responsive to your call.

May it be so. Amen. *( slight pause )*

Now Norb Bufka will lead us in the prayer of Jesus.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Norb Bufka)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands in harmony with our family throughout the world:

***All (muted):*** Our Father, Our Mother, who unite heaven and earth, holy is your name.

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

Give us this day our living 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 ( Paul Voigt )**

As we close, let us feel this blessing upon us.

May you

bear the light in unbearable times,

testify to its endurance amid the unendurable,

and bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief.

May you

in whom the light lives

**shine forth**

in unaccountable faith,

in stubborn hope,

and in love that illumines every broken thing it finds.

Amen.

**CLOSING SONG: “This Little Light of Mine” (Odetta video)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2kDsqGeoLU> - play at 1.25 speed

Resources**:**

1. Bishop Ken Untener’s Year C Luke Gospel Homilies: https://saginawseries.blogspot.com or visitationnorth@ihmsisters.org

2) “Beatitudes for Carers” by Flor McCarthy from Windows on the Gospel Stories and Reflections, p86 (1992)

3) Gospel of Luke Chapter 10; verses 25-37 from The Inclusive Bible; Sheed and Ward, of Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2009

4) Prayer To Be Jesus’ Hands and Feet: posted in “Theological Musings”

5) “Celebration of Communion” Prayer by Fr Terrance Moran, with permission thanks to Terri Butel.

6) Odetta’s “This Little Light of Mine” video link: <https://youtu.be/J2kDsqGeoLU>

7) Opening Song, “Whatsoever You Do” by Willard Jabusch

8) Final Blessing: Adapted from Jan Richardson’s “Testify to the Light”

 <https://adventdoor.com/2014/12/12/advent-3-testify>-to-the-ligh