**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**July 31, 2022 –18th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.”- Meister Eckhart*

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone. (Betty)

**WELCOME (Betty)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Thanks to Judy Sholes and Maryann Dolan who prepared today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer today: Pat Campbell, Kathleen Cross, Charlotte Cook, Nancy Sushinski, Mary Ott, Kate Monagan, Sr. Grace Hartzog, Paula Lake, Reggie Ott, and Debra Street.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN (Betty)**

To be with God and others, first, let us be with ourselves.

Let your breath slow and deepen and carry ease into your body and mind as we pray …

May I quiet my words and listen…

May I calm my thoughts and be…

May I soften my heart and open…

May I still my soul and receive …

(Betty) Now Reggie Ott will lead us into our prayer together.

**OPENING SONG**  **(Reggie Ott)**

**Open my Heart, Lord by Jesse Manibusan**

Open my eyes, Lord,  
Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord,  
Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord,  
Help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, Lord,  
Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord,  
Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord,  
Help me to love.

And the first shall be last  
And our eyes are opened  
And we'll hear like never before  
And we'll speak in new ways  
And we'll see God's face in places we've never known.

I live within you  
Deep in your heart, oh love.  
I live within you.  
Rest now in me.

Open my eyes, Lord,  
Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord,  
Help me to see.

Help me to see your face,  
Help me to hear,  
Help me to hear your voice,  
Help me to love,  
Help me to love like you,  
Help me to see.

**GREETING (Pat Campbell)**

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

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

**GATHERING PRAYER**  **(Pat Campbell)**

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 evolve as a community that vulnerably shares each other’s burdens.

Listen to our hearts’ longings for the healing of our world. Let us hear your voice with open hearts. We come together trusting that the Spirit will be at work in us.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Maryann Dolan)**

The parable in Luke’s gospel today addresses the question of values. There is a warning against greed and a question about possessions and what matters in life. We will consider the yearnings of the human heart in the culture in which we live today.

In the 2nd reading we will hear an excerpt from one of Richard Rohr’s daily meditations entitled, “In Communion with All.” Rohr quotes an address from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, in which we hear of a people’s commitment to live in balance and harmony. Their culture of gratitude and reciprocity prompts us to ask what this good news teaches us today.

Sister Carol Dempsey reflects on today’s gospel from another perspective. Her words lead us to ponder the devastating problems of our world and Pope Francis’ invitation to a culture of encounter, which is defined as a way of repairing our wounded world. Finally, we consider the hope and inspiration that offers.

*[Slight pause]*

(Maryann)Now **Kathleen Cross** will read from the 12th Chapter of Luke.

**READING 1 (Lk 12:13-21) (Kathleen Cross)**

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,  
“Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.”  
Jesus replied to him,  
“Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?”  
and then said to the crowd,  
“Take care to guard against all greed,  
for though one may be rich,  
one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Jesus then told them a parable.  
“There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest.  
He asked himself, ‘What shall I do,  
for I do not have space to store my harvest?’  
And he said, ‘This is what I shall do:  
I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones.  
There I shall store all my grain and other goods  
and I shall say to myself, “Now as for you,  
you have so many good things stored up for many years,  
rest, eat, drink, be merry!”’  
But God said to him,  
‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you;  
and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’  
Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves  
but are not rich in what matters to God.”

*[Slight pause]*

**QUESTIONS 1** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Kathleen Cross)**

Which of your possessions would you find most difficult to relinquish? What might this say about you?

In what ways can you be “rich in what matters to God?”

What will you be remembered for when you are gone?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[****Judy:*** *time 2:00, chime.]*

*(Judy)* Charlotte Cookwill read an excerpt from an invocation from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to honor the communal nature of all life on earth.

**READING*****2***  *(***Charlotte Cook***)*

We are thankful to our Mother the Earth, for she gives us everything we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has since the beginning of time. To our Mother we send thanksgiving, love and respect.

We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather as one and send our choicest words of greetings and gratitude to the Creator.

Cultures of gratitude must also be cultures of reciprocity. Each person, human or no, is bound to every other in a reciprocal relationship. Just as all beings have a duty to me, I have a duty to them. If an animal gives its life to feed me, I am in turn am bound to support its life. If I receive a stream’s gift of pure water, then I am responsible for returning a gift in kind. An integral part of a human’s education is to know those duties and how to perform them.

**QUESTIONS 2** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Charlotte)**

What are the ways you have found to live with the spirit of gratitude and reciprocity in these times?

How does your understanding of the interconnectedness of all beings affect your way of living? How does this understanding affect our culture?

How can we engage new voices and perspectives in the care of our Mother the Earth?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[****Judy****: time 2:00, chime.]*

**(**Judy) Nancy Sushinsky will read a reflection based on the commentary of Sister Carol Dempsey, OP)

**READING 3 (Nancy Sushinsky)**

If the Lukan Gospel is read from the perspective of the disenfranchised and from the margins, then this parable presents a stirring challenge to all who profess to being Christian, and especially to those who are Christian-Catholics with Catholic social teaching as part of their tradition. The challenge is to tear down the "barns" of all who greedily amass more and more power and wealth at the expense of the world's most vulnerable, human and nonhuman alike, whose lives and countries' resources and habitats are repeatedly exploited.

Devastating problems…such as racism, sexism, white supremacy, terrorism, wars, violations of human rights, lack of safe control of guns, anti-immigrant and anti-democratic policies and laws … cry out for us to take action based on our social justice values.

Through his words and in his actions, Pope Francis continues to invite us into a culture of encounter. In an article printed in C21 Resources, a professor of World Christianity and African Studies at DePaul University, defines a culture of encounter this way. It “is a seeing that is always moving fromcontact with the other, to reflection on what we see, to action on the judgement we make. I am convinced that the culture of encounter is a good framework for global and local dialogue on how to think of a better world built on a new understanding for promoting and preserving our common life together in our common home."

”The world is in turmoil, experiencing seismic shifts. But as long as people of conscience are breathing, hungering for and committed to transformative justice, hope remains alive…”.

*[Slight pause]*

**QUESTIONS 3** *[Pause after each question.]* **(Nancy)**

What is it that draws you to the commitments that you make or have made? What makes you persevere?

In these times of seismic change, who or what give you inspiration and hope?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[Judy****):*** *time 2:00, chime.]*

***(Judy )***: Mary Ott will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Mary Ott)**

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 11:20.]*

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

Now Kate Monagan will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Kate Monagan)**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. *[Pause]* Our response is: **God of endless generosity, hear our prayer.**

May we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the most vulnerable who are exploited at the expense of our wealth and greed**…. God of Endless Generosity , hear our prayer.**

May we learn to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things…. **God of Endless Generosity, hear our prayer.**

May we have the courage to commit to building relationships in a way that builds a better world and preserves our common home… **God of Endless Generosity, here our prayer.**

As 700 members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious gather in August for their first face-to-face annual Assembly since 2019, may they share wisdom, vision, and happy times together… **God of Endless Generosity, hear our prayer**

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

(People speak.) **God of Endless Generosity, hear our prayer.**

God of endless generosity, we thank you for receiving our intentions, spoken and unspoken. We entrust all to you. Amen.

( Kate) Debra Street will lead us in our Offertory prayer.

**OFFERTORY (Debra Street)**

All that we have and all that we offer

Comes from a heart both frightened and free.

Take what we bring now and give what we need.

All done in God’s name.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Sr. Grace Hartzog)**

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 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 wine,

gifts of Earth and the 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, we entrust ourselves to you and to one another.

Make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share. Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Paula Lake)**

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 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) I Wish You Enough (Anonymous)**

Let us raise our hands as we offer this blessing to each other**:**

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish enough “Hello’s” to get you through the final “Goodbye.”

Amen.

(Judy) Linda Donaldson will now lead us in our closing song, Rain Down.

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**CLOSING SONG Rain Down (Reggie Ott)**

Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love on your people,  
Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love, God of life.  
  
Faithful and true is the Word of our God  
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.  
God's mercy falls on the just and the right.  
Full of God's love is the earth.  
  
Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love on your people,  
Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love, God of life.  
  
We who revere and find hope in our God  
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.  
God will protect us from darkness and death.  
God will not leave us to starve.  
  
Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love on your people,  
Rain down,  
Rain down,

Rain down your love, God of life.

God of creation, we long for Your truth.  
You are the water of life that we thirst.  
Grant that Your love and peace touch our hearts.  
All of our hope lies in You.  
  
Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love on your people,  
Rain down,  
Rain down,  
Rain down your love, God of life.

**RESOURCES**

July 31, 2022: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time by Carol Dempsey,OP, [https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/july 31-2022-eitghteenth-sunday-ordinary-time](https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/july%2031-2022-eitghteenth-sunday-ordinary-time)

I Wish You Enough, Anonymous

Richard Rohr (Reading 2)

Reading 3 quote was taken from an article by Rev. Stan Chu Ilo, a research professor of world Christianity and African Studies at the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, De Paul University, Chicago.Article appears in C21 Resources , ( The Church in the 21st Century Center, Boston College ).  Spring/Summer 2022

Dianne Bergant, CSA, The Word for Every Season, Reflections on the Lectionary Readings, for a reflection question and insights on the meaning of the Gospel.

Offertory song, All That We Have, Gary Ault